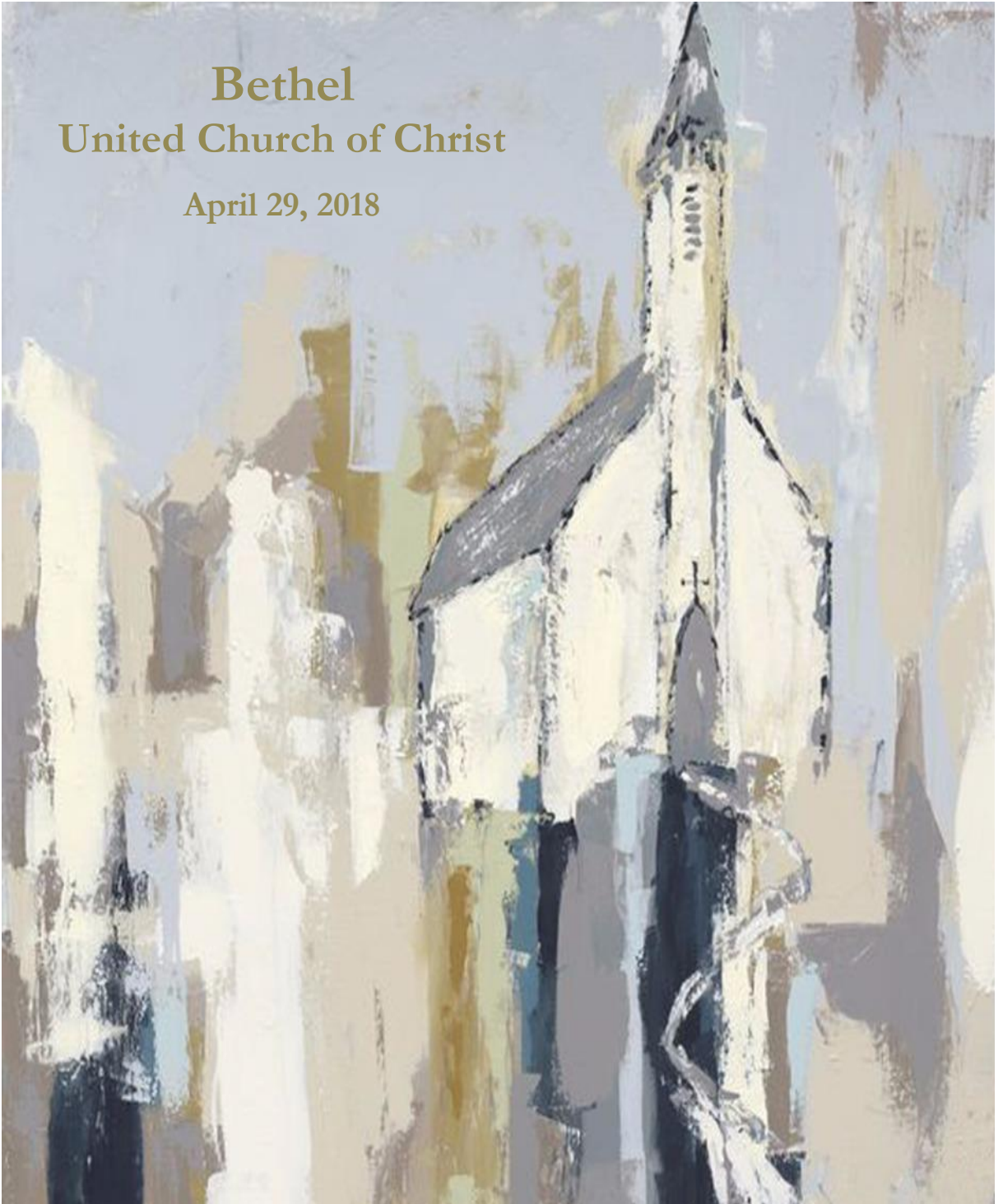


Bethel
United Church of Christ

April 29, 2018



The People of God Gather for Worship and Sacrament

Fifth Sunday of Easter - Confirmation

Kindly turn off or silence all electronic devices
Please observe a time of silence during the prelude for reflection and preparation for worship

PRELUDE *Chorale Prelude on Herzliebster Jesu* Johannes Brahms
(O Blessed Jesus)

WELCOME, CELEBRATIONS, & CONCERNS †

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INVITATION OF THE STEEPLE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP From Psalm 66

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard.

