



Bethany Beeline

Published nine times a year by
BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
600 West Market Street
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018
(610) 868-4441

Email: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com
www.uccbethany.org

“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.

VOLUME 21-5

MAY 2021



Sunday, May 2

10:45 a.m. Worship with Guest Minister Bob Mease

Sunday, May 9 – MOTHER'S DAY

10:45 a.m. Worship

Sunday, May 16

10:45 a.m. Worship

Sunday, May 23 Pentecost

10:45 a.m. Worship with Communion

Sunday, May 30

10:45 a.m. Worship





Dear Bethany Family,

Jean and I are looking forward to a getaway to Myrtle Beach the first weekend of May. I have a wedding on the beach to preside on May 2nd – a wedding that was scheduled for last year but Covid postponed that event. We Will travel home on May 3rd. Bethany will have Rev. Bob Mease as your guest on that Sunday. Please extend a good Bethany welcome!

The Bach Choir is VERY appreciative of the use of our facilities for rehearsals in preparation of the Virtual Festival Weekend (May 14 & 15). Check out the website to tune into those concerts.

Jean and I are very excited to become parents to a goldendoodle puppy that we will pick up and bring home on May 15th. Pray for us! Some day we will introduce you to our family addition.

Pentecost is Sunday, May 23rd. We celebrate that day as the birthday of the Christian Church with the gift of god's Holy Spirit. It is that same Spirit that blesses and nurtures all Christian Communities, including Bethany. Be sure to attend worship that Sunday as we receive Holy Communion.

We look forward to larger gatherings as more receive vaccinations and as we all enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

See you at Bethany!

Pastor Todd

A note from our Music Director:

Music is permeating throughout the walls of Bethany. The Philadelphia Brass Ensemble rehearsed in Fellowship Hall on Mon. April 5th. The Bach Choir continues to rehearse in Bethany's sanctuary in small groups for their performance in May. It entails 72 hours of rehearsal time, most of it occurring between the hours of 4 and 8 pm. I



sincerely hope that all who enter during those times appreciate the beautiful stained-glass windows that seem to captivate the emotions and soul of the viewer. I have been graced by their beauty for 48 years and gazing at them never grows old ... especially as the daylight starts to fade.

Our sanctuary walls also receive the sounds of Handbells and Choir Chimes ... the music of woodwinds and brass, piano, organ, stringed instruments, percussion instruments and the joyful (but slightly muffled) singing of the congregation during responses and hymns. "Oh, if these walls could talk" (as the saying goes) they would speak of a congregation that glorifies god through music and appreciates that gift as part of His wonderful creation, as well as a form of worship.

There will be more special musical offerings during the month of May in addition to our Handbell Choir which will play on Sunday May 9, and May 16. Rehearsals will take place Wed. evenings at 5:30PM. Always know that anyone who wishes to share their musical talent during our worship services is gladly welcome to do so.

Joyfully,
Susan Denninger Wright

P.S. On a personal note, I want to thank the congregation of Bethany for their incredibly generous donation of \$1,432.68 to the Alzheimer's Disease Research Matching Gift Fund drive. It exceeded our largest gift received by over \$200.00. Research is making a difference ... for all of us. You are awesome!



April 17 Spring Conference meeting report from Matt Miller

I was blessed with the opportunity to be a delegate at the PNEC Spring Conference meeting.

There was a lot of activity and collaboration that took place in 2020, despite the impact of the pandemic on those very efforts. Much of it was contained in the minutes, but it was abundantly clear that there has been a concentrated outreach focus.

Some of the activities included.

- Designing and implementing workshops to support lay leadership, particularly in circumstances where congregations are being served by bi-vocational or part-time ministers. This an area that has been growing in scale and importance in the last decade or more
- Resource congregations to help them increase their focus on their external missions. I know this has been an ongoing talking point for us at Bethany.
- Last year as part of an effort to research best practices within the UCC community Sandra Strauss to take a sabbatical to about ecumenical, interfaith and advocacy work being done in other states. Although many of the visits were zone via Zoom, there were opportunities to meet councils of churches and ecumenical committees in-person in 5 states as well.
 - Some fine work is being done in this space by The Arizona Faith Network, and there will be opportunities for me to look at the link that was provided to take a deeper dive.

