

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



September 5, 2021 15th 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 5, 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)**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" ...A.P. Carter
Banjo/ Vocal. - Bob Ruhe

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are gathered to give witness to the enduring realities of life.

P: We have come to affirm that life is a gift, that the gift is good, and that it comes from God.

L: We are gathered to renew our hope in Jesus Christ, as we travel life's journey.

P: Let us praise God with our whole hearts and entrust our lives to God's hands. Amen.

HYMN: #93 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O Lord, we bring You our hearts and minds as reasonable living gifts. Take us as we are, our motives are mixed; our thoughts, unclean; and our will, unfree. Help us to discover what we may become and guide us to the spiritual power we truly need. Hear now our personal petitions for Your grace...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #372 I Then
Shall Live verse 1

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven; I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid. I know my name is clear before my Father; I am his child, and I am not afraid. So greatly pardoned, I'll forgive another; the law of love I gladly will obey.

*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): #657 He Has
Made Me Glad

I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart; I will enter his courts with praise. I will say, "This is the day that the Lord has made!" I will rejoice for he has made me glad. He has made me glad; he has made me glad; I will rejoice for he has made me glad. He has made me glad; he has made me glad; I will rejoice for he has made me glad.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 125

James 2:1-10, 14-17

* Mark 7: 24-37

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Hearing and Listening"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Amazing Grace" ...Newton, arr. G. Hohwald

Banjo/ vocal - Bob Ruhe

Please join in on verse 4

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining
as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than
when we'd first begun.*

*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: #192 Mary, Did You Know?

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?"

***Will the circle be unbroken By and by, Lord, by and by?
There's a better home awaiting in the sky, Lord, in the
sky. (Repeat)***

A popular Christian hymn written in 1907, Will the Circle Be Unbroken? is an anthem of hope and perseverance, a message that life continues in the face of adversity, and even after death.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



GREETERS: Gail Correll & Kathy Knoll

USHERS: John Knoll, Gail Correll & Tom Wright

LAY READER: Debbie Brown

In honor of Labor Day, the FLOWERS and BULLETINS are dedicated to all those who labored for our country in any capacity by Len & Rebecca Kesselring

Scriptures

Psalm 125 NRSV

The Security of God's People

A Song of Ascents.

- ¹ Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.
- ² As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time on and forevermore.
- ³ For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
so that the righteous might not stretch out
their hands to do wrong.
- ⁴ Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts.

⁵ But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways
the LORD will lead away with evildoers.
Peace be upon Israel

James 2: 1 – 10, 14 - 17 NRSV

Warning against Partiality

2 My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸ You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

Faith without Works Is Dead

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Mark 7: 24 - 37 NRSV

The Syrophenician Woman's Faith

²⁴ From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

10:00AM Worship in Fellowship Hall with Special Music shared by Robert Ruhe. Please help set up for the picnic after service.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 HAPPY LABOR DAY!

Office Closed

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

No Handbell Rehearsal

5:30PM Worship Meeting in Fellowship Hall

7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

9:30AM-1:30PM Office Hours

7PM Consistory in Fellowship Hall

NEXT SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12 CHURCH PICNIC

10:45AM Worship in Fellowship Hall followed by Picnic

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness 93

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib-er-at-ing light.
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word.
3 Praise the one true love in-car-nate: Christ, who suf-fered in our place.

Praise the One who frees the pris-oners, turn-ing blind-ness in-to sight.
Praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing two-edged sword.
Je-sus died and rose for man-y that we may know God by grace.

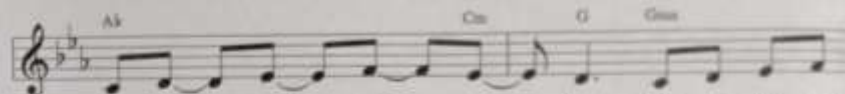
Praise the One who preached the gos-pel, heal-ing ev-ery dread dis-ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa-ter to the des-ert's burn-ing sand.
Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.

calm-ing storms and feed-ing thou-sands with the ver-y bread of peace.
From this well comes liv-ing wa-ter quench-ing thirst in ev-ery land.
Praise the one re-deem-ing glo-ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Mary, Did You Know?



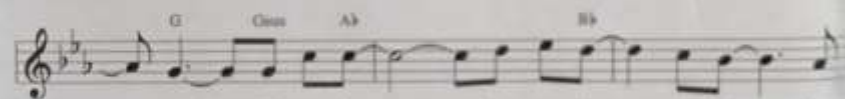
1 Ma - ry, did you know that your ba - by boy would
 2 Ma - ry, did you know that your ba - by boy would



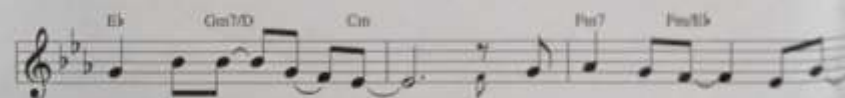
some - day walk on wa - ter? Ma - ry, did you
 give sight to a blind man? Ma - ry, did you



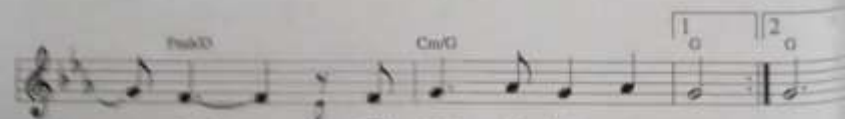
know that your ba - by boy would save our sons and daugh
 know that your ba - by boy will calm a storm with his



- ters? Did you know that your ba - by boy has
 hand? Did you know that your ba - by boy has



come to make you new? This child that you de - liv
 walked where an - gels trod? When you kissed your lit - tle ba -



by, will soon de - liv - er you.
 then you kissed the face of God.

Harmony
Gm A♭ B♭ Cm Cm/B♭ A♭

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live a - gain,

E♭/G Fm7 B♭ A♭ Cm7 Fm7 Fm/D Gm G

the lame will leap, the dumb will speak the prais-es of the Lamb.

Unison
Gm Cm B♭

Ma-ry, did you know that your ba - by boy is

A♭ Cm G Gm Cm B♭

Lord of all cre - a - tion? Ma-ry, did you know that your ba -

A♭ Fm/G G Gm A♭

- by boy will one day rule the na - tions? Did you know

B♭ E♭ Cm/D Cm

that your ba - by boy was heav-en's per-fect Lamb? This

Fm Fm/E♭ Fm/D Cm/G G7 Cm

sleep-ing child you're hold-ing is the great "I AM!"

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. 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.

Case of Copy Paper \$35

Times News Church Listings \$27.00 per month

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up! What a great response, thank you all.



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.