

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



June 26, 2022

Third Sunday after Pentecost

“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

June 26, 2022

10:00 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, masks are optional 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: "Praise to the Living God" ...L. Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are here because we have heard the call of Jesus in our lives.

P: We are here to challenge and support one another to rise up and follow.

L: We are here because we want to be God's people.

P: We want to learn more about what it means to be the people of God.

L: We come, seeking to be moved, changed, and made whole by the Spirit of the living God.

All: Let us open our hearts to the moving of the Spirit, and prepare to leave this place as true disciples of Christ. Amen.

*HYMN: #455 Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

O God of life, there is much that deals in doubts and despair and death in our world, and we are often tempted to succumb to these forces. Help us always to choose life; to affirm what can be affirmed, to hope

where hope is possible; and to risk ourselves to lift up human dignity. For we pray in the name of Christ, who is the way and the truth and the life. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #466 Take My Life and Let It Be. Vs. 4

Take my love, my God, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

RECOGNITION OF OUR GRADUATES

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalm 16

Galatians 5: 1, 13 - 25

* Luke 9: 51 - 62

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Following Jesus ..."

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Rejoice" ...C. Courtney

Chancel Choir Flute - Meghann Wright

*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.

*HYMN: #458 O Jesus, I have Promised

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #461 Breathe on Me, Breath of God. Vs. 1

Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what-e'er you love, and do what you would do.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS: The flowers and bulletins are presented in honor of our 27th Wedding Anniversary (June 24) by Len and Rebecca Kesselring.

GREETERS: Ina Denninger

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Tom Wright

LAY READER: Walter Williams

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

Psalm 16 NRSV

- 1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
- 2 I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."
- 3 As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones
in whom is all my delight.
- 4 Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.
- 5 The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
- 6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
- 8 I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
- ¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol
or let your faithful one see the Pit.
- ¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Galatians 5: 1, 13 – 25 NRSV

5 ¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

The Works of the Flesh

¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Fruit of the Spirit

²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Luke 9: 51 – 62 NRSV

A Samaritan Village Refuses to Receive Jesus

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, ⁵³ but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village.

Would-Be Followers of Jesus

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” ⁵⁹ To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ Another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” ⁶² And Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Bethany's Graduates of 2022!

Ashley Tarasuk

After graduating from Liberty High School, I plan on attending Northampton Community College and majoring in Communication Design. I was a Liberty Bagpiper for four years and was a Co-Pipe Major in my senior year. Outside of school, I attained the rank of Nidan and the title Fuku Shidojin at Bethlehem Karate Association. One of my favorite memories was the second Liberty vs. Freedom football game my freshman year. It was pouring rain for our halftime show and the Pipe Corps marched down the 50-yard line playing Iron Man.

Amy Lin Hendricks

High school was an experience. As a little freshman, I had no idea that I would accomplish as much as I did in a mere 4 years of my life. The marching band placed 3rd in the Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Championships in my first year. I was accepted into the Delaware Governor's School of Excellence for music, and joined the Delaware Youth Symphony Orchestra as a sophomore. With my peers, I endured one of the most unique academic experiences in junior year during the pandemic. As a senior, I conclude with a 3.9 GPA, having played at Carnegie Hall with the 2022 Honors Performance Series. I am thankful for everything high school has brought me in life (the good and the bad).

As I continue on to the next chapter in my life at the University of Delaware College of Engineering, I will always cherish the memories and lessons of my high school career.

Most of all, I will forever continue my willingness to learn new things.

Allison Erving

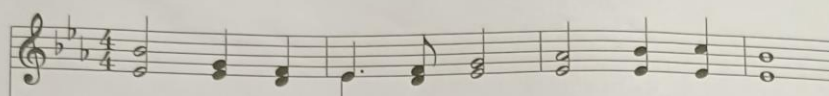
The granddaughter of Barbara Backensto is graduating from Northwestern Lehigh high school with high honors. She played softball and volleyball during her high school years. She will attend West Virginia University for nursing.

Allison Miller

The granddaughter of Joan Hottle will graduating May 25th from Pen Argyle High School. She plans to attend Northampton Community College following graduation.



455 Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord



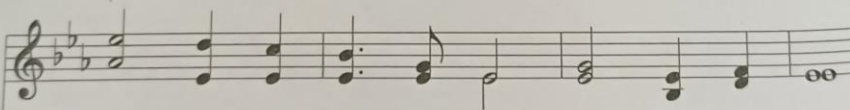
1 Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we hum - bly pray;
 2 Take thou our hearts, O Christ, they are thine own;
 3 Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;
 4 Take thou our - selves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;



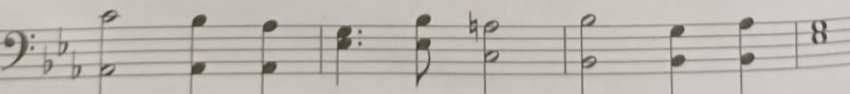
give us the mind of Christ each pass - ing day;
 come thou with - in our souls and claim thy throne;
 have in our in - most souls thy per - fect way;
 through our sur - ren - dered souls thy plans ful - fill.



teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
 help us to shed a - broad thy death - less love;
 guard thou each sa - cred hour from self - ish ease;
 We yield our - selves to thee— time, tal - ents, all;



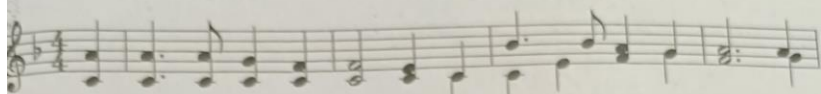
grant us in all our thoughts to hon - or thee.
 use us to make the earth like heaven a - bove.
 guide thou our or - dered lives as thou dost please.
 we hear, and hence - forth heed, thy sov - ereign call.



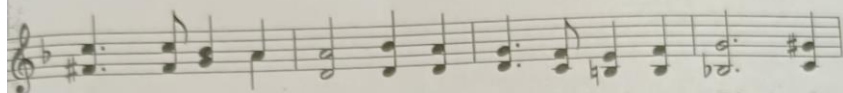
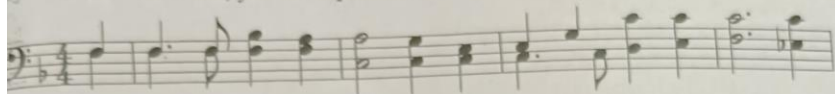
WORDS: William H. Foulkes (1877-1962)
 MUSIC: Calvin Weiss Laufer (1874-1938)

O Jesus, I Have Promised

458



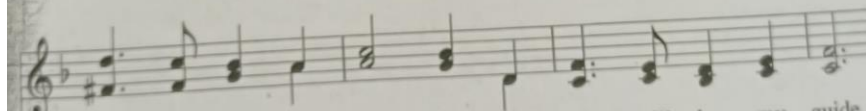
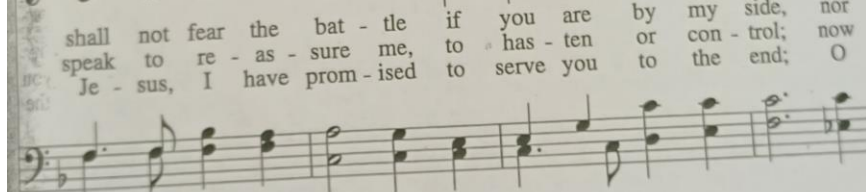
1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end; re -
 2 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still, a -
 3 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you that



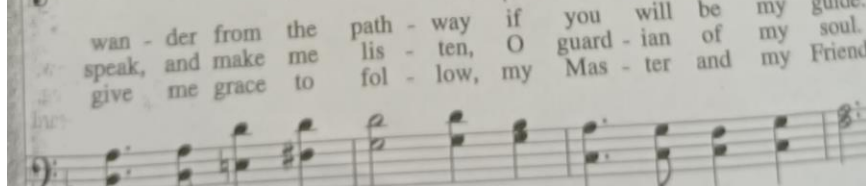
main for - ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my Friend: I
 bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will. O
 where you are in glo - ry, your ser - vant shall be too; and,



shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side, nor
 speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol; now
 Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end; O



wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 speak, and make me lis - ten, O guard - ian of my soul.
 give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my Friend



THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate our graduates.

MONDAY, JUNE 27

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
Deadline for Beeline

TUESDAY, JUNE 28

9:30AM 1:30PM Office hours

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29

5:30PM Handbell Choir
7PM Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, JUNE 30

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 3

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate our country's birthday with special music. Wear your red, white and blue!

It's a Girl!

Skyler Jane Dupre was born on Tuesday 6/21/22 at 7:16 AM. She was 20 inches long and weighed 7lbs. 1 oz. Her parents are Courtney and Michael Dupre and her grandparents are Sharon and Philip Haines.