

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

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music

*"For all those who
exalt themselves
will be humbled,
and those who
humble themselves
will be exalted."*



LUKE 18:14, NIV

October 23, 2022

Twentieth 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

October 23, 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: "Allegretto Innocente" from the Sonata in G...Haydn, arr. Keller Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: What right have we to invoke God's name on what we say and do here together?

P: In Christ we have been called to be God's people, and given God's Spirit and Word.

L: Have we the courage to worship in spirit and in truth, knowing it may change us?

P: We have come to seek to find, and to be found, with confidence not in ourselves but in God. Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #71 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious God, we thank You for all the good things with which You fill our lives, but most of all for the vision of peace and justice and freedom in Christ that draws us into the future. May we be Your people in the world, in word and in deed, in spirit and in truth. Grant that we may not be play-actors, but people who show we truly care, like Jesus, whose life was love. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #50 Great is the Lord. vs 1

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just; by his power we trust in his love. Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true; by his mercy he proves he is love. Great is the Lord and worthy of glory! Great is the Lord and worthy of praise. Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice; Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalms 84: 1-7

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

* Luke 18: 9-14

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Writing your own eulogy"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Change My Heart, O God" ...E. Espinosa
Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #688 We Give Thee but Thine Own vs.1

We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be: all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord from thee.

*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 sacrifices, 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: #96 O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: There's A Wideness in God's Mercy. Handbell accompaniment

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty. For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS are presented by Todd and Jean Fennell in honor of their wedding anniversary! 24 on the 24th!

GREETERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

USHERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

LAY READER: Philip Haines

Scriptures

Psalm 84: 1 - 7 NRSV

- ¹ How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!
- ² My soul longs, indeed it faints,
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.
- ³ Even the sparrow finds a home
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
- ⁴ Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise. *Selah*
- ⁵ Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
- ⁶ As they go through the valley of Baca,
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.
- ⁷ They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

2 Timothy 4: 6 – 8, 16 - 18 NRSV

⁶ As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸ From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day,

and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So, I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luke 18: 9 - 14 NRSV

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

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.

BETHLEHEM EMERGENCY SHELTER

The leaves are changing and the weather is getting cooler. That means we are less than one month away from the opening of the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter! Bethany UCC has the privilege of taking care of our homeless neighbors again this season on three different occasions. Our schedule includes providing the dinner meals on Friday, December 9th, Tuesday, February 14th and Friday, March 3rd. Sign-up sheets for all three days are posted on the bulletin board. If you have been guided by the Holy Spirit to participate this season, please sign up for the position you would like to fill. For those of you that have volunteered in the past, THANK YOU, and I hope you will consider joining us again this season. You will note that this season there are no spots to sign up for registration. This particular task will now be done by the paid staff at the shelter as this year begins a new automated registration! Of course, we still need you fabulous bakers to assist us with dessert selections and there is a spot on the sign-up sheets for you too! We are also accepting monetary donations to purchase the items to prepare the dinners. If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to call me at (610) 807-9438 or talk to me in church! Thank you to all of you who have already expressed an interest in volunteering this season and I look forward to working with you and sharing God's grace in our community! Blessings,

Sherri Gangewere

Trick or Treat!

We are collecting Halloween treats and bottled water for our annual Trick or Treat October 28th from 6-8pm at Bethany. There will also be a sign-up sheet for those who wish to help distribute the goodies. This is always a fun evening and we are a popular stopping point for lots of families in the neighborhood!

Nuts!

Now that we are approaching the holidays our thoughts turn to gatherings with family and friends and what better to serve than our own Bethany Nuts! We will do our nut prep on Nov. 5th and 7th with orders due by October 31st. For December we will prep nuts on Dec. 3rd and 5th with orders due on Nov. 28th.

Please mark your calendars and talk to your friends and relatives. We need orders as well as workers. Due to rising costs, we will be charging \$5 per 8oz. bag for Peanuts, Cashews, and Almonds. Any questions please call me @ 484-358-3735.

