

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

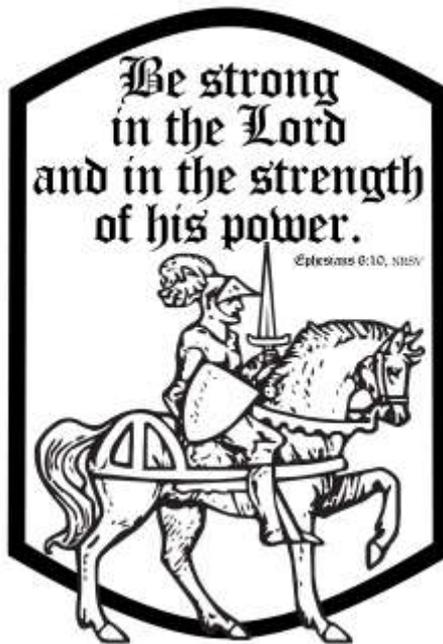
E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



August 22, 2021 13th 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

August 22, 2021

10:00 AM

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: "Largo" ...Handel, arr. E.J. Lorenz
Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

P: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

L: O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

P: O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in Him. Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #148 Come, Thou Almighty King

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

O God with all Your faithful followers of every age, we praise You, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of Your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*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): #661 All
People That on Earth Do Dwell. Vs. 1

**All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with
cheerful voice; him serve with joy, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.**

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 84

Ephesians 6: 10 – 20

* John 6: 59 - 69

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: “Wearable Armor”

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: Offertory on “Nettleton” tune...Wyeth, arr.
H.S. Livingston, Jr.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #44 Doxology

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

*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: #138 Holy God We Praise your Name

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #747 Go with Us, Lord
Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

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 are in honor of three lovely ladies in my family who celebrate birthdays this month, Wendy, Jennie & Rachel Love you all, Debbie

BULLETINS are presented by Len & Rebecca Kesselring in honor of God's good work.

GREETERS: Volunteers

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Corey Tancin, Len Kesselring

LAY READER: Len Kesselring

Scriptures

Psalm 84 NRSV

The Joy of Worship in the Temple

To the leader: according to The Gittith. Of the Korahites.
A Psalm.

- ¹ How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!
- ² My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.
- ³ Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
- ⁴ Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise. *Selah*
- ⁵ Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
- ⁶ As they go through the valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.
- ⁷ They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.
- ⁸ O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob! *Selah*
- ⁹ Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed.
- ¹⁰ For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
he bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the LORD withhold
from those who walk uprightly.

¹² O LORD of hosts,
happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Ephesians 6: 10-20 NRSV

The Whole Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

John 6: 59 – 69 NRSV

⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

The Words of Eternal Life

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵ And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

10:00AM Worship in Fellowship Hall with Handbells followed by a meeting with handbell and chancel choir members to discuss plans for the fall.

MONDAY, AUGUST 23

9:30AM – 1:30PM Office hours

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours
7PM Bible Study in Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25

No Handbell Rehearsal

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

9:30AM-1:30PM Office Hours
7PM Consistory in Fellowship Hall

NEXT SUNDAY AUGUST 29

10:00AM Worship in Fellowship Hall with Joyful Noise for the Susan G. Komen foundation. Remember our donation will be tripled. Empty your piggy banks or make it a quiet Joyful Noise!

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.

Case of Copy Paper \$35

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up! We have three sets of stamps paid for as well as the piano tuning. What a great response, thank you all.

Here are a few more ideas. When the charge is monthly, please understand you are not committing to this each month, you are just going to cover one month's fee.

The Newsletter Newsletter \$84.00/annual subscription. I use this to add pictures to the bulletin and the Beeline a great resource I'd be lost without it.

Times News Church Listings \$27.00 per month

Our sympathies go out to the Reiniger family. Michael's sister-in-law Peggy, wife of Lee Reiniger passed away unexpectedly. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Joyful Noise for August

We received a letter from the Susan G. Komen who are partnering with Kent International Inc. to triple all donations made from now until the end of August. While October is our usual month for Breast Cancer donations, we want to take advantage of this generous matching offer. We will collect our Joyful Noise offering on Sunday August 29 and immediately send in the money to be matched. Please remember all those who have been touched by this disease and give generously. Thank You!



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 will soon be reaching out to those who are interested with more information.

Come, Thou Almighty King 148

1 Come, thou Al - might - y King, help us thy
 2 Come, thou In - car - nate Word, gird on thy
 3 Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to sing, help us to praise: Fa - ther, all
 might - y sword, our prayer at - tend: come, and thy
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour: thou who al -
 prais - es be hence, ev - er - more! Thy sov - reign

glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess:
 might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,
 maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore!

WORDS: Anonymous, ca. 1757
 MUSIC: Felice de Giardini (1716-1796)

ITALIAN HYMN
 G. G. G. G. G.

138 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name, Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! the loud ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,

bow be - fore you; all on earth your scep - ter claim,
 above are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim
 Name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 Three we name you; while in es - sence on - ly one,

all in heaven a - bove a - dore you; in - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with
 and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, then, a - dor - ing,

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.
 set of sun, through the Church the song goes on.
 bend the knee, while we own the mys - ter - y.