

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



*Honor your
father and
your mother.*

Exodus 20:12

September 26, 2021 18th 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 26, 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

PRELUDE: "Jesus the Very Thought of Thee" ...Kevin Mc Chesney Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come into the land of God.

P: We come seeking the land of love.

L: Live as the people of Christ.

P: We gather to grow as a community of love.

L: Follow in the ways of the Lord.

P: We move forward on the path of love.

L: Come, young and old, friend and foreigner, for all are welcome here.

P: We come to live and grow in the love of Christ. Praise God for this wonderful gift!

HYMN: #40 For the Beauty of the Earth

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Loving God, be the hope that overcomes our despair; be the love that overcomes our hatred; be the mercy that overcomes our sin. Set us free from the prisons of our own making, and release us from the bonds that bind

us. Forgive us and watch over us. Welcome us home into the loving arms of your mercy. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*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

Exodus 20:12

Ruth 1:11-17

Mark 7:10

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Honor Your Father and Mother" A Biblical Command We Never Outgrow.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Song of Ruth" ...J.E. Eilers 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)

God of Justice and love, transform these offerings, that they may be gifts of justice and love for a world in need of hope and help. Let love flow through these offerings, that they may become gifts of love for the world.

MISSION MOMENT – Neighbors in Need by Tim Rumble

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: #607 Happy the Home When God is There

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: #719 Go, My Child with My Blessing vs.4

I, the Lord, will bless and keep you and give you peace; I, the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace: I, the Lord, will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and

Brother. Go, my children, I will keep you and give you peace.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS: are presented in honor of the wedding anniversaries of my children, Jennifer & Ben Leedem and Patti & Tim Hoyt by Mom, Jan Smith

BULLETINS: are presented by John Talijan

GREETERS: Judy & George Morgan

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Corey Tancin and Volunteers

LAY READER: Debbie Brown

Scriptures

Exodus 20: 12 NRSV

¹² Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Ruth 1: 11-17 NRSV

¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³ would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." ¹⁴ Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶ But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”

Mark 7: 10 NRSV

¹⁰ For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.’

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. Thank you, Bill, for making sure we are able to see and hear the services.

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.



Bethlehem has announced that there will be a trick or treat night from 6 - 8 P on Friday, October 29. Donations of candy and/or bottled water can be brought to Bethany. There is a wash basket in the vestibule for your items

Phoebe Annual Basket Social

Please help us spread the word about Phoebe Allentown's 22nd Annual Basket Social on September 30 and October 1. Funds raised at the Basket Social help provide daily Community Life activities that keep our residents active, engaged, and in good spirits. They also enable us to care for the many live-in birds, fish, and small animals that are wonderful companions to the seniors that call Phoebe home. We are asking our supporting Congregations to help promote this important event. Could you please post the attached basket social flyer at your church or in your weekly bulletin? Any help you can lend would be greatly appreciated! For the safety of Phoebe residents and staff, the Basket Social viewing area in Moyer Hall will be limited to only Phoebe residents and staff. A tent will be on the east patio area for family members and the general public to buy tickets. There will be photos and descriptions of the baskets and bags assigned by number to drop tickets in. There will also be food trucks on site for those who would like to purchase lunch. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at 610-794-5132.

Thanks, and Blessings, **Tara Kralik**

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

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!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

9:30AM – 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

No Handbell Rehearsal
No Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9:30AM-1:30PM Office Hours

NEXT SUNDAY OCTOBER 3 Worldwide Communion

10:45AM Worship in Sanctuary with Communion and Neighbors in Need offering

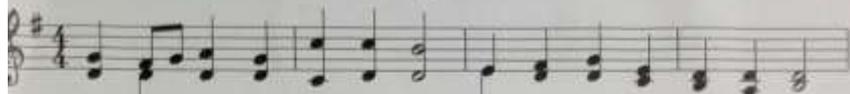
Upcoming events

ADULT CLASS

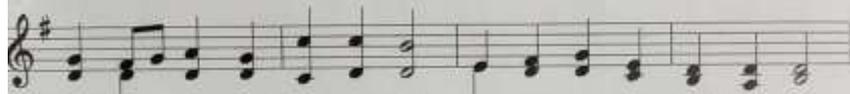
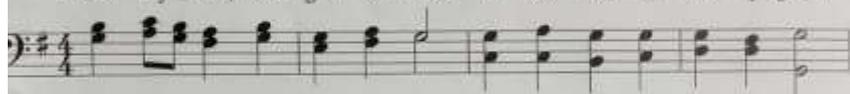
All are invited to the Adult Class beginning Sunday, October 10 at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy a DVD Study on The Miracles of Jesus, featuring inspiring Biblical teachers. Join us.

For the Beauty of the Earth

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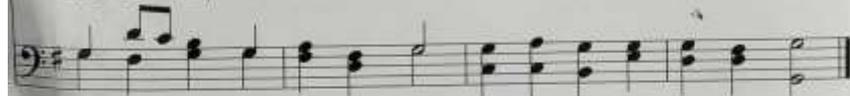
1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 4 For the church that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our race so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
 hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
 of - fering up on ev - ery shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love,
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven,



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.



WORDS: Eglint S. Pierpoint (1835-1917), alt.
 MUSIC: Conrad Kocher (1786-1872); arr. William H. Monk (1823-1889)

DIX
 7.7.7.7.7.

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607 Happy the Home When God Is There

1 Hap - py the home when God is there, and love fills ev - ery - one,
 2 Hap - py the home where God's strong love is start - ing to ap - pear,
 3 Hap - py the home where prayer is heard, and praise is ev - ery - where,
 4 Lord, let us in our homes a - gree this bless - ed peace to gain;

607

when with u - ni - ted work and prayer the Mas - ter's will is done,
 where all the chil - dren hear his fame and par - ents hold him dear,
 where par - ents love the sa - cred Word, and its true wis - dom share,
 u - nite our hearts in love to thee, and love to all will reign.