Thanks, Debbie

Rummage Sale

A Fall Rummage Sale will be held in Fellowship Hall on Friday Nov. 18 from 8-4 and Saturday Nov. 19 from 8-2. We need volunteers to give time setting up for the sale, serving at the sale and helping with clean up. Gail Correll is in charge of this project and will be putting up a sign-up sheet.

Donations of clothing and small household items can be brought to the 5th Ave Sunday School room. Please do not bring electronics, TVs, or furniture. Please ask relatives and friends for donations as well.

Chocolates on Broadway!

Brochures for this years Christmas candy sale are heading our way. I should have them in church on Sunday October 30th. We will take orders until Sunday November 20th and will receive our candy on Sunday December 11th. These candies are delicious and make great holiday gifts.

Thanks, Matt, for leading us and assisting Rev. Teitsworth in this morning's worship service!

October 23, 2022

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 18:9-14

Just Worship

In the summer of 2022, The Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ continued its innovative program of summer internships. This information, detailing the program, is taken from their website. *

The Pension Board sought out the brightest students from some of the best colleges in New York to participate in the Pension Boards' 10-week Summer Internship Program, which begins in June of each year.

The Pension Boards looked for visionary young leaders with an ability to inspire others to innovation through strategic assignments designed to take the Pension Boards to its next level in service to its members. Selected students were empowered to lead with vision and creativity, challenging the organization's "norm," while also creating new direction for the organization. They were encouraged to inspire, create, and innovate.

Selected interns offered strategic insight and ideas to inform the Pension Boards' future strategic plans and programs in the core areas of analytics, finance, program analyst, health plan analyst, information technology, financial audit, investments, marketing/communications, customer engagement, customer experience, and philanthropy/fundraising.

At the conclusion of the 10-week internship program, students were able to present their visionary ideas and assessments to the Pension Boards' Executive Team.

"We believe this program will help foster creative and valuable input for the Pension Boards that will not only fuel and shape our strategic objectives, but further enhance our services for United Church of Christ members..." said Brian R. Bodager, President and CEO of the Pension Boards.

If you, or someone you know might be interested in next summer's internship opportunity, check out the Pension Board website for more information.

* <https://www.pbucc.org/internship-program>

Thank you to everyone who helped with last Sunday's event. Some of you prepared the meal while others helped with serving and cleanup. It was appreciated!

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with Handbell
Prelude and Guest Minister, Rev. Richard Teitsworth.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
7PM Darts @ First U.C.C.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
No Rehearsals

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

Office Closed

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

5:30PM 8:30PM Trick or Treat @ Bethany

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

10:45 AM Worship in the Sanctuary Wear Red for
Reformation Sunday! Joyful noise to benefit Hurricane
Victims.

Rich Teitsworth is a retired UCC minister who served 42 years prior to his retirement in June of 2017. His wife Jackie and he reside in Hellertown and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August. They have three grown sons, two daughters in laws and three grandchildren. Together they attend numerous sporting events for their grandsons which include baseball and ice hockey. Pastor Rich serves on a working group of the Penn Northeast Conference and does Sunday supply from time to time. He looks forward to greeting you this morning.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 71

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a
 2 Praise to the Lord, a-bove all things so won-drous-ly reign
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal-
 ing; shel-tering you un-der his wings, and so gent-ly sus-
 you: sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy shall dai-ly at-
 him! All that has life and breath, come now with prais-es be-

va-tion! Come, all who hear; now to his
 tain- ing! Have you not seen all that is
 tend you. Pon-der a-new what the Al-
 fore him. Let the A-men sound from his

tem-ple draw near, join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!
 need-ful has been sent by his gra-cious or-dain-ing?
 might-y can do, if with his love he be-friends you.
 peo-ple a-gain; glad-ly for-ev-er a-dore him.

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 96

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 Je-sus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He breaks the power of can-celled sin, he sets the pris-oner free;
5 To God all glo-ry, praise, and love be now and ev-er given

the glo-ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread thro' all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
'tis mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
his blood can make the foul-est clean, his blood a-vailed for me.
by saints be-low and saints a-bove, the Church in earth and heaven.

