

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



August 29, 2021 14th 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 29, 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. As per the Consistory decision, we will return to wearing masks for all services and meetings here at Bethany. We will continue to monitor the situation and make changes when appropriate.

**(*) PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE
(Bold Text is said or sung by everyone)**

JOYFUL NOISE: Susan G. Komen Foundation 3x Match

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Praise to the Living God" ... L. Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let us call on our god and give thanks. Let hearts rejoice as we sing God's praise.

P: Glory be to God in whose covenant we find life. Let all the people tell of god's wonderful works.

L: Let us open ourselves continually to God's presence. Let us seek the strength that God alone provides.

P: Surely the Spirit helps us in our weakness. The Spirit searches our heart and enlarges our prayers.

L: Who can separate us from the love of God? Will hardship, distress, or peril overcome us?

P: Nothing can separate us from the God's love. We can face all things, knowing God's care.

HYMN: #569 God of Grace and God of Glory

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Meet us here, holy God, to search our hearts and strengthen our spirits. Plant Your Word among us that it

may spring up in nurturing, inviting ways for the sake of all Your creatures. May we find in these moments of worship the assurance we need to live triumphantly in the face of loss, discouragement, and suffering. Lead us, by the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, to trust You and Your will for us. We believe that whatever happens, You can bring some good for it. Show us, O God, the good You intend. 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

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9

James 1:17-27

* Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "The Hot Potato of Anger"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: Sonatina Op. 36 No. 3...M. Clementi

*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: #385 Search Me, O God

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!



GREETERS: Judy & George Morgan

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Jack Brunner, Volunteer

LAY READER: Jean Fennell

FLOWERS are in honor of all the musicians of bethany UCC who have given their talents to the Glory of God. By Len & Rebecca Kesselring.

BULLETINS are in grateful recognition of Susan Wright, Director of Music, for her musical leadership and thoughtful inspiration. By Len & Rebecca Kesselring

Scriptures

Deuteronomy 4: 1 – 2, 6 - 9 NRSV

Moses Commands Obedience

4 So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ² You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you

⁶ You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷ For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸ And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹ But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children—

James 1: 17 - 27 NRSV

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with

whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Hearing and Doing the Word

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.

²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Mark 7: 1 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 - 23 NRSV

The Tradition of the Elders

⁷ Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and

there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?”⁶ He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷ in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹ For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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 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!

MONDAY, AUGUST 30

9:30AM – 1:30PM Office hours

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

7PM Bible Study in Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal

7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

9:30AM-1:30PM Office Hours

NEXT SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall

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.

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

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.

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!



Mark your calendars for Sunday September 12. This year we are having an indoor picnic here at Bethany, where we won't have to worry about the weather or bugs. We will have our service then picnic/potluck. After lunch we hope you will stay and play games or just visit with each other. If you have a favorite game, you'd like to share please bring it along. We are also looking for a volunteer to cook our hotdogs. We will set up Fellowship Hall after church on September 5th.

569 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn your Christ, an -
 3 Heal your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vila

pour your power; crown your an - cient Church's sto - ry, bring in
 sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us—free our
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

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Search Me, O God

1 Search me, O God, and know my heart to - day; try me, O
 2 I praise thee, Lord, for cleans - ing me from sin; ful - fill thy
 3 Lord, take my life and make it whol - ly thine; fill my poe

Sav - or, know my thoughts, I pray. See if there be some wick - ed
 Word and make me pure with - in. Fill me with fire where once I
 heart with thy great love di - vine. Take all my will, my pas - sio

way in me; cleanse me from ev - ery sin and set me free.
 burned with shame; grant my de - sire to mag - ni - fy thy name.
 self, and pride; I now sur - ren - der, Lord— in me a - bide.

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Let's keep them in our prayers!