I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows.

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

* HYMN NO. 233 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* HYFRYDOL

ANTHEM *I Will Trust in You, Lord* Lynn Shaw Bailey

TIME WITH CHILDREN

FIRST LESSON (Pg. 902, Pew Bible)

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of

their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

CALL TO CONFESSION *Take, O Take Me As I Am* (sung twice) John Bell
**Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

PRAYER OF CORPORATE CONFESSION W. Rauschenbusch
In the great quiet of God, my troubles are but pebbles on the road, my joys are like the everlasting hills. So it is when I step through the gate of prayer from time into eternity. When I am in the consciousness of God, my brothers and sisters are not far-off and forgotten, but close and strangely dear. They shine, as if a light were glowing within them. Even those who frown on me and love me not seem part of the great scheme of God.

PRAYER OF SILENT CONFESSION

RESPONSE NO. 230 *Now the Green Blade Rises* (vs. 1) NOEL NOUVELET
**Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in the dark earth
many days has lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been.
Love is come again like wheat arising green.**

SECOND LESSON John 14:15-21 (Pg. 877, Pew Bible)
“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

* HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 218 *Thine Is the Glory* MACCABEUS

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son, endless is the victory thou o'er death has won. Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay. Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son, endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.

SERMON

IN SEARCH OF GOD

INVITATION TO SHARE †

Offertory

Be Thou My Vision Irish Folk Tune/Arr. by Dale Wood

* Response

Give Thanks

Henry Smith

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich"
because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!**

* Prayer of Dedication

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM and RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Words of Witness (Olivia Diuble)

Hymn No. 75 *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* (vs. 1-3)

WATERLIFE

Questions of the Candidates

Statement of Faith ¹

Where is God and how do I know God exists? God is bigger than anyone thinks; hard to describe in words. My relationship with God is more than attending church; my sense of belonging bigger than the church. Faith is hard work. Yet, I believe in God and put my trust in Jesus Christ, my savior, the one who died on the cross for me. Wherever and whenever I need him, God will be there to care for me. By faith I can press on in life knowing that one day I will meet God face-to-face. Amen.

The Lords' Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into

¹ Compiled from the heartfelt thoughts of our 2018 confirmands

temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Baptism and Confirmation

Question of Participation

Welcome

We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church, God's kingdom on earth. And by the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* CLASS SONG NO. 477

Pass It On

PASS IT ON

Verse 1 **Confirmands**

Verses 2-3 **Congregation**

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

A.H. Messiter/Arr. by F. Ritter

* Indicates those who are able please stand

✠ Please fill out the pew pad. In order that we may best serve your spiritual needs, please use the prayer request cards in the pew rack and place them in the offering

Bold Indicates congregational response

Large print bulletins are available

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Confirmation Class 2018

Jacob Paul Bunn (Mentor: Kristi Campbell)

“Yet Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.)”
Hebrews 3:3-4

Jared Stephen Bunn (Mentor: Lori Lobbestael)

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”
Philippians 4:13

Collin Gregory Campbell (Mentor: Renee St. Charles)

“Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”
1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Abigail June Diuble (Mentor: Shirley Macussler)

“Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”
1 Timothy 4:12

Olivia Michelle Diuble (Mentor: Debbie Hibbard)

“In the same way I will not cause pain without allowing something new to be born.” Isaiah 66:9a

Gage Allen Drake (Mentor: Bonnie Mitchell)

“Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.”
Deuteronomy 31:6

Klara Ruth Kuelber (Mentor: Marleen Glasser)

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 3:14

Megan Andrea Vogel (Mentor: Tom Mann)

“I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
Joshua 1:9

PRAYER REQUESTS

In the spirit of Christian love, remember these people and their families
in your thoughts and prayers – not only today, but throughout the coming week.

