

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Hours: Mon, Tues and Thurs. 9:30-1:30

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

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



**Lazarus & The Rich Man**

September 25, 2022

Sixteenth 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 25, 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:** Prelude in D minor from “Preludes and Fugues”  
...J. S. Bach

## CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Now is the time to awaken to the presence of God the Eternal Spirit.

**P: Now is the time to come alive with our songs of praise**

L: Today we open ourselves to the power of the Spirit in our lives.

**P: Today we extend our hands in caring toward all humanity.**

**All: We do all this because we have responded to the ministry and message of Jesus Christ, whose people we are. Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN: #424. How Can I Keep from Singing?

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Eternal God, Who created all things from the void, teach us to know the power of silence and of prayer. Fill our emptiness with Your peace and Your love, and fill our darkness with Your light. Fulfill in us the potentials for which we were born and were called into Your**

**church, for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who sought Your presence even in the rush of life. 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 91: 1-6, 14-16

I Timothy 6: 6-19

\* Luke 16: 19-31

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: “Neighbors Who Never Met”

**OFFERING INVITATION**

**OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS**

OFFERTORY: Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name". Arr. B. Dennard 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: #519 On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

### \*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!*



FLOWERS and BULLETINS are presented by Len and  
Rebecca Kesselring to honor the Glory of God  
GREETERS: Judy & George Morgan  
USHERS: Cindy Beck, Bob Ruhe  
LAY READER: Debbie Brown

## Scriptures

### **Psalm 91: 1 – 6, 14 - 16 NRSV**

- <sup>1</sup> You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
    who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,<sup>[a]</sup>
- <sup>2</sup> will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress;  
    my God, in whom I trust.”
- <sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter  
    and from the deadly pestilence;
- <sup>4</sup> he will cover you with his pinions,  
    and under his wings you will find refuge;  
    his faithfulness is a shield and defense.
- <sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night  
    or the arrow that flies by day
- <sup>6</sup> or the pestilence that stalks in darkness  
    or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
- <sup>14</sup> Those who love me, I will deliver;  
    I will protect those who know my name.
- <sup>15</sup> When they call to me, I will answer them;  
    I will be with them in trouble;  
    I will rescue them and honor them.
- <sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy them  
    and show them my salvation.

### **I Timothy 6: 6 - 19 NRSV**

- <sup>6</sup> Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, <sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, <sup>8</sup> but if we have food and

clothing, we will be content with these.<sup>9</sup> But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

<sup>11</sup> But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness.<sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.<sup>13</sup> In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you<sup>14</sup> to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>15</sup> which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.<sup>16</sup> It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

<sup>17</sup> As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.<sup>18</sup> They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share,<sup>19</sup> thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

## Luke 16: 19 - 31 NRSV

<sup>19</sup> “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.<sup>20</sup> And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores,<sup>21</sup> who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from

the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' <sup>27</sup> He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—<sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup> Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' <sup>30</sup> He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup> He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

**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.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Thank You!**

Laity Sunday is October 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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. 18<sup>th</sup> 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 25, 2022

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15, Surprising Investment

*American Indian Ministry Sunday, United Samoan Ministries*

*Stewardship Sunday*

*Matou te faatalofa atu ai i le Suafa Pele o Iesu Keriso le Alii ma le Faaola!*

We greet you in the Beloved name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

"In 1999 General Synod declared a "Partnership in Mission and Ministry" with the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS) as a way of acknowledging the deepening relationship between the two churches and the rapid growth of Samoan congregations in the United States.

Today, there are more than 60 congregations of the CCCAS in Hawaii, Alaska, California, Washington and Oregon. Many of them related to the UCC through our regional Conferences and local Associations. The partnership seeks to strengthen the ministry of these congregations and the mission of both churches.

In many places, Samoan congregations are actively involved in the life and leadership of UCC Associations. Many UCC clergy and lay leaders have immersed themselves in the life of Samoan communities and have traveled to American Samoa to learn more about its unique and ancient culture."

"The United Samoan Ministries of the UCC is established to provide a setting for members of Samoan congregations to gather for fellowship, spiritual nurturing, mutual support, and communications and strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ.

Providing Resources for all faith communities and promote/teaching and maintaining Samoan Culture and Language; promote Ecumenical partnerships, and proclaiming the proclamation of Open and Affirming, and leading in Justice and Peace for ALL.

Samoan Communities residing within the Mainland, Alaska and Hawaii and those who are in Diaspora throughout the world."

If you are a member of a Samoan congregation, today is a day to celebrate your connection with the wider United Church of Christ. If you are a member of a church that has limited contact with your Samoan brothers and sisters, today is a good day to learn more about how you can be in intentional conversation and relationship with a Samoan Congregation.

## How Can I Keep from Singing? 424

F                      B<sub>b</sub>                      F                      C

My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,  
 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.  
 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-i-or liv-eth.  
 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!

I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.  
 It finds an ech-o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.  
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain F*

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

F                      C                      Dm                      C                      F                      C                      F

Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

ENDLESS

# 519 On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

1 On Jor-dan's storm-y banks I stand, and cast a wish-ful  
 2 O'er all those wide ex-tend-ed plains shines one e - ter - nal eye  
 3 When shall I reach that hap-py place and be for-ev-er day;  
 4 Filled with de-light, my rap-tured soul would here no long-er blest?  
 stay;

to Ca-naan's fair and hap-py land, where my pos-ses-sions lie,  
 there God the Son for ev-er reigns and scat-ters night a-way.  
 When shall I see my Fa-ther's face and in his bos-om rest?  
 though Jor-dan's waves a-round me roll, fear-less I'd launch a-way.

*Refrain*

I am bound for the prom-ised land, I am bound for the prom-ised

land; O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom-ised land

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary!

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

9:30AM      1:30PM Office Hours  
Beeline Articles Due

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

9:30AM      1:30PM Office Hours

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

No Rehearsals  
7PM      Stewardship Meeting in FH

### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

9:30AM      1:30PM Office Hours

### **NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary! World Wide Communion/ Neighbors in Need Offering

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 7:30 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](mailto:stephen.tarasuk@gmail.com).

Steve