

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



When [Jesus] noticed
*how the guests chose
the places of honor,*
he told them a parable.

Luke 14:7, NRSV

August 28, 2022

Twelfth 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 28, 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: "How Firm a Foundation" ...arr. M.L. Thompson
and "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" ...arr. F.L. Callahan
Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We have gathered here this morning to worship God.

**P: We have come seeking comfort, inspiration,
community and insight.**

L: We have come to open ourselves to the power of God's presence in our midst.

**P: We have come to offer up the seasons and the
turnings in our lives, and to ask God's help in our
learning and in our growing. Let us worship God!**

*HYMN: #655 Come Away from Rush and Hurry

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**O God, in mystery and silence You are present in our
lives, bringing new life out of destruction, hope out of
despair, growth out of difficulty. We thank You that You
do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help
us to perceive Your unseen hand in the unfolding of our
lives, and to attend to the gentle guidance of Your Spirit,
that we may know the joy You give Your people. Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #657 He Has Made Me Glad

I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart; I will enter his courts with praise. I will say "This is the day that the Lord has made!" I will rejoice for he has made me glad. He has made me glad; he has made me glad; I will rejoice for he has made me glad. He has made me glad; he has made me glad; I will rejoice for he has made me glad.

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalms 112: 1-10

Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16

* Luke 14: 1, 7-14

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Finding Your Place at God's Banquet"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" ...It.

Hopson

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: #557 Pass It On

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #393 Blessed Be the Tie That Binds vs.1

Bless be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS: are presented by Len and Rebecca Kesselring to honor the glory of God!

GREETERS: Judy & George Morgan

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Jack Brunner

LAY READER: Jean Fennell

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 112: 1 - 10 NRSV

Blessings of the Righteous

¹ Praise the LORD!

Happy are those who fear the LORD,
who greatly delight in his commandments.

² Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.

⁴ They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

⁵ It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.

⁶ For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever.

⁷ They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.

⁸ Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

⁹ They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their horn is exalted in honor.

¹⁰ The wicked see it and are angry;
they gnash their teeth and melt away;
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

Hebrews 13: 1 – 8, 15 - 16 NRSV

Service Well-Pleasing to God

13 Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?”

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Luke 14: 1, 7 - 14 NRSV

14 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

Humility and Hospitality

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

**Many thanks to those who have contributed toward the large plumbing bill of \$1690.00. Total received: \$1400.00
You may continue to contribute. Please designate your contribution to Plumbing.**

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!”

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Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Open Table

The Little Pantry Movement is based on the Little Library movement. Where the little libraries made books available to neighbors and passers-by, the little pantry makes available non-perishable food and hygiene items for anyone who might be in need. The motto of the loosely organized movement is “Take what you need, give what you can.” The mini pantry movement is a grassroots, crowdsourced solution to immediate and local need. Whether a need for food or a need to give, mini pantries help feed neighbors, nourishing neighborhoods. Emmaus United Church in the Northern Virginia community of Vienna has a Little Free Food Pantry on their property. In September 2020 the Emmaus Youth Group received a \$500 service grant from a local organization to build a Little Free Pantry, a project that was chosen by the Emmaus Youth Group members. Over the course of 3

weekends, the Youth Group members gathered to construct and install the Pantry. The Youth Group checks and stocks the Pantry weekly, but anyone can check it throughout the week and restock it from a bin of donations left in a public place. Suggested personal care donations to the Emmaus Little Food Pantry are items like hand sanitizer, face masks, individually wrapped toothbrushes, small size toothpaste, socks, first aid supplies, soap/shampoo, brushes and combs.

Of course, food donations are the mainstay of the pantry and include nonperishable food items with pull tabs or other easy-to-open and single serve containers. Suggested items are jerky, canned/packets of meat, canned ready meals (pasta, chili), nut and seed butter (single serve or small size preferred), canned fruit/fruit cups, peanut butter & other snack crackers, dried fruit, trail mix, nuts, granola/protein/breakfast bars, single serve cereal, single serve shelf stable milk, juice boxes, canned vegetables, canned soup, and water bottles. Jesus welcomed all to an open table. A Little Free Pantry is one example of an open table that you and your community can co-create with Christ in your area. If you are curious about how you could create a Little Free Food Pantry on your church property, check out

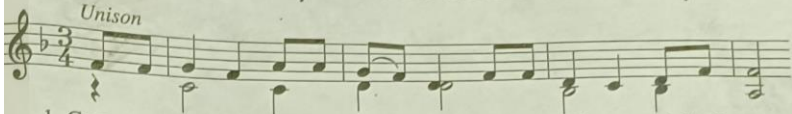
<https://emmausucc.org/> or

<https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>

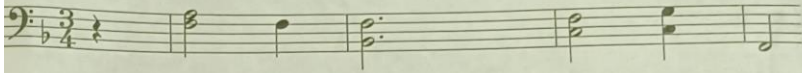
We are having a Fall Rummage Sale on Friday Oct. 21 from 8-4 and Sat. Oct. 22 from 8-2. Watch for a sign up for helpers. Donations of clothing and light items can be brought to the Sunday School room closet to 5th Ave. Thank You!

Come Away from Rush and Hurry 655

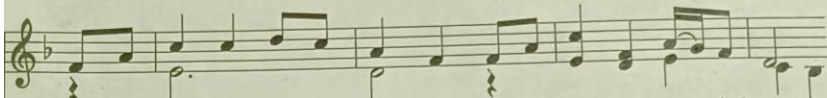
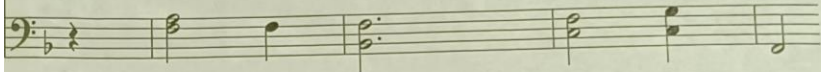
Unison



- 1 Come a - way from rush and hur - ry to the still - ness of God's peace;
- 2 In the pas - tures of God's good - ness we lie down to rest our soul.
- 3 Come, then, chil - dren, with your bur - dens—life's con - fu - sions, fears and pain.



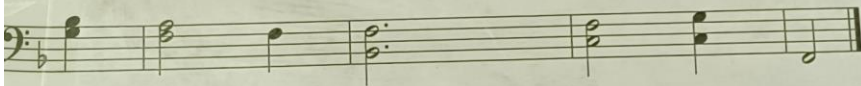
from our vain am - bi - tion's wor - ry, come to Christ to find re - lease.
 From the wa - ters of God's mer - cy we drink deep - ly, are made whole.
 Leave them at the cross of Je - sus; take in - stead his king - dom's reign.



Come a - way from noise and clam - or, life's de - mands and fren - zied pace;
 At the ta - ble of God's pres - ence all the saints are rich - ly fed.
 Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them—he a - lone will sat - is - fy.



come to join the peo - ple gath - ered here to seek and find God's face.
 With the oil of God's a - noint - ing in - to ser - vice we are led.
 All our long - ings find at - tain - ment when to self we glad - ly die.



557

Pass It On

System 1: Chords: D, Em7, F#m, G, G/B, F#m/A, A.
 1 It on - ly takes a spark to get a fire go - ing,
 2 What a won - drous time is spring when all the trees are bud - ding,
 3 I wish for you, my friend, this hap - pi - ness that I've found -

System 2: Chords: D, Em7, F#m, G, G/B, F#m/A, A.
 and soon all those a - round can warm up in its glow - ing;
 the birds be - gin to sing, the flow - ers start their bloom - ing;
 on God you can de - pend, it mat - ters not where you're bound;

System 3: Chords: D/F#, G, A/G, D/F#, Em7, F#m, Bm.
 that's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per - i - enced it:
 that's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per - i - enced it:
 I'll shout it from the moun - tain top, I want my world to know:

System 4: Chords: Bm, Em, D/F#, G, A, A7, D.
 you spread God's love to ev - ery - one, you want to pass it on.
 you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.
 the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

10AM We are in Fellowship Hall for Worship.

MONDAY, AUGUST 29

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

No Rehearsals

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall

Alzheimer's Education Opportunity

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.