

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Hours: Mon, Tues and Thurs. 9:30-1:30

Church Office: 610-868-4441 Fax: 610-868-7918

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



June 13, 2021 3rd 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

June 13, 2021

10:00 AM

We encourage our visitors to include their name, address, and phone number in the Guest Book at the top of the steps and come again. 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)**

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Lead On O King Eternal" H Smart, arr. W J Auld
2 piano/4 hands

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us gather in the awareness of God's love.

People: God's love has brought us to this place, it has made of us a church.

Leader: We can live with confidence and hope in the assurance that we are forgiven and accepted by a power greater than ourselves.

People: Because we are forgiven, we too can forgive.

All: So, may justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

HYMN: #508 Lead On, O King Eternal

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Most holy and Loving God we await the touch of Your Spirit with eagerness. We ask that You enter the lives of each one of us today refreshing, renewing and healing us with the powers of your loving Spirit, that we may live with purpose, enthusiasm and courage after the manner

**of Jesus, who was truly whole and Love Incarnate.
Amen.**

COUPLES PROCESSIONAL "O Perfect Love" vs.1

**O perfect Love; all human thought transcending, Lowly
we kneel in prayer before Thy throne, That theirs may be
the love which knows no ending Whom Thou
forevermore dost join in one.**

RENEWAL OF VOWS

Theodore and Marion Hendricks 65+1
George and Judy Morgan 60
William and Beverly Rumble 40
Philip and Sharon Haines 35
Leonard and Rebecca Kesselring 25+1

COUPLES RECESSIONAL "O Perfect Love" vs. 3

**Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow,
Grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife; And
to life's day the glorious unknown morrow That dawns
upon eternal love and life.**

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

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #657 He Has
Made Me Glad

**I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart; I will
enter his courts with praise. I will say "This is the day
that the Lord had made!" I will rejoice for he has made
me glad. He has made me glad; he has made me glad; I
will rejoice for he has made me glad. He has made me
glad; he has made me glad; I will rejoice for he has
made me glad.**

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 92: 1-4, 12-15

2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, 14-17

*Mark 4: 26-34

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "The Kingdom Seed"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "The Water is Wide" ...based on Appalachian melody by John Purifoy

The familiar 'The Gift of Love' title attributed to Hal Hobson.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #44 Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him
all creatures here below; praise him above, ye
heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**God of love, we offer our gifts of time, spiritual gifts and
financial gifts as a sign of our love for You and the
world. We ask Your blessing on the gifts where You
meet us in our suffering, and raise us up, so that all may
come to know of Your abiding love. In Jesus name.
Amen.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER – PASTORAL PRAYER

THE 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: #40 Alleluia, Fairest Morning

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: #688 We Give Thee but Thine Own. verse 5

And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be: whate'er for thine we do, O Lord, we do it unto Thee.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS: are presented by Dan and Margy Sabetti

BULLETINS: are presented in honor of those renewing their vows this morning as well as all those celebrating an anniversary this year.

GREETERS: Lisa Williams & Barbara Backensto

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Lisa Williams, Cory Tancin,
Volunteer

LAY READER: Phil Haines

Thank you to Rebecca Kesselring for sharing her talent with us this morning for our service.

Please join us down in Fellowship Hall for some cake and punch to celebrate our anniversary couples.

Scriptures

Psalm 92: 1-4, 12-15 NRSV

Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath Day.

- ¹ It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
² to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
³ to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.
⁴ For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.
- ¹² The righteous flourish like the palm tree,
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
¹³ They are planted in the house of the LORD;
they flourish in the courts of our God.
¹⁴ In old age they still produce fruit;
they are always green and full of sap,
¹⁵ showing that the LORD is upright;
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, 14-17 NRSV

⁶ So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹⁴ For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore, all have died.

¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Mark 4: 26-34 NRSV

The Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶ He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³⁰ He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

The Use of Parables

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

We need everyone to pitch in and help take care of our church home. We all have a little time in our busy lives to do one of the jobs listed below occasionally. If you or your group holds an event or meeting at the church, please make sure all trash is put in the furnace room and the rest rooms are stocked with toilet paper and paper towels. Be sure that floors and tables are clean.

On Sunday before you leave your pew look around and make sure all trash goes with you and all items are returned to their proper place.

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

Your Consistory, Staff, and Ministry/ Committee leadership want you to be aware of this information. We hope that it will encourage you to act.

Everyone has special talents and abilities. Sometimes we think we have little or nothing to offer. Time is often limited, but we can make time for things we care about. You are vital to Bethany United Church of Christ. Speak to any consistory member, ministry/committee leader, or staff member to offer your help.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, JUNE 13

10:00AM Worship in the Sanctuary with Renewal of Vows as well as offering for OCWM. Join us for a light social in Fellowship Hall to honor those renewing their vows.

MONDAY, JUNE 14

9AM Peanut Making in Fellowship Hall
Graveside Service for Kenneth Bender in Belfast, PA

TUESDAY, JUNE 15

7PM Bible Study in Fellowship Hall. All are Welcome!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY JUNE 20 Happy Father's Day

10:00AM Our Penn Northeast Conference Minister the Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates will be our Guest Preacher

Pastor Todd will have a Bible Study in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7pm beginning June 8. All are Welcome!

The offering for Our Churches Wider Mission will be received today Sunday, June 13. An envelope is provided in your offering box.

