

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



January 9, 2022

“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

January 9, 2022

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: "We Three Kings of Orient Are" ...Hopkins, arr.
R. Graham piano/organ duet

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: This is the fullness of time, the midst of the Christmas season.

P: This is the fullness of time, when we live the promise of Christmas.

L: This is the fullness of time, the cusp of a brand-new year.

P: This is the fullness of time, when we live our new life in Christ.

L: This is the fullness of time, the gathering of God's worshipping children.

P: This is the fullness of time. Give us your sense of peace and joy in this time and in this season. Let us worship with joyful praise.

*HYMN: # 184 What Child is This

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

O God, here we are together in this sacred place of worship. Declare to us today through word the way in which you would have us live. In this season of love, help us love. In this season of giving, help us give. In this season of hope, help us to be hopeful. In this season of grace, lead us to graciousness. Forgive us when we settle for so much less than what you offer. May we come to see as you see, love as you love, share as you share, and live as you would have us live. In the name of the Baby Jesus, we pray. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE (*with waves and prayer hands*)

Pastor: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you" Let us offer each other a sign of peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #229 The First Nowell. vs. 6

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly lord, who hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood our life hath brought. Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Psalm 72: 5-11

* Matthew 2:1-12

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "What Do You Really and Truly Believe?"

OFFERING INVITATION

“When they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.” Through Jesus, let us offer to God a sacrifice of praise.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: “Behold that Star” arr. F. Cunkle
Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #236 As with Gladness. Vs. 1 & 3

**As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward,
beaming bright, so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore your splendor see.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and
bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s
alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our
heavenly King.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS, GIFTS AND
SELF

**Creator of all, during this time of year when we joyfully
and expectantly give and receive gifts, help us
understand what it truly means to receive the gift of
your only begotten Son. In turn, may we willingly give our
gifts to you—our time, our talents, and indeed our very
selves. 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: #233 We Three Kings Verse 1 and refrain, vs. 2 vs. 3 and refrain, vs. 4 vs. 5 and refrain.

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #235 Brightest and Best of the Stars. Vs. 1

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and come to our aid; star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

*POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS: Are placed on the altar by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Catanzaro with thanks for sharing our church with them on their wedding day.

BULLETINS:

GREETERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

USHERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti, Cindy Beck, Bob Ruhe

LAY READER: Diane Diefenderfer

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.

CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

If worship is cancelled due to weather conditions, announcements will be on TV Channel 69 – WFMZ. Also, if we have your email address, an email will be sent.

Scriptures

Isaiah 60: 1 - 6 NRSV

The Ingathering of the Dispersed

60 Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,^[a]
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD

Psalm 72: 5 – 11 NRSV

- ⁵ May he live^[a] while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- ⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
- ⁸ May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- ⁹ May his foes^[b] bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust.
- ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.
- ¹¹ May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.

Matthew 2: 1 - 12 NRSV

The Visit of the Wise Men

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men^[a] from the East came to Jerusalem, **2** asking, “Where is the child who has been born

king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,^[b] and have come to pay him homage.”³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah^[c] was to be born.⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd^[d] my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men^[e] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,^[f] until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped,^[g] they were overwhelmed with joy.¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

10:45 Worship in the sanctuary with Len Kesselring as worship leader. Please stay after church to help remove decorations.

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

Choir banquet at the Café on 5th

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
7PM Consistory

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary

Choir party

**Today is the last day to sign up for the After
Christmas Party!**

**Don't forget your \$2.00 exchange gift!!! Party
time 6 pm this Wed. Jan 12th.**

Dart Baseball is Back

The Bethlehem Interchurch dart league is having a season. Have you ever wondered about the doors in fellowship hall that are on the wall? That is our dart Baseball board. Our matches are on Monday nights at Bethany and other churches in the city. It is a get together for fun and fellowship with a little bit of competition. Our Bethany team has a new Captain/Manager this year so if you have any questions contact Steve Tarasuk, (610) 554-0125 (call or text), steve.tarasuk@gmail.com. Watch the bulletin for more information about a fun get together after the holidays to meet the team and have a chance to throw against them. The last time our guests beat the team.

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.

UPCOMING EVENT!

A Breakfast (Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Potato Patties, Juice & Coffee) will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sat. Jan 22nd with seating's @ 9am & 10 am. Tickets of \$7.00 are available to purchase please see Bev Rumble. Donations toward expenses are always appreciated.