In sum, there are resources that we can and should tap into over the next year in our own ongoing quest to support our mission as a church.

For me the highlight of the day was the time spent listening to the keynote speaker, Robert P. Jones.

Robert P. Jones is the CEO and Founder of the Public Religion Research Institute, and the author of *White Too Long: The legacy of white supremacy in American Christianity*. The timeliness of this conversation couldn't be more impactful no matter where you stand on this issue.

My favorite quote from this talk was “not everything that faced can be changed, but NOTHING can change until it is faced.”

The reality is that as Christians over the last 10 years by PRRI and the Brookings institution’s studies and research enumerates a chasm in the worldview of Christians on issues, both profound, personal and topical. No more so than in relations on race. I was brought up in a comfortable and insular world with very little impact from those of other races, ethnicities and spiritual theologies.

My professional life resulted in some of that insulation to be removed, and I was all the better for it.

I believe our role ought to be a facilitator if not a role model for that change. We must start that process by committing to the truth and loving our neighbors no matter their race, color creed.

I remember back in 1994 when the company and industry I was working in had some hard truths to face in our role as a community newspaper an aphorism that I took from those efforts that would apply today

Life is change, growth is optional, CHOOSE wisely.

Thank you again for allowing me to represent you as a delegate for Bethany at the PNEC Spring Conference.

Dear Friend in Christ:

Please join us in common mission, vision, and purpose by taking up the Strengthen the Church offering on May 23, 2021.

I pray that you and your family are doing well. Your support of Strengthen the Church was so important last year as many of our congregations sought new practices and ways of being church. As we continue to move through the effects of the pandemic, your generosity will help us continue to plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Through your gift, we offer extravagant welcome, support local church outreach, and build up the body of Christ. Because of you, we renew and grow stronger. Strengthen the Church supports churches in visioning the future. We hope that you will join us in taking the offering on Pentecost Sunday. Strengthen the Church donations will help the United Church of Christ continue as a Spirit-inspired and world-changing Christian movement. We will continue to benefit from best practices, insights, and innovations across the life of the UCC. Please continue to help the UCC expand its light by taking up the Strengthen the Church offering on May 23, 2021!

REMINDER: ALL announcements made before worship must pertain to the life and ministry of Bethany. Community and family announcements can be placed in the bulletin and/or Beeline. Please contact Debbie Brown no later than the Monday before you want it to appear in the bulletin.

ANIMAL FOOD BANK

Remember our furry friends. Just drop your donation in one of the bins in the Narthex. I will deliver the items to Pets in Need and Pebbles & Paws, a non-profit organization that assist people in need of help feeding their pets. Thanks again to everyone. – Gail Correll



FUNDRAISERS -

The article below has appeared in many Beelines and Bulletins here at Bethany. We have run this fundraiser for a long time. I fear we may need to discontinue this after June. We are no longer able to count on enough workers showing up to work and we have also lost orders due to changes in how some businesses are now run. People are busy and some are no longer with us anymore but we are only asking for 4-5 hours on a Saturday and maybe a little longer on a Monday. Also, it's only once a month. Please consider making this a regular commitment. Let me know your thoughts so we can decide how to proceed. Debbie

GET YOUR PEANUTS, CASHEWS, AND ALMONDS HERE!

Mark your calendars! You don't want to miss an order date. We sell Almonds, Cashews, and Peanuts. Call Debbie Brown at 484-358-3735. Everyone is invited to help on nut preparation days. Saturdays from 9 AM-Noon (Attention Youth – this can be

Community Service time) and Mondays from 8 AM until finished. It's a time of fun and fellowship. Lunch is served on peanut prep Mondays.

Peanuts \$3, Cashews & Almonds \$5

Gift Cards from Martellucci's

\$25 gift cards for Martellucci's Pizza are available for purchase the 1ST Sunday of every month from Margy Sabetti.

PRAYER LIST: We ask that you check this list and let us know if there are any persons that no longer need to be on this list. Also, if you know of someone that needs our prayers, you can submit their name to Debbie Brown at 484-358-3735 or the church office. Remember, because of the privacy to individuals; please be sure you have their permission before submitting their names for the prayer list.

