

# 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

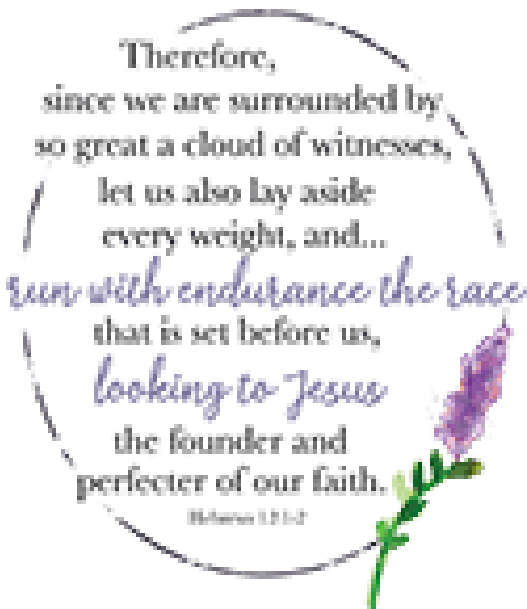
E-Mail: [bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com](mailto:bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com)

**Web address:** [www.uccbethany.org](http://www.uccbethany.org)

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



August 14, 2022

Tenth 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

August 14, 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: "Gigue" ...G.F. Handel, arr. L. Smith

## CALL TO WORSHIP

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting.

**P: The name of the Lord is to be praised.**

L: the Lord is high above all nations.

**P: And His glory above the heavens.**

**All: Praise the Lord! Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN: #71 Praise to the Lord the Almighty

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**We come into your presence with thanks, Creator God, for all that fills our lives with joy: the love of family and friends, the comfort of our homes, the challenge of work and the delight of leisure. Forgive us that too often we have taken all these things for granted, failing to see them as your gifts. In this time of worship, stretch our understanding, that we may know our lives in the perspective of your sovereign authority. Teach us to live in the world with faithfulness to your intention for the world, and to be at home wherever your spirit leads us; through Jesus Christ your faithful witness. Amen.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also, with you.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): Thou Art the Way vs.4

**Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life: Grant us that Way to know, That Truth to keep, that Life to win, Whose joys eternal flow.**

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalms 33: 12-22

Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

\* Luke 12: 32-40

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "It isn't easy, Jesus!"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "O, Lord, Our Governor" ... B. Marcello  
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: # 84 O God Our Help in Ages Past

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: "Father bless us as we part"  
**Father, bless us as we part, Grant us peace that makes us free, Strengthen every trusting heart With the love that comes from Thee.**

***Our worship ends, our service begins!***



FLOWERS and BULLETINS: are presented by Margy and Dan in memory of their parents who celebrated summertime birthdays.

GREETERS: Volunteer

USHERS: Tom Wright, Steve Tarasuk

LAY READER: Margy Sabetti

**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](mailto: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 80: 1 - 2, 8 - 19 NRSV

- <sup>1</sup> Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth  
<sup>2</sup> before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might,  
and come to save us!
- <sup>8</sup> You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.  
<sup>9</sup> You cleared the ground for it;  
it took deep root and filled the land.  
<sup>10</sup> The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches;  
<sup>11</sup> it sent out its branches to the sea  
and its shoots to the River.  
<sup>12</sup> Why then have you broken down its walls,  
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?  
<sup>13</sup> The boar from the forest ravages it,  
and all that move in the field feed on it.  
<sup>14</sup> Turn again, O God of hosts;  
look down from heaven and see;  
have regard for this vine,  
<sup>15</sup> the stock that your right hand planted.  
<sup>16</sup> It has been burned with fire; it has been cut down;  
may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.  
<sup>17</sup> But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,

the one whom you made strong for yourself.

<sup>18</sup> Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call on your name.

<sup>19</sup> Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

## **Hebrews 11: 2 – 12: 2 NRSV**

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

## **Luke 12: 49 - 56 NRSV**

<sup>49</sup> “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

<sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. <sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

**Many thanks to those who have contributed toward the large plumbing bill of \$1690.00. Total received: \$1300.00  
You may continue to contribute. Please designate your contribution to Plumbing.**

August 14, 2022

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

Restore Us

In today's psalm, God's people are envisioned as a vine, planted and carefully tended by God. How might we participate with God in being planters and tenders of the church and its leaders? Last winter, UCC President John Dorhauer and Pension Board President and CEO Brian Bodager encouraged church members to be vine tenders, as they described one of the crises facing church leadership.

“Seminary and educational debt, the debilitating nature of limited income and the uncertainty of a secure financial future represent a deepening crisis for many pastors in the United Church of Christ,” they wrote in a joint letter. The Ministers' Financial Vitality Initiative (MFVI) is a program to help ministers address this problem with practical tools. Participants in the program receive financial gifts of \$9000 for debt reduction, \$1000 to seed a retirement account and the support of a cohort of fellow pastors and financial experts.

The Ministers' Financial Vitality Initiative strengthens ministry in the UCC by:

- increasing and enhancing financial literacy among UCC authorized ministers, with a particular emphasis on ministers from historically underrepresented groups within the denomination;
- assisting UCC ministers and their Ministry settings, Associations, Conferences, and the National Setting



of the Church in “breaking the conspiracy of silence” that exists around pastoral finances;

- providing financial assistance to UCC authorized ministers toward repayment of educational and personal debt as well as seeding of pension funds;
- engaging key lay leaders in UCC churches in collaborative efforts to identify and address the connection between pastoral financial challenges and ministry setting financial challenges; and;
- launching a major fundraising campaign to solicit major gifts that will enable the long-term sustainability, and continued expansion of the program

You can be a vine-tender along with God, planting and nurturing growth. One way is to support the MFVI with your gift at [pbucc.org](http://pbucc.org).

## 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 is back on the table so mark your calendars! Remember “Be there or be square!”**

## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 71

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a  
 2 Praise to the Lord, a-bove all things so won-drou-s-ly reign -  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend  
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal-  
 ing; shel-tering you un-der his wings, and so gent-ly sus-  
 you: sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy shall dai-ly at-  
 him! All that has life and breath, come now with prais-es be-

va-tion! Come, all who hear; now to his  
 tain-ing! Have you not seen all that is  
 tend-you. Pon-der a-new what the Al-  
 fore him. Let the A-men sound from his

tem-ple draw near, join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!  
 need-ful has been sent by his gra-cious or-dain-ing?  
 might-y can do, if with his love he be-friends you.  
 peo-ple a-gain; glad-ly for-ev-er a-dore him.

## O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived her frame,  
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,  
 5 Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, bears all of us a - way;  
 6 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home.  
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
 we fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the op - ening day.  
 be now our guide while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.

**Happy Birthday Carol Haines!**

**Somehow Carol's name was not included in the August Birthdays. Carol turns 80 on August 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**Please send her birthday greeting to:**

**Carol Haines  
 Pro Medica  
 1265 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.  
 Allentown, PA 18103**

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 14**

10AM We are in Fellowship Hall for Worship.

### **MONDAY, AUGUST 15**

9:30AM            1:30PM Office Hours

### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 16**

9:30AM            1:30PM Office Hours

### **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17**

No Rehearsals

### **THURSDAY, AUGUST 18**

9:30AM            1:30PM Office Hours

7PM                Consistory in FH

### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 20**

9AM & 10AM Breakfast at Bethany

### **NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 21**

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall

## **August Breakfast**

**Bev Rumble is selling tickets for the Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> 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.**

*Ruth Bowers*

*Services for Ruth Bowers will be held at Connell Funeral Home on Monday August 15<sup>th</sup> with calling hour from 10-11 and services at 11am*