

Bethany United Church of Christ

January 5, 2025

Second Sunday of Christmas

Prelude and Bell Ringing
Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Call to Worship (from Psalm 147)

Leader: Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;

Congregation: for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

L: The LORD builds up his people; he gathers the outcasts.

C: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

L: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

C: his understanding is beyond measure.

L: The LORD lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

C: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God!

L: He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth;

C: he makes grass grow on the hills.

L: He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

C: He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs; who can stand before his cold?

ALL: Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn of Praise #89 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Call to Confession

Unison Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, forgive us. At the beginning of a new year we like to make resolutions and plans for the coming year. But we often make our plans and seek to make changes without consulting you or trying to determine if we are following your will for us. Even if a plan works out well for us, it may still be sinful, if the plan was not from you. Forgive us, and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Give us a keen awareness of your will for us, and reveal your will as we seek it. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*GLORIA PATRI

Invitation to the Children (Jesus Loves the Little Children)

Children's time

Special Music

Scripture

Old Testament lesson - Jeremiah 31:7-17

New Testament lesson - Luke 2:22-38

Sermon "Who's Leading?"

Hymn of Preparation #83 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Offering, Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn of Commitment #92 "Good Christian Men, Rejoice"

*Charge and Benediction

Amen! We go forth to serve.

Response: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" #105 (chorus)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY - Rev. Darwin Smith

Bethany UCC's Annual Meeting will be Sunday, Jan. 19, with a carry-in dinner at the hall after church, followed by the meeting. Please send ALL annual reports for the 2024 year for the auditors and Annual Meeting to either Lance Roskamp or Kevin Schrader no later than this Wednesday, January 8.

Women's Fellowship will not meet in January.

The deadline to make donations for the 2024 year to the Illinois Conference of the UCC is this Friday, January 10. See the bulletin strip for mail-in and online donation info.

January-February Upper Rooms are available in the entryway.

SAVE THE DATES:

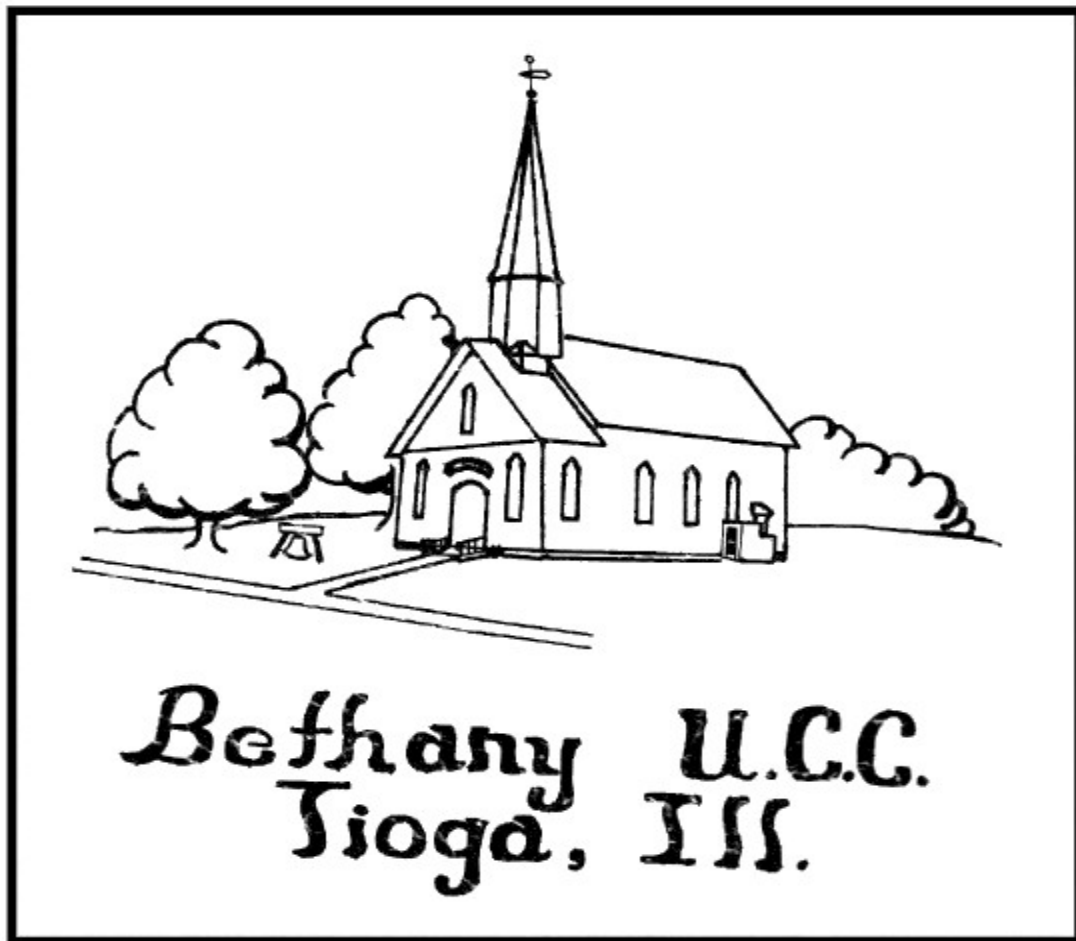
Church Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 19, after church

Teresa Beeler is greeter today, Steve Mulch next week. Thanks to the greeter, Rev. Smith, the musician, AV tech - all who helped with the service.

WELCOME ALL! If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register and come again.

Bethany United Church of Christ

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Drawing on Bethany Belles Cook Book by Janice Shupe in 1979