

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

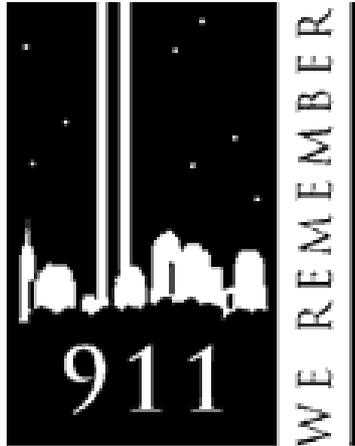
E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

Web address: www.uccbethany.org

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



September 11, 2022

Thirteenth 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

September 11, 2022

10:45 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.

**(* PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE
(Bold Text is said or sung by everyone)**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "America, Our Heritage" ...H. Steele
Pastor Todd – Trombone

Mountains, and all hills, fruitful trees, fowls...let them praise the name of the Lord. - Psalm 148:9

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather on this day of remembrance of 9/11.

People: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Leader: We remember innocent lives lost and thoughts of revenge.

People: And Jesus said: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Leader: We remember acts of courage and compassion by so many.

People: No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Leader: We gather to remember but we also gather in hope, for as Jesus said:

People: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

All: Together we will sing God's praise!

*HYMN: #727 America the Beautiful

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Creator God, Giver of all good things, bless our time of worship with your love and peace. We are mindful of this day of that horrific attack on our nation 21 years ago. Embrace with your boundless comfort the many who grieve still and teach us the ways of Your peace. Through Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #72 Great Is Thy Faithfulness. (Refrain only)

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have
needed thy hand hath provided – great is thy
faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalms 51: 1-10

I Timothy 1: 12-17

* Luke 15: 1-10

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM: “The Cloud’s Veil” ...Text and music by Liam Lawton, arr. John McCann

To be used in events related to the national disaster of September 11, 2001

SERMON: “Lost and Found”

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Peace Like a River" ...arr. C. Kirby
Chancel Choir and congregation

*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 – RESPONSIVE PRAYER (See Insert)
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: #435 Like a River Glorious

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: "Go Now in Peace ...N. Sleeth
copyright 1976 Hinshaw Music CCLI #1116557

"Go now in peace, go now in peace, May the love of God surround you ev'rywhere, ev'rywhere you may go"

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



NEVER FORGET!

This is a very special day of remembrance. The flowers and bulletins are presented by Len and Rebecca Kesselring and are dedicated to the 2,977 lives lost on September 11, 2001. At the World Trade Center and immediate area, 2,753 people were killed. There were 184 lives lost at the Pentagon and 40 persons perished in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Additionally, over 6,000 people were injured during the attacks. To commemorate and honor the memory of those we have lost and those whom were injured, we can and must move forward by faith. Peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is the presence of Christ in our lives!

NEVER FORGET...ALWAYS HOPE

**“THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR
STRENGTH” (Isaiah 40:31)**

GREETERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

USHERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

LAY READER: Dan Sabetti

Scriptures

Psalm 51: 1 - 10 NRSV

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.

- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

I Timothy 1: 12 - 17 NRSV

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages,

immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luke 15: 1 - 10 NRSV

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

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.

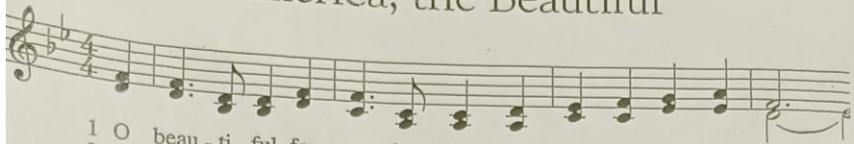
We are having a Fall Rummage Sale on Friday Nov. 18 from 8-4 and Sat. Nov. 19 from 8-2. Watch for a sign up for helpers. Donations of clothing and light items can be brought to the Sunday School room closet to 5th Ave. Thank You!

Laity Sunday is October 9th . We are looking for 3-4 members to share reflections on the theme "The Power of Prayer". Please let Pastor Todd know if you will share in church that Sunday.

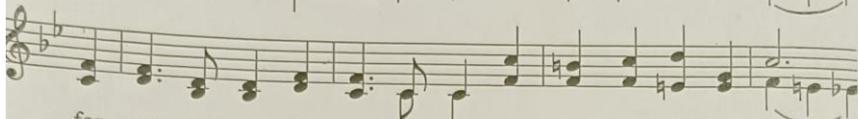
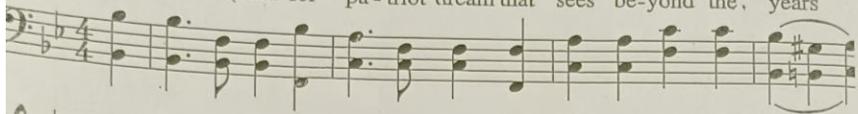
Alzheimer's Education Opportunity

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.

America, the Beautiful



1 O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, for am-ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau-ti-ful for pil-grim feet, whose stern, im-pas-sioned stress
 3 O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved in lib-er-at-ing strife,
 4 O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream that sees be-yond the, years



for pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties a-bove the fruit-ed plain!
 a thor-ough-fare for free-dom beat a-cross the wil-der-ness!
 who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer-cy more than life!
 thine al-a-bas-ter cit-ies gleam, un-dimmed by hu-man tears!



A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God mend thine ev-ery flaw,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! May God thy gold re-fine,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed his grace on thee,



and crown thy good with broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea!
 con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib-er-ty in law!
 till all suc-cess be no-ble-ness, and ev-ery gain di-vine!
 and crown thy good with broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea!



Like a River Glorious

435

1 Like a riv - er glo - rious is God's per - fect peace, o - ver all vic -
 2 Hid - den in the hol - low of his bless - ed hand, nev - er foe can
 3 Ev - ery joy or tri - al fall - eth from a - bove, traced up - on our

to - rious in its bright in - crease: per - fect, yet it flow - eth full - er
 fol - low, nev - er trai - tor stand; not a surge of wor - ry, not a
 di - al by the Sun of Love; we may trust him ful - ly all for

ev - ery day, per - fect, yet it grow - eth deep - er all the way.
 shade of care, not a blast of hur - ry touch the spir - it there.
 us to do; they who trust him whol - ly find him whol - ly true.

Refrain

Stayed up - on Je - ho - vah, hearts are ful - ly blest,

find - ing, as he prom - ised, per - fect peace and rest.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

10:45AM Worship and church picnic @ Louise Moore
Park Pavilion 4

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

No Rehearsals

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
7PM Consistory in FH

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary!

Picnic

Welcome to Louise Moore Park for our Annual Worship and Picnic together. Thank you for your donations of side dishes and desserts to go with the Sabetti hotdogs!

Trick or Treat!

Starting on Sunday Sept. 18th we will collect Halloween treats and bottled water for our annual Trick or Treat at Bethany. There will also be a sign-up sheet for those who wish to help distribute the goodies.

*One night I dreamed a dream.
I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my
life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints
in the sand, one belonging to me and one to
my Lord.
When the last scene of my life shot before me I
looked back at the footprints in the sand.
There was only one set of footprints.
I realized that this was at the lowest and
saddest times of my life.
This always bothered me and I questioned the
Lord about my dilemma.
“Lord, You told me when I decided to follow
You, You would walk and talk with me all the
way.
But I’m aware that during the most
troublesome times of my life there is only one
set of footprints.
I just don’t understand why, when I need You
most, You leave me.”
He whispered, “My precious child, I love you
and will never leave you, never, ever, during
your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints, It
was then that I carried you.”*

— Margaret Fishback Powers