

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

E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

Web address: www.uccbethany.org

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



July 25, 2021 9th 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 25, 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)**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Andante" ...Bochsa (Clarinet Quartet)
Erin & Jenna Nguyen, Ashley Tarasuk, Meghann Wright

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: On this day we gather in oneness with our brothers and sisters to celebrate God's gifts.

P: We hear the call to rekindle our spirits and to receive strength for our common tasks.

L: On this day we receive the Bread of Life and the Cup of Blessing, symbols of God's love and power.

P: We open our hearts to accept these gifts, seeking the grace to walk in new ways. Let us worship God!

*HYMN: # 56 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Most loving God, we can scarcely comprehend the scope of your forgiveness, we can hardly believe your amazing care for us. We confess that often we close ourselves off from your saving presence; and in our pride, we withhold forgiveness from other people.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit, grant us the assurance of your love. May our hearts be filled with

gratitude for your grace which overflows with love toward others. Hear now our silent petitions.....

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*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): #652 This Is the Day

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day; this is the day that the Lord has made.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 145: 10-18

Ephesians 3: 14-21

* John 6: 15-21

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Like a Bridge over Troubled Waters"

COMMUNION BY INTINCTION

Communion music: "Bread of the World"

Eucharistic Hymn ... L. Smith

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Faithful God, we are thankful that You have revealed to us the vision of life in covenant with You and with one another. We are thankful that You have sent Jesus Christ to invite people of all ages, tongues and races into faithful covenant, and that Jesus is present with us

in the breaking of bread. Through Your spirit, strengthen us to be faithful in all we have promised today. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Fairest Lord Jesus" ...arr. P. Young
Bassoon Quartet

Pat Hale, Erin & Jenna Nguyen, Meghann Wright

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #687 All Things Are Yours! vs.1
All things are yours! We make that true when we return our gifts to you. And so, we give, and so we share, in Christ's strong name expressing care.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Holy God, You are the maker of heaven and earth. Accept these offerings we present to You today. May they become vessels of support for Your work in this place and in Your world. Consecrate us anew to Your service, in Jesus' name we pray. 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: #343 A Parting Hymn We Sing**

***BENEDICTION**

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #395 The Bond of Love
We are one in the bond of love; we are one in the bond of love. We have joined our spirit with the spirit of God; we are one in the bond of love.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



As per the Consistory decision, if you are fully vaccinated, you may refrain from wearing masks for worship, meetings and fellowship at Bethany. You may still choose to wear a mask and there is no judgement.

FLOWERS and BULLETINS are presented in honor of the 41st anniversary of Pastor Todd Fennell's ordination

GREETERS: Jack & Diane Brunner

USHERS: Consistory Members

LAY READER: Debbie Brown

Scriptures

Psalm 145: 10 - 18 NRSV

- ¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
- ¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power,
- ¹² to make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.

¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

¹⁶ You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ The LORD is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.

¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

Ephesians 3: 14 - 21 NRSV

Prayer for the Readers

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

John 6: 15 - 21 NRSV

¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Jesus Walks on the Water

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus' walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

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.

How would you like to see that our little library is kept stocked and neat? We have plenty of books, we just need someone to check on it weekly to ensure that there are enough books and that there is a mix of both children and adults. Contact the office if you are interested.

If you are interested in learning yoga, please contact the office. If we are able to interest enough people to sign up, we have a member who is willing to lead us. Everyone is welcome! We currently have 6 people interested

Hey Bethany Family,

It's time to have some fun together. Dick Roberts is offering to MC an old-time sock hop type event – music from the 50's with some current stuff, games, prizes even karaoke. The proposed date is Saturday, July 31st.

Are you in? Please RSVP to the office. We need 20+ to make it happen.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, JULY 25

10:00AM Worship in Fellowship Hall with Communion

TUESDAY, JULY 27

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

No Handbell Rehearsal

NEXT SUNDAY AUGUST 1

10:00AM Worship in Fellowship Hall



Mark your calendars for Sunday September 11. This year we are having an indoor picnic here at Bethany. Since our usual sites are completely booked, we decided to have our picnic indoors where we won't have to worry about the weather or bugs. We will have our service then picnic/potluck.

Many many thanks to our woodwind players for sharing their talents with us this morning at worship.

Sponsor a Bill

This is a program that was started a few years ago. Sometimes when you contribute to an organization you wonder where your money is going. With this program you are able to pick a bill and know that the money you give is helping with that specific item. You may choose something that is paid monthly, quarterly, or yearly depending on how much you are able to give. We will be highlighting a few bills each month to give you some suggestions but feel free to contact the office if you have something else in mind. Here are a few suggestions for this month.

Postage Stamps \$55/100

Trash Removal \$84/quarter

As you can see, we have removed one item from our list as that item has been sponsored. If the items on the list don't excite you but you are interested in sponsoring talk to someone on staff.

A case of copy paper \$35.00

Communion Supplies ?

Paper Products

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above 56

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
 2 What God's al - might - y power has made, in mer - cy he is
 3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy
 4 Let all who name Christ's ho - ly name give God the praise and

a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our
 keep - ing; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade his eye is nev -
 hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness and came with peace
 glo - ry. Let all who know his power pro - claim a loud the won -

sal - va - tion. My soul with com - fort rich he fills, and
 er sleep - ing. And where he rules in king - ly might, there
 to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord, who
 drous sto - ry. Cast ev - ery i - dol from its throne; the

ev - ery grief he gent - ly stills: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 is by one and all a - dored: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry!

Not too fast; with solemnity

1. A part - ing hymn we sing A - round Thy ta - ble, Lord;
 2. Here have we seen Thy face, And felt Thy pres - ence here;
 3. The pur - chase of Thy blood, By sin no long - er led,
 4. In self - for - get - ting love Be our com - mun - ion shown.

A - gain our grate - ful trib - ute bring, Our sol - emn vows re - cord.
 So may the sa - vor of Thy grace In word and life ap - pear.
 The path our dear Re - deem - er trod May we re - joi - cing tread.
 Un - til we join the Church a - bove, And know as we are known. A - MEN.