

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



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

November 13, 2022

Stewardship Sunday

“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

November 13, 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: "Adagio in G Minor" ...T. Albinoni, arr. L. Pugh

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God is the giver of every good and perfect gift.

P: Let us return to God our offerings with gratitude.

L: God builds His church through the Holy Spirit

P: Let us support the church with our tithes and gifts.

L: We give because God has so freely given to us.

P: We give because we can and because we believe in the things of God, Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #16 The God of Abraham Praise

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

O God, source of all that makes life possible, we gather to give You, our thanks. Yet we confess that we have often failed to live our thankfulness. We have squandered Your bounty with little thought for those who will come after us. So, in this hour of worship teach us new lessons of stewardship and faithfulness, In 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): #11 Stand Up and Bless the Lord vs.1

Stand up and bless the Lord, you people of his choice; Stand up and bless the lord your God with heart and soul and voice.

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13

* Luke 21: 5-19

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Predictions"

PNEC Fall Meeting: Nones and Dones ... Matt Miller & Pastor Todd

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Sing A New Song" Schutz, arr. Jennings
Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #726 We Praise You, O God
We praise you, O God our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring; we lay it before you, we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

*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: #48 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #393 Blest Be the Tie That Binds
**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: Presented by Dan & Margy Sabetti

BULLETINS: Presented by Rebecca and Len Kesselring

GREETERS: Diane & Jack Brunner

USHERS: Jack Brunner, Tom Wright

LAY READER: Mike Reiniger

Scriptures

Psalm 98 NRSV

¹ O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.

² The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

⁷ Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the world and those who live in it.

⁸ Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy

⁹ at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

2 Thessalonians 3: 6 - 13 NRSV

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they^[a] received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we

were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Luke 21: 5 - 19 NRSV

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." ⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" ⁸ And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. ⁹ "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. ¹² "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words^[c] and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even

by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.

FUNDRAISERS

Gift Cards from Martellucci's

Contact Margy Sabetti for \$25 gift cards for Martellucci's Pizza

Gift Cards from Dan Schantz

We will be selling Monthly Madness cards for the holidays. You purchase a gift card for \$25 that will entitle you to a gift each month. The church will earn \$10 for each card.

Christmas at Bethany

We would like to collect gift donations for the resident youth at Bethany Children's Home in Wormelsdorf, Pennsylvania. You may check out the wish list online @ [bethanyhome .org/holidays-at-bethany](http://bethanyhome.org/holidays-at-bethany). The wish list will also be posted in the narthex. All gifts (new and unwrapped) should be dropped off at church by Sunday, Dec. 11. Thank You!

Chocolates on Broadway!

Brochures for this year's Christmas candy sale are here. 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.

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.

BETHLEHEM EMERGENCY SHELTER

Our first volunteer night at The Bethlehem Emergency Shelter will be here before you know it. Thank you to all of the volunteers who already signed up for our nights this season! You are truly awesome! At this time, we are looking for donations to purchase the items to make our first dinner. I have not made my final decision on the meal at this time so if anyone has any suggestions on recipes to feed 70 people, please feel free to share them! Donations in ANY amount are greatly appreciated. You can either see me before or after church or drop off your donation at the church office. Please make sure it is clearly marked for the "BES dinner". I would like to have a very brief meeting after church on December 4th with the volunteers to fill you in on new details for this season and to have you complete the Volunteer Application for this season. All volunteers must complete one prior to your scheduled shelter night. Thank you again and I look forward to working with you at the shelter!

Poinsettias

Order forms will be available next week as we start thinking about how lovely our church looks on Christmas Eve. The cost of these lovely flowers will be \$10 and the orders are due by Dec. 12th.

November 13, 2022

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17-25

Infinite Possibilities

Stewardship Sunday

On this Stewardship Sunday, we look ahead with hope and make promises for how we as individuals will contribute to the health of the whole of the body of Christ in the year to come.

Our theme this year, *From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving*, is a reminder that we give out of the goodness and abundance that we have received from a loving God. Of course, we don't just need this message and reminder at Stewardship time. At all times of year, through scripture, study, prayer and connection with our community and the wider world, we can be recalled back to the God whose love for us overflows. If you would like more resources to encourage your generous response to a gracious God, check out the books and brochures available at uccresources.com.

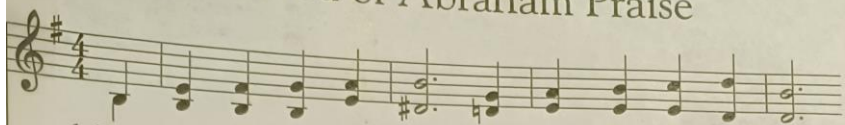
Everyone in the church would appreciate a copy of the brochure, "What Scripture Says About Giving," a quick and thoughtful guide to how and why to give to the work of the church.

Inspiring Generosity: A Stewardship Resource for the Local Church is a comprehensive guide to year-round stewardship. This 118-page manual is available in either book form or PDF download and features 4 fundraising methods for the local church, including "Consecrating Stewards," as well as chapters on the theological background on the motivation for giving and understanding mission.

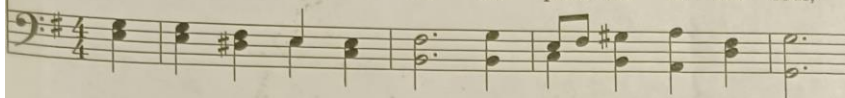
The Gifting God: Change the Way You Look at Giving is a small group study that invites you and your small group into an exploration of what scripture has to say about giving, over the course of several weeks or sessions.

For Such a Time as This: A Bible Study for Stewardship in Challenging Times is a guide that helps readers recall the story of Esther and to ponder anew how this story might inform generous giving here and now.

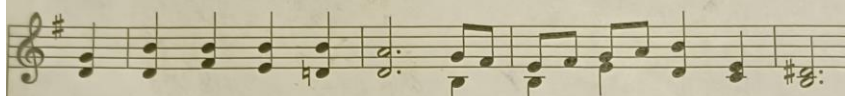
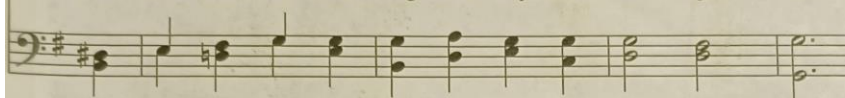
The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;
 2 Your Spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will;
 3 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;



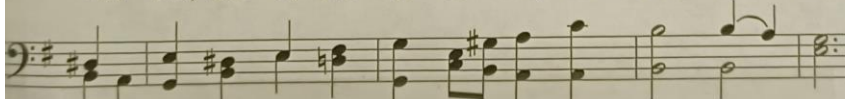
the an - cient of e - ter - nal days, the God of love!
 in proph - et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



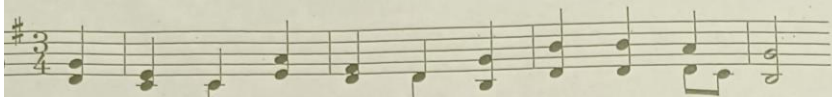
The Lord, the great I Am, by earth and heaven con - fessed,
 Es - tab - lished is your law, and change - less it shall stand,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name;



we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea or land.
 who was, and is, and is to be, for - e'er the same!



Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 48



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 all praise we would ren - der, O help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish - but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.



THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13 Stewardship Sunday

10:45 Worship in the Sanctuary.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

7PM Darts @ Fritz Wesleyan

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal

7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

8AM – 4PM Rummage Sale

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

8AM – 2PM Rummage Sale

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 Harvest Home Sunday

10:45 Worship in the Sanctuary, join us as we celebrate the start of Thanksgiving week. We will be collecting food to be donated to the Food Bank and collecting \$1 each for the PNEC offering.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

There will be a Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship Service on Nov. 23rd at 7pm. Join us at Trinity UCC on the corner of North and Center St. in Bethlehem. A combined choir from our 5 UCC churches is being formed. Pick up singers are welcome. The offering will benefit the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter.