

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Church Office: 610-868-4441 Hours: Mon. - Fri., 9 AM – 1 PM

Fax: 610-868-7918 E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

Web address: www.uccbethany.org

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



**SO IT WILL BE AT THE
END OF THE AGE. THE
ANGELS WILL COME OUT
AND SEPARATE THE EVIL
FROM THE RIGHTEOUS.**

M A T T H E W 1 3 : 4 9

July 26, 2020

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

“Moving Forward United in Faith”

“Committed to Christ, United by Love. We are about God, Christ, the Word, and the Future. No matter who you are or where you are on Life’s journey, you are welcome here. We are Bethany United Church of Christ.”

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JULY 26, 2020

10:00 AM

We welcome our friends and visitors to this Service of Worship. May this be a time of blessing for you. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to become part of the community of faith and mission here at Bethany.

(*) PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

(Bold Text is said or sung by everyone)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "The Solid Rock" ...arr. L. Bergquist

CALL TO WORSHIP

M: We gather in this place.

C: By the grace of Jesus Christ,

M: The love of God,

C: and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

M: We are in the Presence of an unspeakable Love!

C: And so we offer God our awe, our faith, our service and love!

HYMN: #405 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" (*Vs 1 w/refrain. Vs 2. Vs 3. Vs 4 w/ refrain*)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION: (*unison*)

God of the mustard seed, we come before You to pray that miracle of growth within us. Bless each of our hearts and minds. Turn our vision to the hope that You can, with us, bring forth fruit and new life. Bless this hour of worship we pray. Amen

*PASSING OF THE PEACE (*with waves and prayer hands*)

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: #393 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" vs 1

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 105:1-11

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

SERMON:” Small Beginnings”

RECOGNITION OF OUR GRADUATES: Lauren Correll,
Erin Nguyen

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS (*You may come to place
your offering in the plate up front*)

OFFERTORY: “How Can I Keep From Singing?”...R. Lowry
Trombone duet: Pastor Todd & Tim Rumble

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Gracious God, Giver of all good things, we are mindful of the many blessings You provide, even life itself. We ask Your blessing on all offerings received in support of Bethany church. Receive what we offer and bless them to the work of Your kingdom which brings hope and healing to all. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER – PASTORAL PRAYER – LORD’S 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN: #408 “I Am Thine, O Lord” (*Vs 1 w/refrain Vs. 2. Vs.3 Vs 4/w refrain*)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: #747 "Go With Us, Lord"

*POSTLUDE

The altar flowers are to honor all Bethany members for their dedication and support to enable our Church "family" to grow and to continue to provide witness to the glory of our Lord, Jesus Christ by Rebecca & Len Kesselring..

Greeters: Sandy Ackerman, Linda Wieand or volunteers

Ushers -Bob Ackerman, Jack Brunner, Tom Hoffert, Len Kesselring

Reader: Mike Reiniger

AUDIO RECORDINGS Now that church is being held "live" again, we are going back to using "Sound Cloud" as we did before the COVID-19 outbreak. If you or anyone you know would like to receive the link to the audio, please let Bill Rumble know at wrumble@ptd.net Those who have previously been on the list will continue to receive the link info.

A copy of the bulletin is available via Bethany's home page at <https://uccbethany.org> If you have an Instagram account, you can follow us @BethanyUCCBethlehem. We also invite you to tag the church in your posts and use the hashtag

#BethanyUCCBethlehem to share posts and photos on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter!

GOT IDEAS? Contact the GROWTH COMMITTEE: If you have an idea and want help make it happen, whether it's a onetime event or an ongoing thing, please talk to any member of the Growth Committee: Debbie Brown, Patti Hoyt, Adrienne Kotsko, Jenna Nguyen, or Jackie Tarasuk **The next meeting will be Monday, August 10 @ 7 PM in Snyder Chapel.**

2020 Flower and Bulletin Charts are posted on the BB on the left side of the main entrance. Please note two vases will cost \$40. A rectangular arrangement will cost \$30. Silk (S) flowers will be \$10. Bulletins will cost \$10. Be sure to indicate what type of flowers you want – real or silk.

Any questions, contact the church office.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 105:1-11 NSRV

God's Faithfulness to Israel

- ¹ O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- ² Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
- ³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- ⁴ Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
- ⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,
- ⁶ O offspring of his servant Abraham,^[a]
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
- ⁷ He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.
- ⁸ He is mindful of his covenant forever,
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
- ⁹ the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac,
- ¹⁰ which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
- ¹¹ saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance."

Romans 8:26-39 NSRV

- ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes^[a] with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God,^[b] who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit^[c] intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.^[d]
- ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good^[e] for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.^[f] ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

God's Love in Christ Jesus

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.^[a] ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33 NSRV

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³¹ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

The Parable of the Yeast

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with^[a] three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

Matthew 13:44-52 NSRV

Three Parables

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Treasures New and Old

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

PLEASE NOTE: Pastor Todd’s office hours are Monday and Tuesday from 9A – Noon. Any appointments may be made by calling the church office 610-868-4441

Effective June-July-August daily devotional booklets are available on the radiator at the rear of the church. Suggested donation is \$1.

UP COMING EVENTS

Join us for “Stories, Scripture and Prayer” on Tuesdays from 7 – 8 in Fellowship Hall beginning July 7.

We will have a Bethany Community Breakfast here on Saturday August 15 from (9 – 11 A) Help will be needed. Sign-up sheet for set up (8 A), servers (9-10 A & 10-11 A) and clean-up (11 A–12 noon) is on the table at the rear of FH. We hope to have this once a month. See Bev. Rumble for tickets.



NEW OFFICE HOURS -Summer hours for Susan are now M – Thursday 9A – 1 P. (closed Fridays until August 28)

You may submit prayer requests to Pastor Todd by email which can be shared in our worship time. His email is tnjfnl@gmail.com. Or you can call them in to the church office 610-868-4441

PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR SUNDAY OFFERING Your church still has day to day expenses to cover during these trying times.



Mark your calendars

Sunday, September 13 – we will worship starting at 10:45 A followed by a picnic at Pavilion #2 in Louise Moore Park.

A sign-up sheet will be provided for your covered dish. Hot dogs and rolls will be provided.

DONATIONS of paper towels and toilet paper bottled water and fruit cups are needed @ the Food Bank & Bethlehem Emergency Center Donated items can be paced on the back table. Thank you!

Welcome to Ashley Tarasuk, our part-time cleaning person for the summer months.



We have a **Bethany member who is offering a matching gift of \$2,500.00 to our giving above and beyond our regular giving.**

Please remember to designate your donation to **“Matching Gift”**. We will let you know how we are doing with this goal. Thank you!



Q: What do you call ice cream on a 110-degree day?

A: Cream.

How hot is it?

It's so hot that chickens are laying omelettes.

PLEASE NOTE: The instructions for the AC in Fellowship Hall are posted on how to turn it on and turn it off.



SHUTDOWN

Toggle the "mode" button till the word "**off**" appears at the upper left of the small screen.

Toggle the "fan" button till the word "fan" **disappears** from the lower left of the screen.

Note however, once it disappears the fan will run for a few minutes and then shut off.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, JULY 26 – IN FH – use 5th Ave. Entrance

10 A Worship with recognition of graduates

MONDAY, JULY 27

9 – 10 A BASD Meal Pickups @ Star of Bethlehem

TUESDAY, JULY 28

7 P SSP (Stories, Scripture, Prayer) in FH

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

9 – 10 A BASD Meal Pickups @ Star of Bethlehem

5:30 P Handbell rehearsal in FH

FRIDAY, JULY 31- OFFICE CLOSED

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 - IN FH – Use the 5th Ave. Entrance

10 A Worship



Lauren Correll is graduating from Centenary University with an Associates in Equine Studies. She is the daughter of Gail Correll. She is looking to return to school in the Fall and pursue a second degree in Electrical Technology



Erin is the daughter of Minh and Lisa Nguyen, the sister to Jenna and Kaitlin Nguyen, and the niece to John Albaugh. She is graduating from Liberty High School in the top ten of her class. Erin is the Head Majorette, Principal Highland Dancer, Principal Clarinetist, Concertmaster, and Principal Bassoonist of the Grenadier Band. She is the Orchestra President and a member of First Company, Jazz Band, and Pit Orchestra. She is the Student Director for Mini Globe Trotters and a member of National Honors Society, Cancer Crushers, and Key Club. Erin has been a member of the Young People's Philharmonic for three years where she is the Bassoon Section Leader, a member of the Woodwind Quartet, and a mentor for the Wind Symphony. She has played in many PMEA festivals for both band and orchestra and has made the state ensembles twice on bassoon. Erin is also a competitive tap dancer for MJ Dance Center where she has danced for 14 years. Erin is going to attend the University of Rochester to study Mechanical Engineering and Music.