We have collected \$246.53 for our Joyful Noise to be sent to the Tunnels 2 Towers organization. We will continue to collect until June 13th. Please contribute if you are able.

Lead On, O King Eternal

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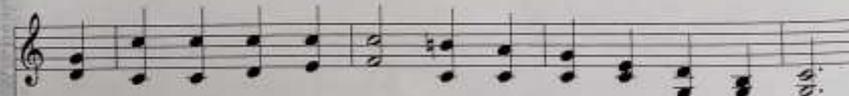
1 Lead on, O King E - ter - nal, the day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King E - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3 Lead on, O King E - ter - nal, we fol - low, not with fears;



hence - forth in fields of con - quest your tents shall be our home,
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet A - men of peace;
 for glad - ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears;



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong,
 for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums,
 your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



and now, O King E - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 with deeds of love and mer - cy the heav - en - ly king - dom comes.
 the crown a - waits the con - quest: lead - on, O God of might.



The Lord's Day

JONATHAN KRAUSE, 1719
 Tr. JANE BORTHWICK, 1858

GOTT DES HIMMELS UND DER ERDEN (ALBERT)

8. 7. 8. 7. 7. 7.

HEINRICH ALBERT, 1643

joyously

1. Al - le - lu - ia, fair - est morn - ing, Fair - er than our
 2. In the glad - ness of His wor - ship We will seek our
 3. Let the day with Thee be end - ed, As with Thee it

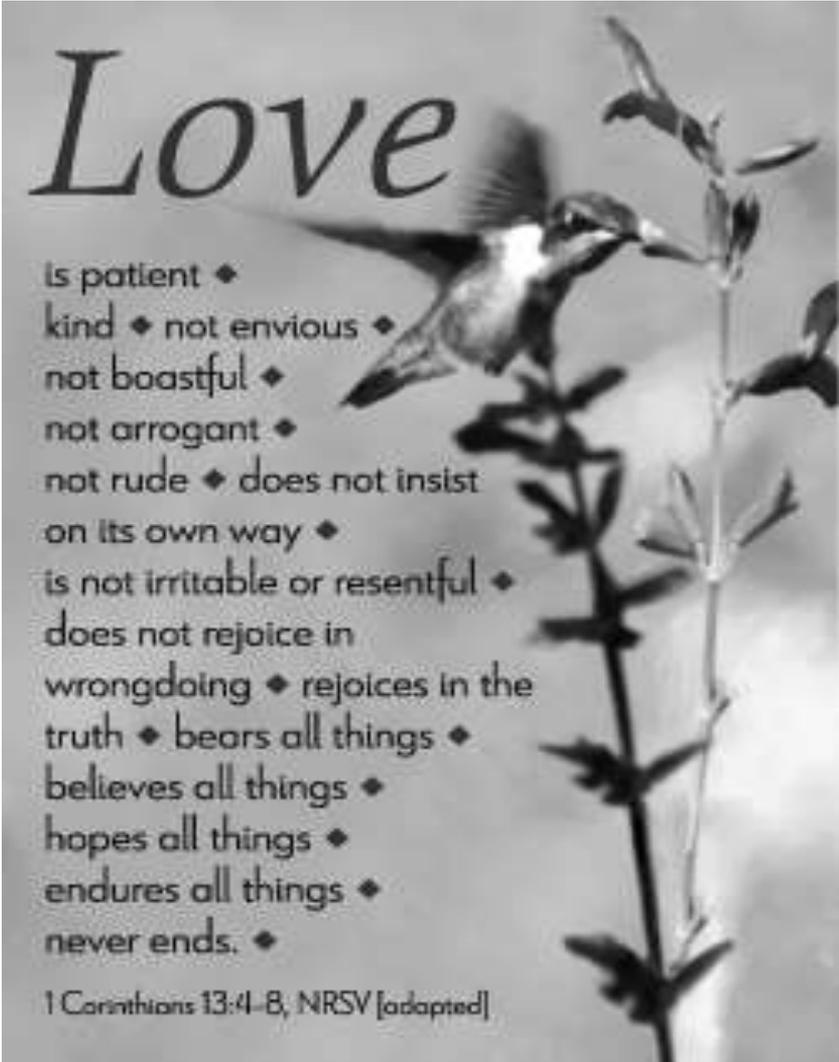
words can say! Down we lay the heav - y bur - den
 joy to - day; It is then we learn the ful - ness
 has be - gun, And Thy bless - ing, Lord, be grant - ed,

Of life's toil and care to - day, While this morn of
 Of the grace for which we pray, When the word of
 Till earth's days and weeks are done; That at last Thy

joy and love Brings fresh vig - or from a - bove.
 life is given, Like the Sav - iour's voice from heaven.
 serv - ants may Keep e - ter - nal Sab - bath - day. A - MEN.

Alternative tune, *Unser Herrscher* (with descant)

Love



is patient ♦
kind ♦ not envious ♦
not boastful ♦
not arrogant ♦
not rude ♦ does not insist
on its own way ♦
is not irritable or resentful ♦
does not rejoice in
wrongdoing ♦ rejoices in the
truth ♦ bears all things ♦
believes all things ♦
hopes all things ♦
endures all things ♦
never ends. ♦

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, NRSV [adapted]

Please also remember:

Robert and Annette Ruhe celebrating 42 years

*Douglass and Laura Sutter celebrating 6 years
who were missed in the June Beeline their
anniversary is today.*