

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

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



Faith is the assurance
of things hoped for,
the conviction
of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1, NRSV



August 7, 2022

Ninth 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 7, 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: "Come Christians Join to Sing"J. Innes

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let us gather together and be in God's presence.

P: Let us unite as one and be transformed by His presence.

L: May God be gracious to us and bless us.

P: May God's ways be known on earth.

All: May the people praise You O God and help us to spread Your Word.

*HYMN: #87 Come Christians Join to Sing

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

O God, help us to remember that You are faithful. You are by our side even when we feel that we are emotionally exhausted and have no faith left. While at times our faith may falter, help us to remember that You are always faithful even to the very end of the age. 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

Thou art the Way; to Thee alone From sin and death we flee; And he who would the Father seek, Must seek Him, Lord by Thee.

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: “Seven Points to Build Faith”

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: “Keep Your Lamps!” ...arr. A. Thomas
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: # 466 Take My Life and Let it Be

*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: are presented in honor of the 3rd wedding anniversary of Gail and David Correll.

BULLETINS: are presented by Diane and Gary Diefenderfer "In memory of my mother, Joyce Hammer, who would have been 92 today." "Happy Birthday, Joyce"

GREETERS: Judy & George Morgan

USHERS: Len Kesselring, Lisa Williams

LAY READER: Beverly Rumble

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 33: 12 - 22 NRSV

- ¹² Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.
- ¹³ The LORD looks down from heaven;
he sees all humankind.
- ¹⁴ From where he sits enthroned, he watches
all the inhabitants of the earth—
- ¹⁵ he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.
- ¹⁶ A king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.
- ¹⁷ The war horse is a vain hope for victory,
and by its great might it cannot save.
- ¹⁸ Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
- ¹⁹ to deliver their soul from death
and to keep them alive in famine.
- ²⁰ Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and shield.
- ²¹ Our heart is glad in him
because we trust in his holy name.
- ²² Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

Hebrews 11: 1 – 3, 8 - 16 NRSV

The Meaning of Faith

11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

The Faith of Abraham

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Luke 12: 32 - 40 NRSV

³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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!”

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.

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Living into the Promise

Rev. Ann Kansfield, UCC pastor, FDNY chaplain and author of *Be the Brave One: Living Your Spiritual Values Out Loud and Other Life Lessons* shares the courage that led her to write a book about her experiences. "My wife Jennifer and I serve part-time as co-pastors of the Greenpoint Reformed Church, (a joint UCC and Reformed congregation in Brooklyn, NY). We do our best to love God and neighbor, even though we aren't always sure how to do that. My other

ministry setting is as a chaplain for the fire department of the City of New York. I am one of seven chaplains who serve the department as a whole. I never know what might happen on any given day, but I pray that God can use me in a way to be of service to others. Also, the uniforms are pretty great.” Although friends encouraged her to share her stories and reflections, Kansfield shied away from the idea of writing a book. “One of the things that really changed the trajectory of the book was connecting with Marty St. George, my co-author...He is really the one who helped take a bunch of stories and thoughts and turn them into a book. I think it's actually a really great story in itself because it shows that sometimes we can do big things when we have friends and fellow travelers who walk alongside us and help us. Sometimes we minister to others and other times they minister to us. Life is really best lived when it's done in mutual ministry with others around us. For me, bravery is doing things which make us uncomfortable, things which we would rather not do or avoid. And being brave is what allows us to be authentic and vulnerable and have important conversations which we would otherwise want to avoid. Bravery is not just about apologizing for our mistakes but asking ‘how did my mistake impact you?’ and then being quiet and listening. We can all use some extra bravery these days. It's not always easy to be our most authentic selves. It's certainly difficult to be vulnerable and to share our deepest hopes and fears and listen to the hopes and fears of others. That stuff can be terrifying! But that's the space where God often leads us - to authenticity, vulnerability and bravery.”

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

JESUS CHRIST

87

1 Come, Chris-tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - jice;
 Christ is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"

Take My Life and Let It Be 466

1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed,
 2 Take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 3 Take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -
 4 Take my love, my God, I pour at thy feet its

Lord, to thee; take my hands and let them move
 ful for thee; take my voice and let me sing
 ges for thee; take my sil - ver and my gold,
 treas - ure store; take my - self and I will be

at the im - pulse of thy love, at the im - pulse of thy love.
 al - ways, on - ly, for my King, al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
 not a mite would I with - hold, not a mite would I with - hold.
 ev - er, on - ly, all for thee, ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

Happy Birthday Carol Haines!

Somehow Carol's name was not included in the August Birthdays. Carol turns 80 on August 21st.

Please send her birthday greeting to:

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

10AM We are in Fellowship Hall for Worship.

MONDAY, AUGUST 8

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal

7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall

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.

Sponsor a Bill

Many thanks to those who have contributed toward the large plumbing bill of \$1690.00. Total received: \$975.00
You may continue to contribute. Please designate your contribution to Plumbing.