

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



February 27, 2022

Transfiguration 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

February 27, 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: "Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us" ...William B. Bradbury, arr. Jerry Ray
Piano - Cindy Cressman

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Welcome to this hour of worship.

P: Greetings to our brothers and sisters in the faith.

L: We come to celebrate God's presence.

P: And God's love expressed in our lives and through Jesus Christ. Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #247 Sing of God Made Manifest

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Holy God, in Jesus Christ You lifted the veil between heaven and earth to show us Your glory. Help us to look for and recognize those moments in our lives when the space between You and us is thin and we are truly on Holy Ground. Teach us to reflect that glory and love to those around us in our daily lives. 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): #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.

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalm 99

II Corinthians 3:12-18

* Luke 9: 28-36

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: “The Agony and the Ecstasy”

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: “Holy Ground” ...Davis, arr. Larson
Chancel Choir

*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)

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: # 245 We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #395 the Bond of Love vs.1

We are one in the bond of love; we are one in the bond of love. We have joined our spirit with the Spirit of God; we are one in the bond of love.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS: are in memory of Andrew Young who would have celebrated his 75th Birthday on March 2nd, with love by his sister Deborah Young

GREETERS: Barbara Backensto, Lisa Williams

USHERS: Barbara Backensto, Gail Correll

LAY READER: Debbie Brown

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

Psalm 99 NRSV

Praise to God for His Holiness

- ¹ The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
- ² The LORD is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the peoples.
- ³ Let them praise your great and awesome name.
Holy is he!
- ⁴ Mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity;
you have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.
- ⁵ Extol the LORD our God;
worship at his footstool.
Holy is he!
- ⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.
They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.
- ⁷ He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;

they kept his decrees,
and the statutes that he gave them.

⁸ O LORD our God, you answered them;
you were a forgiving God to them,
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

⁹ Extol the LORD our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the LORD our God is holy.

II Corinthians 3: 12 - 18 NRSV

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that^[a] was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Luke 9: 28 - 36 NRSV

The Transfiguration

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and

Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and, in those days, told no one any of the things they had seen.

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 Tuesday March 8. We need 10 – 15 people so please let Wendy Glassic or the office know if you are willing to help. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Donations are welcome to offset the cost of the food. Please see Wendy Glassic or leave it in the office.

Chocolates on Broadway

Good News! The brochures and order forms have arrived for our Easter Candy sale. We will take orders from now until March 13th with delivery on April 3rd. I have order forms available for anyone who wishes to sell at work or to other groups.

Temporary Cleaner Needed

Our Cleaner Linda Trainer is having knee replacement surgery and will be unable to clean the church on March 18th and April 8th. If you are willing to step in and take care of this, please call the office or speak to Matt Miller.

New Members

We will have new members joining Bethany on Palm Sunday, April 10th. Interested? See Pastor Todd



Our Joyful Noise for January benefited the High Five for Disaster Relief sponsored by PNEC. We raised over \$200.

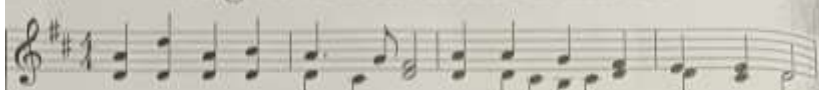
Our Joyful Noise for February which benefited both the Food Bank with around 50 cans of soup and over \$150 in cash to the Lehigh Valley Council of Churches.

Please Help

You may have seen on the news or heard about a house fire that was a total loss for the Reilly Family last month. Clayton Reilly is a new Instrumental Music Teacher at Spring Garden and Hanover Elementary Schools in Bethlehem.

A "Go Fund Me" has been established to help the Reilly Family. Our Consistory approved this outreach for any of you to respond with a donation. See or email Meghann Wright for the "Go Fund Me" site to give. wright.meghann@gmail.com

247 Sing of God Made Manifest



1 Sing of God made man-i - fest in a child ro - bust and blest,
 2 Sing of God made man-i - fest when at Jer - dan John con - fessed,
 3 Sing of God made man-i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest,
 4 Sing of God made man-i - fest on the cloud-capped moun-tain's crest,



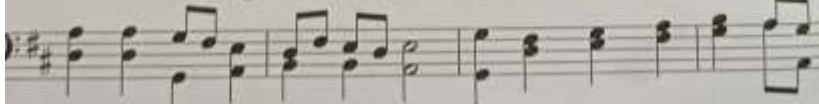
to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid-ed them,
 "I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do,"
 and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine,
 where the law and proph-ets waned so that Christ a - lone re - main-ed.



