

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

Church Office: 610-868-4441

E-Mail: [bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com](mailto:bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com)

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

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



November 20, 2022

Harvest Home 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 20, 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: "For the Beauty of the Earth" ... Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather in this place to worship God.

**P: We come together in community and worship.**

L: We left our thanks and our voices, our hearts and our spirits to God.

**P: We come together in community, and worship.**

L: We are the family of God, siblings following Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

**P: We come together in community and worship.**

\*HYMN: #721 Come Ye Thankful People Come

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**O God, Creator of all that was, is and will ever be, we seek You. We know You are present with us, but we ask You to open our hearts so we may feel Your presence more deeply. Gathered in this place we seek to be a community in covenant with each other and with You. Bless us as we go about our praying, singing and worshipping in this very moment and in this very place. Amen.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also, with you.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison):** Bringing in the Sheaves

**Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness, sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve; Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping, We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves. Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves We shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves; Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves, We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.**

**Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows, Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze; By and by the harvest, and the labor ended, We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves. Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves We shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves; Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves, We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.**

**ANTHEM: "We Plow the Fields and Scatter" ... Schulz  
Chancel Choir and Congregation**

**Refrain: All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; Then thank the lord, O thank the Lord for all His love.**

**READING OF SCRIPTURES**

Psalm 46

Colossians 1: 11-20

\* Matthew 6: 25-33

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

**SERMON: "A Spirit-filled Thanksgiving"**

## OFFERING INVITATION

### OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Come Ye Thankful People Come" ...arr. J. Innes  
Piano /Organ Duet

### PRESENTATION OF FOOD OFFERINGS

\*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 – A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING (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: #14 Now Thank We All Our God

## \*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #720 With Grateful Heart, I  
Thank You, Lord vs. 3

**I thank you Lord, for hand and heart to offer up your  
praise. I thank you, Lord, for tongue to speak of all your  
loving ways. For health and strength, for work and play,  
for loved ones far and near, with grateful heart I thank  
you Lord, for all that I hold dear.**

## POSTLUDE

***Our worship ends, our service begins!***



FLOWERS: and BULLETINS: are placed in loving memory  
of our husband, father and “pappy” Harry W. Denninger by  
wife Ina, daughters Susan and Diane and their families.

GREETERS: Cindy Beck and Bob Ruhe

USHERS: Bob Ruhe, Len Kesslering

LAY READER: Bob Ruhe

## Scriptures

### Psalm 46 NRSV

- <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
- <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*
- <sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.

<sup>6</sup> The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice; the earth melts.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

<sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the LORD;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations;  
I am exalted in the earth."

<sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

## **Colossians 1: 11 - 20 NRSV**

<sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to

himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

## **Matthew 6: 25 - 33 NRSV**

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.



## **FUNDRAISERS**

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 today Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> and will receive our candy on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>. These candies are delicious and make great holiday gifts.

## **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 are now 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. 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Gift Cards from Martellucci's**

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

*Thank You*

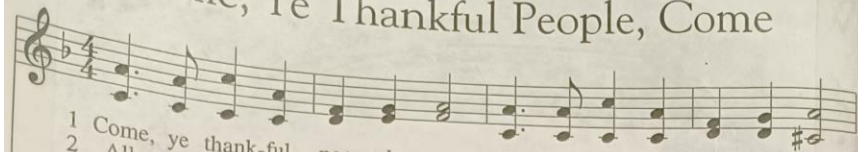
*To Rebecca Kesselring and Tim Rumble for their instrumental accompanies in today's service.*

*To Gail and all those who donated, volunteered, purchased or in any other way supported the Rummage Sale held this week at Bethany!*

