

# **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

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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

October 31, 2021 Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost

## **Reformation Sunday**

### **“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

October 31, 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)**

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "In the Garden" ...c. Austin Miles, 1912

*"And He walks with me,  
And He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am his own,  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known."*

The prelude is dedicated with love to DaMaris Stanley, who, if living would have been 100 years old today, October 31<sup>st</sup>!

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ!

**P: Through God we have access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God.**

L: God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

**P: We rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we are reconciled. Let us worship God!**

HYMN: #478 Sweet Hour of Prayer

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Amazing God, You have shaped the world in wonder and mystery. With thanks we contemplate the good earth You have created and the joys of the senses. With awe we contemplate the unseen world, with its divine and demonic realities. Help us, by Your power and grace to live in the spirit and by the faith we share in Jesus Christ. Bless this hour of worship, we pray. 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): #425 Christ Besides Me

**Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me – King of my heart; Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me – never to part.**

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 119:1-8

Hebrews 9:11-14

\*Mark 12:28-34

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "Reformation Theology...How Can I Get to Heaven? "

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "A Mighty Fortress" ...arr. Martin Luther  
Chancel Choir

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #687 All Things Are Yours!**

**Vs. 1**

**All things are yours! We make that true when we return our gifts to you. And so, we give, and so we share, in Christ's strong name expressing care.**

**\*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.**

**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: #508 Lead On, O King Eternal**

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION: #485 Into My Heart**

**Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart Lord Jesus; come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**POSTLUDE**

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



FLOWERS and BULLETINS: are placed by Linda Hollabaugh in memory of Wayne K. Hollabaugh “Happy Birthday Love of my life” and Richard Hollabaugh “light of my life”

GREETERS: Volunteer

USHERS: Steve Tarasuk, Lisa Williams, Tom Hoffert

LAY READER: Rebecca Kesselring

## **Scriptures**

### **Psalm 119: 1 - 8 NRSV**

#### **The Glories of God’s Law**

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are those whose way is blameless,  
    who walk in the law of the LORD.
- <sup>2</sup> Happy are those who keep his decrees,  
    who seek him with their whole heart,
- <sup>3</sup> who also do no wrong,  
    but walk in his ways.
- <sup>4</sup> You have commanded your precepts  
    to be kept diligently.
- <sup>5</sup> O that my ways may be steadfast  
    in keeping your statutes!
- <sup>6</sup> Then I shall not be put to shame,  
    having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.
- <sup>7</sup> I will praise you with an upright heart,  
    when I learn your righteous ordinances.
- <sup>8</sup> I will observe your statutes;  
    do not utterly forsake me.

## Hebrews 9: 11 - 14 NRSV

<sup>11</sup> But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), <sup>12</sup> he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, <sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

## Mark 12: 28 – 44 NRSV

### The First Commandment

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup> Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; <sup>33</sup> and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

## **The Question about David's Son**

<sup>35</sup> While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? <sup>36</sup> David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared,

'The Lord said to my Lord,  
"Sit at my right hand,  
until I put your enemies under your feet.'"

<sup>37</sup> David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?"  
And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

## **Jesus Denounces the Scribes**

<sup>38</sup> As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup> and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup> They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

## **The Widow's Offering**

<sup>41</sup> He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup> Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup> For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

**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.

Hi,

I am collecting size medium work clothes for a receptionist at one of my doctors' offices. I do not know all of her story but she was forced out of her appt. on short notice and left pretty much with what she could carry. She is in need of size medium work clothes for fall/winter such as sweaters, cardigans, coats, tops and pull-on type dress pants. No jeans, T-shirts or sweats and nothing petite. She is about 5'7" and over 60 years old. If anyone plans to clean out their closets and has those size clothes, please let me know. She is also looking for an affordable apt. somewhere in Bethlehem if anyone knows of a place. She has been staying in a hotel for several weeks.

Thank you,  
Sharon Haines

## **CHOCOLATES ON BROADWAY**

We will again be selling candy from Chocolates on Broadway for Christmas this year. The brochures and order forms are here! We will take orders until Sunday November 28<sup>th</sup> with delivery on Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup>. Remember this is a great fundraiser for the church and yummy for us.

October 27, 2021

Conference Minister the Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates advised us this morning that her husband, Steve Vulcheff, passed away peacefully this morning (Wednesday, October 27, 2021).

*Bonnie wrote:*

*His last days at Phoebe were difficult for me and my family but the staff and doctors were wonderful.*

*We could not have asked for better care and more support in these last days.*

*Arrangements for his memorial service are incomplete at this time, but we will share the information as soon as its available.*

If you would like to send a card of sympathy, her mailing address is:

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates  
431 Delaware Avenue  
Palmerton, PA 18071

**REMEMBER to turn your clocks BACK one hour on Saturday night, Nov.6 for All Saints Sunday.**

We express our deepest sympathies to the families of Brenda Stettler and Dale Zellner who each passed away in October. God's blessings of comfort and peace.

**CONGRATULATIONS and God's Blessings to Tim and Rachel Rumble. Little Jane Catherine Rumble arrived early Friday morning, October 22. All is well. Grandparents Bill and Bev are overjoyed.**

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

### **TODAY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 Reformation Sunday**

9:30AM Adult Bible Class  
10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary

### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal  
7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

9:30AM-1:30PM Office Hours

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6**

9AM Nut preparation in FH  
Turn Your clocks back!

### **NEXT SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7 All Saint's Day**

9:30AM Adult Bible Class  
10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with Communion

## **November Nut Sale**

### **GET YOUR PEANUTS, CASHEWS, AND ALMONDS HERE!**

Mark your calendars! Orders are due on November 1<sup>st</sup> with nut preparation on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. We sell Almonds \$5, Cashews \$5, and Peanuts \$3. Call Debbie Brown at 484-358-3735. Everyone is invited to help on nut preparation days. Saturdays from 9 AM till? and Mondays from 9 AM until finished. It's a time of fun and fellowship. Lunch is served on peanut prep Mondays.



