

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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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



November 21, 2021 Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost
Harvest Home/ Thanksgiving 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

November 21, 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

JOYFUL NOISE – Keystone Military Families

PRELUDE: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” ...H.F. Stark
Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

P: Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

L: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

P: Give thanks to Him, bless His name! Let us worship God!

HYMN: #721 Come Ye Thankful People Come

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious God, we praise and thank You for the blessings of our lives. Most of all we thank You for the love You show us through the giving of Your Son, Jesus. Help us to be the blessing that You created us to

be, that we may grow in faith and in the sharing of our lives. In the name of Jesus, 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): #81 We Gather Together vs.1 Handbell Choir*

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing, sing praises to his name: he forgets not his own.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 126

I Thessalonians 5: 16-24

* Luke 17: 11-19

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Gratitude, Grace and Community"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "For the Beauty of the Earth" ...arr. J. Rutter
Chancel Choir

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #724 Sing to the Lord of Harvest vs.1*

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise; with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise. By him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move; sing to the Lord of harvest a joyous song of love.

*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 – A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING pg. 9

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: #14 Now Thank We All Our God

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: #723 For the Fruit of All Creation vs.1

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For his gifts to every nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "With Grateful Heart I Thank You, Lord"

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS: The autumn flowers and bulletins are given in loving remembrance of husband, father, and “pappy” Harry W. Denninger, by wife Ina and daughters Susan and Diane and their families.

GREETERS: Bob Ruhe

USHERS: Bob Ruhe, Len Kesselring, Volunteers

LAY READER: Sue Wright

Scriptures

Psalm 126 NRSV

A Harvest of Joy/A Song of Ascents.

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

⁵ May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

⁶ Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

I Thessalonians 5: 16 - 24 NRSV

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is

good; ²² abstain from every form of evil.²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Luke 17: 11 - 19 NRSV

Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? ¹⁸ Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

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.

Bethlehem Emergency Shelter

As the weather grows colder, we need to remember those who have no home and rely on the shelter for a place to stay and a warm meal. Bethany has signed up to provide and serve a meal on Friday February 11 and Tuesday March 8. We need 10 – 15 people each night so please let Wendy Glassic or the office know if you are willing to help. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

December Nut Sale

GET YOUR PEANUTS, CASHEWS, AND ALMONDS HERE!

Mark your calendars! Orders are due on November 29th with nut preparation on December 4th and 6th. 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? (Attention Youth – this can be Community Service time) and Mondays from 9 AM until finished. It's a time of fun and fellowship. Lunch is served on peanut prep Mondays. Due to the continued decrease of workers this will be Bethany's final nut sale. Thank you to all who have worked hard for so many years but all good things must come to an end.

CHOCOLATES ON BROADWAY

We are 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 28th with delivery on Sunday December 12th. Remember this is a great fundraiser for the church and yummy for us.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21 Harvest Home / Thanksgiving Sunday

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with collection of food for the food bank

3PM, We welcome you with your family pets for a ritual of blessings in Fellowship Hall. For the safety of all involved please make sure your pets are either leashed or crated.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

No rehearsals

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25 Happy Thanksgiving

Office Closed

NEXT SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with Communion as we celebrate the start of advent and decorate the church after service. Please stay and help.

Sponsor A Bill

As Advent approaches, we needed to replace our advent candles. These new ones are able to be refilled as are the ones on the altar. The cost for four new candles with shipping comes to the cost of \$55 for each candle.

Which one would you like to sponsor?

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, from whom comes each good gift of life, we remember your loving-kindness and your uncounted mercies and we join in grateful praise. For all your gifts to us and to our human race; for our life and the world in which we live,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For the order and constancy of nature; for the bounty and bounty of the world; for day and night, summer and winter, seed-time and harvest; for the varied joys which every season brings.

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For the work we are enabled to do, and the truth we are permitted to discover; for whatever of good there has been in our past lives, and for all the hopes which lead us toward better things.

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For all the joys and comforts of life; for homes and families; for our friends; for the love, sympathy, and good will of persons near and far,

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For all civilization, wise government and law which order common life; for education and all treasures of literature, science and art,

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For prophets, pioneers, and all earnest seekers after a dream; for all lovers and helpers of humankind; for the aid and counsel of those who are wiser than ourselves,

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For all the discipline of life; for the tasks and trials which train us to know ourselves and which bring us to accept one another,

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For the desire and power to help others; for every opportunity of serving our generation in many ways large or small,

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For all true knowledge of you and the world in which we live;
for the life of truth and right to which you have called us,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For the gift of Jesus Christ, and everything which is ours as
his disciples; for the presence and inspiration of your Holy
Spirit throughout our day.

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For the tender ties which bind us to the unseen world; for the
faith which dispels the shadows of earth and fills the closing
years of life with the light of hope.

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

UNISON

God of all grace and love, we have praised you with our lips
for all the richness and meaning that life holds for us. Now
send us into the world to praise you with our lives; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Bethlehem Live Nativity

Join us as we celebrate Christ's birth in the Rose Garden December 11 & 12. Anyone is welcome to join the Chancel Choir when we sing at the Live Nativity on Saturday Dec. 11 and Sunday Dec. 12. Rehearsal for the pageant will be held on Wednesday Dec. 1 from 8 - 8:30 PM, following Chancel Choir. Please sign up with Sue for the event. The prelude begins at 1:45 pm and the program concludes in approximately one hour. Please sign up in Snyder Chapel ASAP as we need to let them know how many costumes to prepare for our group.

We'd love to have you sing with us!

Daily Bread

We have received the new issues of Our Daily Bread. They are located in the rear of the sanctuary. A \$1 donation is appreciated.

721 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un-to his praise to yield,
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home,
 4 E-ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to your fi-nal har-vest home.

All is safe-ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be-gin.
 wheat and tares to- geth-er sown, un-to joy or sor-rows grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of-fens-es purge a-way,
 gath-er all your peo-ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin.

God, our ma-ker, does pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied;
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap-pear,
 give his an-gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for-ev-er pu-ri-fied, in your pres-ence to a-bide.

come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.
 Lord of har-vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit-ful ears to store in his gar-ner ev-er-more.
 Come, with all your an-gels, come, raise the glo-rious har-vest home.

GOD

14

Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice - es,
 2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa-ther now be giv-en,

who won-drous things has done, in whom his world re-joice-es;
 with ev-er joy-ful hearts and bless-ed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in high-est heav-en,

who, from our moth-er's arms, has blessed us on our way
 and keep us in his grace and guide us when per-plexed,
 the one e-ter-nal God whom earth and heaven a-dore;

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev-er-more.

WORDS: Martin Rinkart (1586-1649); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), arr.
 MUSIC: Johann Criger (1598-1662); harm. Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
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