Ma - gi came and gifts un-bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro-found:
 Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove-like Spir - it, voice di - vine—
 fur - ther still was love re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,
 glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face



myrrh and frank-in - cense and gold grave and God and King fore - told,
 hailed the true A - noint-ed One; "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
 bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call,
 towards the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.



245 We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

Unison

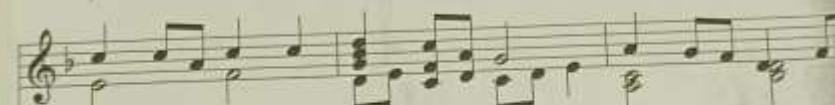
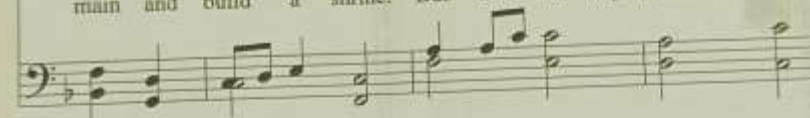
1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
 3 Strength - ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our



ho - ly place, where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
 flesh - joined Word. Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
 faith de - cline, we, like Pe - ter, find it tempt - ing to re



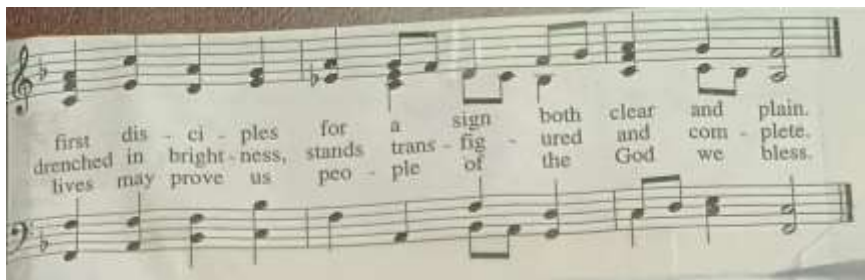
to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as - sur - ance
 heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with won - der
 main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us cour - age



that our faith is not in vain, search - ing like the
 how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with gar - m
 to pro - claim what we pro - fess, that our dai - ly



PLEADING



THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

9:30AM Adult Class in Fellowship Hall "Unshakable Hope: Building Our Lives on the Promises of God"
10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours
7PM Darts Bethany UCC @ St. Peters

TUESDAY, MARCH, 1 Fastnacht Day

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

WEDNESDAY, MARCH, 2 Ash Wednesday

7PM Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary
Chancel Choir after service

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, MARCH, 6 Annual Meeting

9:30AM Adult Bible Class
10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary the first Sunday in Lent please stay after for the annual meeting.

Remember Joyful Noise for March is Alzheimer's Research. We will collect on Sunday March 13th and all funds will be doubled.



We're going to sell nuts for Easter and need all the help we can get. By popular demand we will sell, Peanuts for \$3 a bag, Cashews and Almonds for \$5 a bag.

Orders will be taken until March 28th. We will then prepare the nuts on Saturday April 2nd and Monday April 4th. Please mark your calendars and block out this time to help Bethany continue the long tradition of fellowship while we raise funds to help our church. If you are not able to help, please consider placing an order.

As you all know we had decided to end the Nut sales due to low numbers of helpers. When outside folks heard about this they offered to come and help so they would be able to continue purchasing our delicious nuts. Due to this offer of help we decided to try and have four sales this year. One for Easter one in June. One for Thanksgiving and one for Christmas. Hopefully this will give you enough time to block out some time to help. See you in Fellowship Hall!

It's a girl!

On 2/22/22 Laura and Doug Sutter welcomed Ella Jane into their family! Mother and daughter are doing well, no word on dad (lol). The rose on the altar celebrates her arrival into the Bethany family.