*Gracious God, help me face
life's struggles with the love
of Christ, who strengthens
me. Amen*



Joyce Bergey
Lillian Connors
Dorothy Kraemer
Louise Snyder
Dolly Ackerman
Carol Haines
Sharon Haines
Ken & Joan Mathias
Marie Wolfe
Walter & Ann Williams
Barbara Sigafoos
The Family and friends of Gerald Smith
The Family and friends of Jim Stetler
Robert Frankenfield

CHURCH NEWS REMINDERS

2021 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.**

AUDIO & VIDEO RECORDINGS If you or anyone you know would like to receive the link to the audio recording of the worship service, please let Bill Rumble know at wrumble@ptd.net. A copy of the bulletin is included with the audio link.

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! Thank you, Bill, for making sure we are able to see and hear the services.

Bethany Needs Your Help

Don't forget to sign up in the Narthex to participate in Spring Cleaning Bethany. There are many projects with multiple skill sets needed.

We need everyone to pitch in and help take care of our church home.

If you see something that needs to be done, do it. Or bring it to the attention of someone who can address the concern.

Please look into your heart and help your church in its time of need. If you have any questions on where to find supplies or further instructions, please ask either a consistory member or a member of the property committee.

Thank you, Your church



5/2 Ken Yocum
5/14 Christopher Rumble
5/23 James Thrash
5/24 Theodore Hendricks Sr.
Josh Baum
5/29 Gary Diefenderfer
Linda Wieand
5/31 Joan Hottle



ANNIVERSARIES:

5/18 Cindy & Ron Cressman
5/21 Theodore & Marion Hendricks Sr.
Melissa & Steve Tarasuk

If I missed anyone, please call the church office.

A gift was received from Barbara and Michael Reiniger in memory of Jim Stetler.

- Let a Jewish carpenter build your dream home.
- We use duct tape to fix everything, God used nails.
- “God moves mountains, but sometimes a shovel at a time”
- If life gives you dilemma, make dilemmanaaid.

What's Happening in May

- 2nd 10:45 Worship with Guest Minister Rev. Bob Mease**
- 3rd 4pm Bach Choir Rehearsal**
- 4th 4pm Bach Choir Rehearsal**
- 5th 5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal**
- 6th 4pm Bach Choir Rehearsal**
- 7th 4pm Bach Choir Rehearsal**
- 8th 10am Bach Choir Rehearsal**
- 9th 9:30am Adult Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
10:45am Worship/ Mother's Day**
- 10th 4pm Bach Choir Rehearsal**
- 12th 5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal**
- 13th 7pm Consistory in Snyder Chapel**
- 16th 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
10:45 Worship in the Sanctuary**
- 18th Election Day Don't forget to Vote!**
- 19th 5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal**
- 23rd Pentecost Sunday and Strengthen the Church
9:30 Adult Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
10:45 Worship with Communion**

26th 5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal

30th 9:30am Adult Bible Study in Fellowship Hall

10:45am Worship in the Sanctuary

Joyful Noise to Benefit Tunnels to Towers

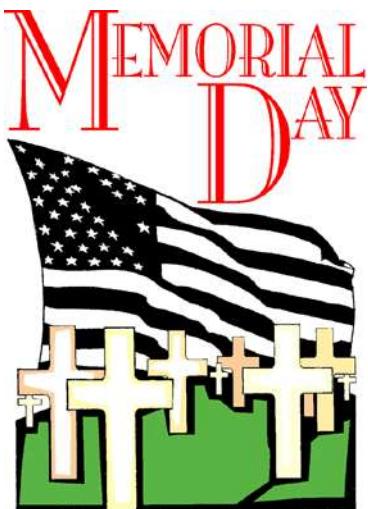
The Tunnel to Towers Foundation honors the sacrifice of firefighter Stephen Siller who laid down his life to save others on September 11, 2001.