Apr. 8 Family of Florence Bay
Sue Brooks
Family of Willard Cleland
Family of Hugo Dittman
Darlene Fredricksen
Al Guenther
Ron Kaminski
Family of Gertrude Little
Family of Tom Pyle
Katie Ray
Ken Vance

Apr. 15 Sue (Vogel) Andrews
David Luckhardt
Roger Luckhardt
Alicia Haeussler Smith
Virginia Vogel

Apr. 22 David Leach
Becky Mann
Marcia Mullen
Roman Schlabach

Apr. 29 Bonnie Barnard
Matt Guenther
Family of Wayne Hessmer
Family of Traci Lynch
Amelia Roseum
Olivia White



THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

September 25, 2010	Gy-Sgt. Evan Wahl, U.S. Marines
January 13, 2013	Zachary Steelman, 101 st Airborne, U.S. Army
April 3, 2016	Kyle Braun, U.S. Marines
October 8, 2017	Henry Arbogast, U.S. Navy

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Minister: Rev. David Bucholtz
Music Director: Mary Sue Moore
Greeters: Norma Brees and Carol Colby
Ushers: Duane Kuebler, Ryan Mann, Tom Mann, Paula Wagenschutz,
and Lyle Wahl
Acolyte: Paige Shankland
Lay Reader: Becky Mann
Anthem: Youth Choir Plus, Directed by Julie Roberts
Child Care: Linda Perkins and Karsyn Klein
Altar Flowers: Given by Ron and Peggy Diuble in honor of the Confirmation Class



TODAY AT BETHEL

9:30 a.m. Worship - Rite of Confirmation

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Reineck Fellowship Hall is reserved

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mon., April 30 **6:30-7:30 p.m.** Handbell Choir rehearsal
 7:30-9:00 p.m. Senior Choir rehearsal
- Tues., May 1 **9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Bethel Quilters
- Wed., May 2 **6:15 p.m.** Memorial Committee meeting
- Sun., May 6 **9:30 a.m.** Worship with Confirmation Class Communion
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Children's Day rehearsal
 12:00-3:00 p.m. Reineck Fellowship Hall is reserved
- Mon., May 7 **6:30-7:30 p.m.** Handbell Choir rehearsal
 7:30-9:00 p.m. Men's and Boys Chorus rehearsal
- Tues., May 8 **9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Bethel Quilters
- Wed., May 9 **6:45 p.m.** Church Board meeting
- Sun., May 13 **9:30 a.m.** Worship
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Children's Day rehearsal
- Mon., May 14 **6:30-7:30 p.m.** Handbell Choir rehearsal
 7:30-8:30 p.m. Senior Choir and Youth Choir Plus rehearsal
- Tues., May 15 **9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Bethel Quilters
 Deadline for the Elvira Vogel Higher Education
 Scholarship
- Wed., May 16 **7:00 p.m.** Mission Team meeting
- Sat., May 19 **9:00 a.m.** Vision Walk registration at Kensington Park, Milford

IN THE COMMUNITY

- Sun., April, 29 **3:00 p.m.** Capital City Brass Band concert at Chelsea First United
 Methodist Church. Free and open to the public.
- Wed., May 2 **12:00 p.m.** Annual Salad Smorgasbord at Manchester United Methodist
 Church. \$10/person.
- Thurs., May 3 **5:00-6:30 p.m.** Meatloaf Dinner and Bake Sale at St. Andrew's UCC, Dexter

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