

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



November 28, 2021 First Sunday of Advent

“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

PRELUDE: "Tell Me the Story of Jesus" ...John R. Sweney
arr. Tom Fettke

Tell me the story of Jesus, write on mt heart every word; Tell me the story most precious, sweetest that ever was heard. Tell me how angels, in chorus, sang as they welcomed his birth, "Glory to God in the highest! Peace and Good Tidings to earth."

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

P: The time of pregnant expectation of new life.

L: The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.

P: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

*HYMN: #154 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

As followers of Christ, we are always on a journey. On our pilgrimage there is no time when we can afford to

stop growing in love, in strength, and in knowledge of God. So it is that when we gather to worship, we must confess those places in which we need to grow. In preparation of the coming of the Christ, let us confess our need for growth, in silence before God: (silent prayer of confession)

***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): #159 Refrain
vs.1 Refrain

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

Who is the King of glory: what shall we call him? He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages.

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: Judy & George Morgan "The Whisper of Hope"

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: #175 Vs. 1&2

We light the Advent candles against the winter night, to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light, to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light.

The first one will remind us that Christ will soon return. We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn, We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn.

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

I Thessalonians 3: 9-13

* Luke 21: 25-36

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: Our "Advent Hope"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "How Will We Know Him?" ...Charlotte
Algozin Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #34 Praise God from Whom All
Blessings Flow

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all
creatures here below; praise him above, ye 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.**

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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Today you will receive a wafer and a cup of your choice (wine or juice) Please place cups in the basket as you return to your seat)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison):

We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*HYMN: #162 like a child

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #178 Emmanuel, Emmanuel
**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called
Emmanuel.**

*POSTLUDE: Selected

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS: are presented in honor of Barbara Wagner's birthday on Nov. 26th and Roger Wagner's 95th birthday on Dec. 2nd with love from family.

BULLETINS: "In grateful appreciation to all the faithful members of Bethany who continue to support the mission of Christian ministry."

GREETERS: Barbara Backensto & Lisa Williams

USHERS: Consistory Members

LAY READER: Bob Ruhe

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.

Scriptures

Jeremiah 33: 14 -16 NRSV

The Righteous Branch and the Covenant with David

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise, I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

I Thessalonians 3: 9 - 13 NRSV

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Luke 21: 25 - 36 NRSV

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Exhortation to Watch

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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! Orders and money need to be turned in today Sunday November 28th with delivery on Sunday December 12th. Remember this is a great fundraiser for the church and yummy for us.

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. Come see us perform!

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

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We are continuing the tradition of donating money to Bethany in lieu of sending our Bethany Friends Holiday Cards. This Holiday Season, a \$10 donation to Bethany will forego sending out cards to Bethany Members/Friends wishing them a Merry Christmas. Your donation must be received by December 12th. Your name will appear in the bulletin on December 19th and Christmas Eve. Please make the check payable to "Bethany UCC" with greetings in the memo line. Thank You.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Poinsettia Orders are due on Sunday December 12th. Order forms are in the back of the Sanctuary. We will once again get our flowers from Cierech's Greenhouse for a cost of \$10. Please help us decorate our sanctuary with these beautiful flowers on Christmas Eve and then take them home to enjoy!

154 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things
 4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain (Harmony)

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 cause us in her ways to go.
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

like a child

162

Unison

Gm C Am Dm

1 like a child love would send to re-veal and to mend, like a
 2 like a child we will meet, rag-ged clothes, dirt-y feet, like a
 3 like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a

Gm C F D7

child and a friend, Je - sus comes like a
 child on the street, Je - sus comes like a
 child here to stay, Je - sus comes like a

Gm7 C Am Dm7

child we may find claim - ing heart soul and mind, like a
 child we once knew com - ing back in - to view, like a
 child we re - ceive all that love can con - ceive, like a

Gm7 C11 F

child strong and kind, Je - sus comes
 child born a - new, Je - sus comes
 child we be - lieve Je - sus comes

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon (1935-)

LIKE A CHILD
3.3.3.3.3.3.3.1

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28 First Sunday in Advent

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.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

5:30PM Handbell rehearsal

7PM Chancel Choir rehearsal

8PM Live Nativity rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:30am 1:30pm Office Hours

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

9AM 3PM Nut making in FH lunch will be provided

NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 5 Second Sunday in Advent

10:45am Worship in the sanctuary as we continue our advent celebration.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

9AM ? Peanut Making in FH lunch will be provided