We also honor our military and first responders who continue to make the supreme sacrifice of life and limb for our country. On September 11, 2001, Stephen, who was assigned to Brooklyn's Squad 1, had just finished his shift and was on his way to play golf with his brothers when he got word over his scanner of a plane hitting the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Upon hearing the news, Stephen called his wife Sally and asked her to tell his brothers he would catch up with them later. He returned to Squad 1 to get his gear.

Stephen drove his truck to the entrance of the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, but it had already been closed for security purposes. Determined to carry out his duty, he strapped 60 lbs. of gear to his back, and raced on foot through the tunnel to the Twin Towers, where he gave up his life while saving others. Stephen had everything to live for; a great wife, five wonderful children, a devoted extended family, and friends. Stephen's parents were lay Franciscans and he grew up under the guiding philosophy of St. Francis of Assisi, whose encouraging and inspirational phrase "while we have time, let us do good" were words that Stephen lived by. Stephen's life and heroic death serve as a reminder to us all to live life to the fullest and to spend our time here on earth doing good – this is his legacy.

Let us be thankful for the wonderful woman who became our Mother. She taught us how to laugh at ourselves, persevere, show kindness and love to others. She also taught us patience and humility. She made sure we got to God's house to hear his word and made sure they became part of our everyday life.

Honor thy Mother



Memorial Day is a Federal holiday. It is a time when we should set aside time to honor the fallen men and women who served this country in time of war and peace.

All gave some, some gave all. Let's not forget.

2021 Consistory

Matt Miller – President
Dan Sabetti – Vice President
Jenna Nguyen – Secretary
Tom Hoffert - Treasurer

ELDERS		
Dan Sabetti	484-281-3630	danielpsabetti@yahoo.com
Walter Williams	610-868-2993	wawilliams65@ptd.net
Brenda Stetler	610-868-9448	totosmom@gmail.com
Steve Tarasuk	610-691-7595	fourtarasuk@verizon.net
DEACONS		
Gail Correll	610-759-7135	mom2jnl@ptd.net
Joan Hottle	610-417-3224C	joaniern77@gmail.com
Debbie Keretz	484-767-6382C	dkeretz@FinancialGuide.com
Matt Miller	415-827-5359C	Tusculum76@gmail.com
Jenna Nguyen	484-264-8240C	Jenna.nguyen29@gmail.com
Tim Rumble	484-274-0857C	trumble@ptd.net

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE:

4/1	Maundy Thursday	20	
4/2	Good Friday	20	
4/4	Easter	58	\$1,535.00
4/11		42	\$1,845.00
4/18	Communion	46	\$ 725.00
4/25		51	\$1,265.00

DEADLINE FOR JUNE BEELINE IS May 22.

Our Daily Bread for June/July/August is available in the sanctuary a \$1 donation is appreciated

MAY 2

FLOWERS: Len & Rebecca Kesselring

BULLETINS: Debbie Brown

GREETERS: Gail Correll

USHERS: John Knoll, Gail Correll, Tom Hoffert

LAY READER: Gail Correll

ALTAR GUILD: Cindy Cressman & Pat Hale

MAY 9 - MOTHER'S DAY



FLOWERS: Barbara Backensto & Family

BULLETINS: Margy & Dan Sabetti

GREETERS: Margy & Dan Sabetti

USHERS: Cindy Beck, Bob Ruhe, Dan & Margy Sabetti

LAY READER: Margy Sabetti

MAY 16

FLOWERS: Len & Rebecca Kesselring

BULLETINS: Available

GREETERS: Barbara Backensto, Lisa Williams

USHERS: Len Kesselring, Lisa Williams, Volunteer

LAY READER: Sue Wright

MAY 23 - Pentecost

FLOWERS: Deborah Young

BULLETINS: Available

GREETERS: Volunteer

USHERS: Consistory

LAY READER: Len Kesselring

MAY 30

FLOWERS: Len & Rebecca Kesselring

BULLETINS: Available

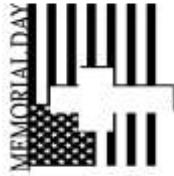
GREETERS: Jack & Diane Brunner

USHERS: Jack Brunner, Tom Wright, Steve Tarasuk

LAY READER: Bill Rumble



Bethany UCC
600 W. Market Street
Bethlehem PA 18018-5299
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED