

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

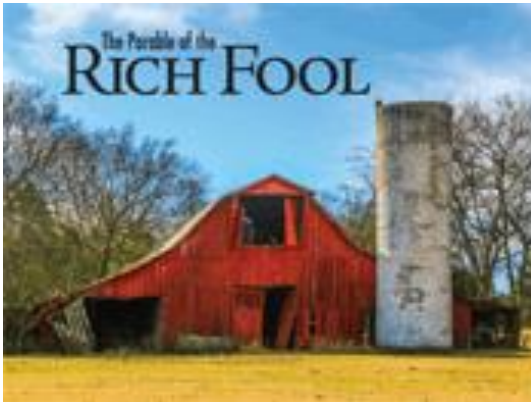
E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

Web address: www.uccbethany.org

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



July 31, 2022

Eighth 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

July 31, 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)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Fairest Lord Jesus ... Traditional Arr. Jerry Ray
Cindy Cressman – Piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,

P: For God will speak peace to His People,

L: To His saints, to those who turn to Him in His hearts.

P: Surely God's salvation is at hand for those Who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our Land. Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #422 Amazing Grace
Banjo - Bob Ruhe

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Merciful God, give us in this time of worship the true assurance that we are saved. May peace fill our lives as the love of Christ overflows our souls. Give us yourself, and then we shall be Yours in Spirit and in Truth. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #652 This Is the Day

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day; this is the day that the Lord has made.

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalms 107: 1-9

Colossians 3: 1-11

* Luke 12: 13-21

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Goods and Shalom"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Wonderful Words of Life" ... P. Bliss
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.**

*HYMN: # 473 What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Banjo – Bob Ruhe

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: Kum Ba Yah
**Kum ba yah, my lord, kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord,
kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my lord, kum ba yah! O Lord,
kum ba yah!**

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS: are presented by Len and
Rebecca Kesselring in honor of the Glory of God.

GREETERS: Jack & Diane Brunner

USHERS: Jack Brunner, Tom Hoffert

LAY READER: Mike Reiniger

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.

Many thanks to our Bethany Musicians for filling in for Sue this morning.

Scriptures

Psalm 107: 1 – 9 NRSV

Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Many Troubles

- ¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those he redeemed from trouble
- ³ and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
- ⁴ Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;
- ⁵ hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.
- ⁶ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress;
- ⁷ he led them by a straight way,
until they reached an inhabited town.
- ⁸ Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
- ⁹ For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

Colossians 2: 6 - 15 NRSV

The New Life in Christ

3 So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, **3** for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). **6** On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. **7** These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. **8** But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices **10** and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. **11** In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

Luke 12: 13 - 21 NRSV

The Parable of the Rich Fool

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” **14** But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” **15** And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” **16** Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced

abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

August Breakfast

Bev Rumble is selling tickets for the Aug. 20th Breakfast with seating's at 9am and 10 am. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 5-13, 5 and under are free. That price includes scrambled eggs, sausage, hashbrowns, juice and coffee.

Habitat for Humanity

If you are interested in serving at a Habitat for Humanity project, please let Pastor Todd know. A planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 2. Time and place to

Sponsor a Bill

You may contribute toward our unexpected large plumbing bill of \$1690. Please designate your contribution to Plumbing.

Due to rising prices our current florist is no longer doing altar flowers. I am researching local florists please let me know if you have any recommendations. Debbie

July 31, 2022

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 12:13-21

Soul Investment

Then (Jesus) told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So, it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”. Luke 12:16-21 NRSV This parable reminds us that it is human nature to plan and build newer and larger structures in abundant times. This parable ends with the advice to give to God rather than to the glory and false security for the self. How do we give to God? Many other places in scripture act as reminders that the surest way to give to God is to give to those who have need here and now. For some congregations, their structures enhance and support their giving to others. For others, the building itself - its care and maintenance - has become their ministry. Prayerful discernment about the role of the building in congregational life can be energizing and lead to new vision and purpose. During the first half of 2022, the national staff of the United Church of Christ moved from the space that had been home for more than thirty years into new office space. Over the years, the national staff has continued to be reduced. With COVID on the scene, many of the staff began to work

from home. The combination of a smaller staff and a greater percentage of those working from home meant that that large space of the old offices was no longer needed. After a period of discernment, it was decided that that building was no longer serving its purpose - to serve the mission and ministry of the church. So, the staff moved their official offices a mile away. The new space at 1300 E. 9th Street in Cleveland, is smaller and more flexible, with an open floor plan that encourages collaboration and innovation. It will not be the right decision for every church to sell its building and move to smaller quarters. However, every church with a physical plant can ask whether the congregation is serving the building and grounds more than the building and grounds are serving God and neighbor.

On Sunday October 16th we will hear from Kelly Schoenberger from Alzheimer's Research. Due to our support with their work for the last 11 years she would like to both thank us as well as share with us what has been accomplished during that time. She will speak briefly during church after which we will adjourn to Fellowship Hall for a soup and salad lunch. After that we are extending an invitation to the other UCC churches as well as our neighboring churches and the neighborhood to join us for an educational talk and question and answer time. Kelly would like to make us aware of the resources that are available to anyone who needs them. Please contact the office if you are willing to help by either preparing soup or helping with this project.

Amazing Grace!

422

G G/D D7 Em C G G/D D/C G/B

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-lieved;
3 The Lord has prom-ised good to me, his word my hope se-cures;
4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils and snares I have al - read - y come;
5 When we've been there ten thou-sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,

G G/B C G Em G/D D7 G

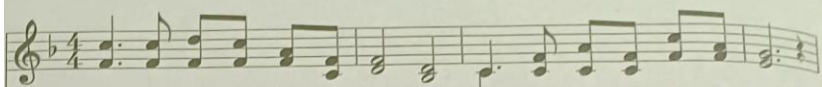
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be-lieved!
he will my shield and por - tion be as long as life en-dures.
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

NEW BRITAIN

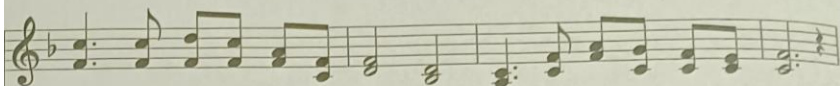
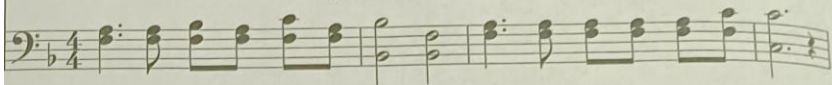
Church Picnic

Please join us on September 11 at Louise Moore Park as we return to our outdoor church picnic. We will provide Hot Dogs and want you to provide the side dishes, desserts and drinks as we have done so well in the past! We are also suggesting that if anyone is interested in playing any games to prolong the fun you may bring them along or step up and offer to be in charge of the after-church fun. Our service will be at 10:45 where we will remember 9-11 with patriotic music. A sign-up sheet will appear soon so mark your calendars! Remember "Be there or be square!"

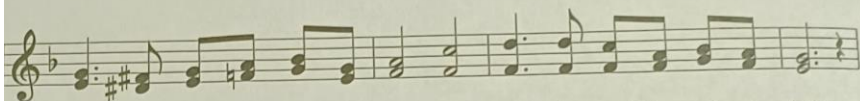
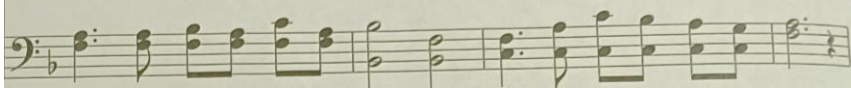
473 What a Friend We Have in Jesus



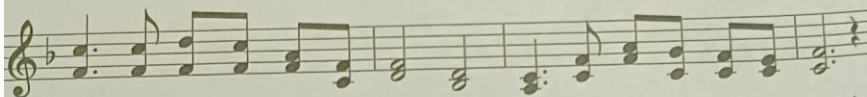
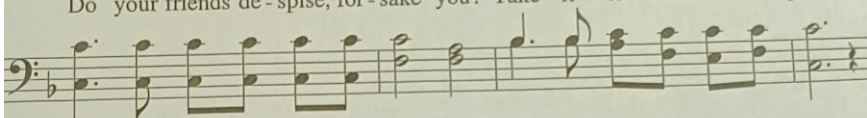
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y la - den, cum - bered with a load of care?



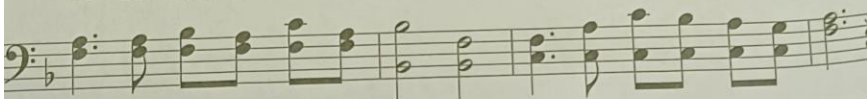
What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer!



O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.



THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, JULY 31

10AM We are in Fellowship Hall for Worship.
Please join us and our guest musicians!

MONDAY, AUGUST 1

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3

No Rehearsals

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall