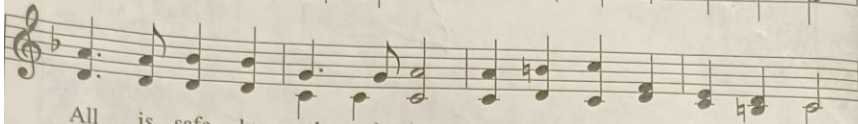
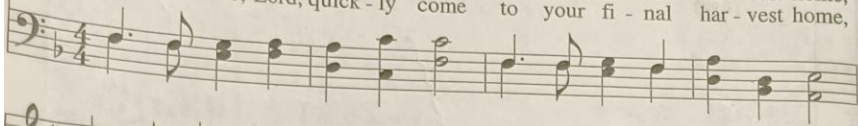
*To West Side Moravian Church who invited us to join them at their Love feast. This will be celebrated on Sunday Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The flier is posted in the narthex on the bulletin board.*



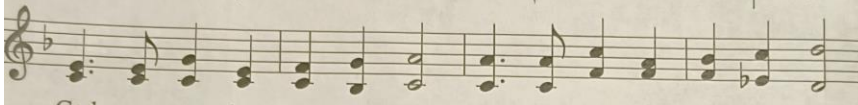
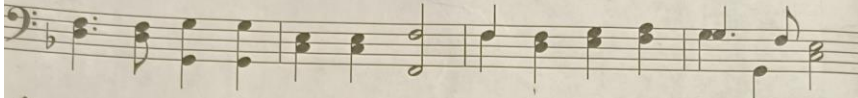
# 21 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield,  
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home,  
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har - vest home,



All is safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - rows grown.  
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way,  
 gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our ma - ker, does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;  
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear,  
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your pres - ence to a - bide.



come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.  
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
 Come, with all your an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home.



## Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice - es,  
 2 O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

who won-drous things has done, in whom his world re - joic - es;  
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;  
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en,

who, from our moth - er's arms, has blessed us on our way  
 and keep us in his grace and guide us when per - plexed,  
 the one e - ter - nal God whom earth and heaven a - dore;

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
 and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

### **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.

### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

9:30AM          1:30PM Office Hours  
7PM              Darts Bye Week

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

9:30AM          1:30PM Office Hours

### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER**

7pm          Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship Service @ Trinity UCC North & Center Sts. In Bethlehem.

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 Happy Thanksgiving**

Office Closed

### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

Private Event in Fellowship Hall

### **NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 First Sunday of Advent**

10:45          Worship in the Sanctuary, join us as we celebrate the start of Advent. We will also celebrate communion.

### **Thanksgiving Eve Service**

**There will be a Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship Service on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. Join us at Trinity UCC on the corner of North and Center St. in Bethlehem. The offering will benefit the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter.**

## A Litany of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, from whom comes each good gift of life, we remember your loving-kindness and your uncounted mercies and we join in grateful praise. For all your gifts to us and to our human race; for our life and the world in which we live,  
WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For the order and constancy of nature; for the bounty and bounty of the world; for day and night, summer and winter, seed-time and harvest; for the varied joys which every season brings.

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For the work we are enabled to do, and the truth we are permitted to discover; for whatever of good there has been in our past lives, and for all the hopes which lead us toward better things.

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For all the joys and comforts of life; for homes and families; for our friends; for the love, sympathy, and good will of persons near and far,

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For all civilization, wise government and law which order common life; for education and all treasures of literature, science and art,

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For prophets, pioneers, and all earnest seekers after a dream; for all lovers and helpers of humankind; for the aid and counsel of those who are wiser than ourselves,

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For all the discipline of life; for the tasks and trials which train us to know ourselves and which bring us to accept one another,

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For the desire and power to help others; for every opportunity of serving our generation in many ways large or small,

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For all true knowledge of you and the world in which we live;  
for the life of truth and right to which you have called us,  
WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For the gift of Jesus Christ, and everything which is ours as  
his disciples; for the presence and inspiration of your Holy  
Spirit throughout our day.

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

For the tender ties which bind us to the unseen world; for the  
faith which dispels the shadows of earth and fills the closing  
years of life with the light of hope.

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

UNISON

God of all grace and love, we have praised you with our lips  
for all the richness and meaning that life holds for us. Now  
send us into the world to praise you with our lives; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen