

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

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**Web address:** [www.uccbethany.org](http://www.uccbethany.org)

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



September 19, 2021 17<sup>th</sup> 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

September 19, 2021

10:45 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)**

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYFUL NOISE: Maxwell James Oskam Foundation

PRELUDE: "How Firm a Foundation" ...T. Birchwood  
Two pianos-four hands

## CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We have gathered to rejoice in our oneness in Jesus Christ! Each of us experiences faith and life in unique ways.

**P: Yet we have one God, one faith, and one baptism, and one spirit who unites us all.**

L: Let us lift our hearts as one, in songs of praise, in prayer, and in listening for God's Word.

**P: Let us be joined in common concern for humanity as we follow Jesus. Let us worship God!**

HYMN: #571 Christ You Call Us All to Service

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Eternal God, we long for truths that are lasting, yet we want our faith to be alive to the people and problems of today. As we sail forward in an ever-changing world may faith in Christ be our anchor, and Your love be our guide, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. 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): #349 Seek Ye First. Both verses

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you; Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; Allelu, alleluia!**

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 54

James 3:13-18

\* Mark 9: 30-37

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "Vanity and Children"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "A Jubilant Song" ...Mary Lightfoot  
Chancel Choir

\*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: #566 Your Servant Comes This Hour

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: #393 **Blest Be the Tie that Binds  
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

POSTLUDE

***Our worship ends, our service begins!***



FLOWERS: are presented for the glory of God and to remind us of the beautiful colors of Fall by Len & Rebecca Kesselring

BULLETINS: are presented by John Talijan

GREETERS: Len Kesselring, Tom Hoffert

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Len Kesselring, Corey Tancin

LAY READER: Len Kesselring

# Scriptures

## Psalm 54 NRSV

### Prayer for Vindication

**To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Maskil of David, when the Ziphites went and told Saul, “David is in hiding among us.”**

- <sup>1</sup> Save me, O God, by your name,  
and vindicate me by your might.
- <sup>2</sup> Hear my prayer, O God;  
give ear to the words of my mouth.
- <sup>3</sup> For the insolent have risen against me,  
the ruthless seek my life;  
they do not set God before them. *Selah*
- <sup>4</sup> But surely, God is my helper;  
the Lord is the upholder of my life.
- <sup>5</sup> He will repay my enemies for their evil.  
In your faithfulness, put an end to them.
- <sup>6</sup> With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;  
I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.
- <sup>7</sup> For he has delivered me from every trouble,  
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

## James 3: 13 -18 NRSV

### Two Kinds of Wisdom

<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup> Such

wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup> For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

## **Mark 9: 30 - 37 NRSV**

### **Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection**

<sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

### **Who Is the Greatest?**

<sup>33</sup> Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” <sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” <sup>36</sup> Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

**Thank you to all who participated in the basket raffle at our church picnic. We were able to raise \$62 and purchase copy paper for the 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](mailto:wrumble@ptd.net). A copy of the bulletin is included with the audio link. Thank you, Bill, for making sure we are able to see and hear the services.

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

### **TODAY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

10:45AM      Worship in Sanctuary. Join us as the Chancel Choir returns after a very long break!

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

9:30AM – 1:30PM    Office Hours  
Beeline Articles due for October!

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

9:30AM              1:30PM Office hours

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

5:30PM              Handbell Rehearsal  
7PM      Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

9:30AM-1:30PM      Office Hours

### **NEXT SUNDAY SEPTEMBER**

10:45AM              Worship in Sanctuary with Len Kesselring leading the service. The Handbell and Chancel Choirs will be part of the service which in honor of the Celtic Classic will have an Irish flair!

### **LAITY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17**

**Pastor Todd is looking for 3 – 5 members of Bethany to share reflections on the chosen topic: God in my life. Let him know if you will be among the speakers ASAP.**

## Joyful Noise for September

The Maxwell James Oskam Foundation was created following the untimely death of my great nephew Maxwell James Oskam. Maxwell passed away on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as a result of an undiagnosed Neuroblastoma, an extremely rare form of cancer affecting less than 1,000 people per year in the USA. The goal of the Maxwell James Oskam Foundation working along with the “Beat Childhood Cancer” Organization is to help improve the current funding shortcomings associated with the treatment of childhood cancer, while bringing additional awareness to the disease. Here are a few facts you may not be aware of:

-Cancer is diagnosed yearly in 400,000 children worldwide.

-Cancer is the leading cause of death by disease past infancy in the USA.

-Of the billions of dollars allocated by the Government for cancer research, only 4% is allocated for pediatric cancer.

-Since 1950 only 4 drugs have received FDA approval for pediatric cancer. That means there are only 4 drugs to treat 16 types of cancer, which have hundreds of subtypes, to put that in perspective, in 2020 alone, 21 drugs to treat adult cancer were given FDA approval.

For decades doctors have been forced to treat children on a “one size fits all” approach by using adult treatments, watered down to fit the child’s body often times having negative impacts on the mind and body.

Max would have celebrated his 4<sup>th</sup> birthday yesterday. He lived only 99 days. Through the Maxwell James Oskam Foundation, the Oskams have dedicated themselves to bringing awareness to Childhood cancer in an attempt to prevent other families from facing the same tragedy that sadly had to experience. Please give what you can to help in the fight against Childhood Cancer.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.maxwelljamesoskam.org>

Thank you,

Wendy Glassic

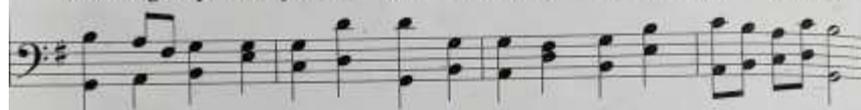
# 571 Christ, You Call Us All to Service



1 Christ, you call us all to serv-ice, call us all who fol - low you;  
 2 Teach us how to work to - geth - er, broth - ers, sis - ters, side by side,  
 3 Let us be a ser - vant peo - ple, re - con - cil - ing, end - ing strife,



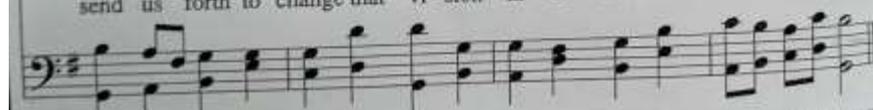
plant in us a deep com - mit - ment all your work and will to do,  
 e - qual part - ners in the strug - gle, in the cause of truth al - lied,  
 seek - ing ways more just of shar - ing and of or - dering hu - man life.



Fire a pas - sion for your jus - tice, in us kin - dle love of peace;  
 To each one some gift is giv - en, man or wo - man, young or old,  
 Fill us with a glow - ing vi - sion of this world as it should be;



help us heal the bro - ken - heart - ed, to the cap - tive bring re - lease -  
 help us use each skill and tal - ent your great pur - pose to un - fold,  
 send us forth to change that vi - sion in - to blest re - al - i - ty.



IN BABYLONE

