

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

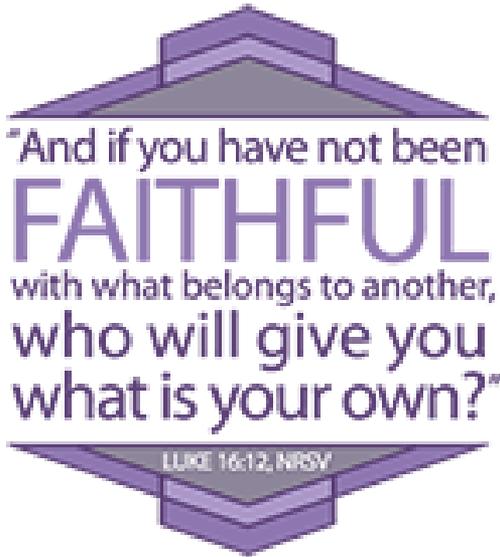
E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

Web address: www.uccbethany.org

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



September 18, 2022

Fifteenth 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 18, 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)**

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Ring Alleluia" ...H. F. Starks
Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The word of the Lord is upright.

P: And God loves righteousness and justice.

L: I tell you; the earth is filled with the Word of God.

P: Blessed are all who serve the Lord. Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #569 God of Grace and God of Glory

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Eternal and loving God, make all things new, beginning with us. We call upon You in the faith that You do come to renew and transform us. Give us the mind of Christ and the power of the Holy spirit that we may be refreshed in worship and equipped for service. 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 113

I Timothy 2: 1-7

* Luke 16: 1-13

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: “Shrewd Management”

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: “Declare God’s Glory” ...M. W. Patch
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

**Holy God, You are the maker of heaven and earth.
Accept these offerings we present to You today. May
they become vessels of support for your work in this
church and in Your world, consecrate us anew as living
sacrifice, to Your service. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.**

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: #393 Blest Be the Tie That Binds vs.1

Blest 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!



NEVER FORGET!

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: Len Kesselring, Tom Hoffert

USHERS: Len Kesselring, Corey Tancin

LAY READER: Barbara Reiniger

Scriptures

Psalm 113 NRSV

God the Helper of the Needy

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise, O servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

² Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time on and forevermore.

³ From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised.

⁴ The LORD is high above all nations
and his glory above the heavens.

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,

⁶ who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?

⁷ He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

⁸ to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.

⁹ He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.
Praise the LORD!

I Timothy 2: 1 - 7 NRSV

Instructions concerning Prayer

2 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

Luke 16: 1 - 13 NRSV

The Parable of the Dishonest Manager

16 Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me

into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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.

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.



September 18, 2022

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Prayerful Living

Just Peace Sunday

Michael Neuroth has served for more than a dozen years as the International Policy Advocate at the national United Church of Christ office in Washington, DC. Michael, and his colleagues on this small but mighty staff, are the UCC ear and voice in the nation's capital.

Their work is multiplied by relationships fostered in the Washington Interreligious Staff Community (WISC), an ecumenical group from across a variety of faith traditions. WISC is made up of at least twelve working groups, which find ways to collaborate and let leadership emerge where there is expertise. They follow public policy and give voice in DC to various issues. Michael's leadership on the Peace and Security Working Group and the International Affairs Working Group have been especially valuable.

As we acknowledge the 30th anniversary of the Just Peace resolution this year, everyone in the United Church of Christ can celebrate that identity whether or not they declare the local church a Just Peace church. Just Peace is part of our connection and identity as UCC, since the United Church of Christ was the first denomination to so designate.

On this Just Peace Sunday, local congregations are invited and encouraged to publicly witness and articulate locally what Just Peace means to them as they pray about and act on issues, they feel called to in church communities and the world. By celebrating and upholding Just Peace Sunday, you can raise your local profile and also lift up the hard work of our national UCC staff. Just Peace Sunday creates synergy between what we say we are at the national level and who we are at the local level.

According to Michael Neuroth, the work of Just Peace is the work of avoiding conflict and war in the first place. As we look for ways to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, the ecumenism and cooperation that is lived out daily by our staff in the DC office and their colleagues in WISC is one beautiful model for a path forward.

569 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn your Christ, as -
 3 Heal your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient Church's sto - ry, bring its
 sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us—free our
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age.

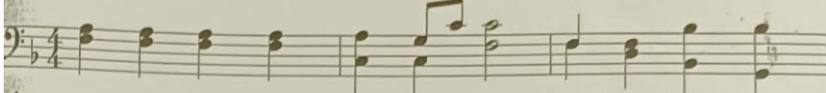
for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Take My Life and Let It Be

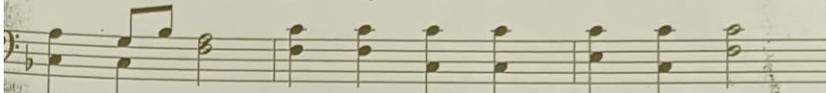
466



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.



Fennell Vacation!

Pastor Todd, Jean and Blossom are away this week. For Pastoral emergencies please call Pastor Dennis Schappell @ 215-804-6243. Bethany office will be open the usual hours.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

10:45AM Worship in the sanctuary with a handbell prelude

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
7PM Dart Baseball Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal
7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
7PM Consistory in Fellowship Hall

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary!

Dart Baseball is Back!

The Bethlehem Interchurch Dart Baseball is having a 2022-23 season. Bethany's first match is at College Hill Moravian on October 3rd. I am always looking for more players for the team, any ability is always welcome to join us in some fun and fellowship. Our matches start at 1930, that's 730 P.M. for the civilians, with about 45 minutes for practice before.

If you are interested or have any questions about dart baseball, please contact me at (610) 554-0125 talk or text, or stephen.tarasuk@gmail.com. I will be at the church next Tuesday the 20th at 7 P.M. if anyone wants to practice.

Steve