

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



November 6, 2022

All Saints 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.”



spending ourselves for the sake of the kingdom. We seek glory and power and give little thought to those who stumble and fall along the way. But in Christ You have set before us a better way. Forgive our sinful and selfish choices and lead us to paths of holiness and service; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #533 Joy in the Morning vs.1

There'll be joy in the morning on that day, there'll be joy in the morning on that day, for the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone, there'll be joy in the morning on that day.

READING OF SCRIPTURES

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17

* Mark 12: 28-34

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "The Dual Commandment"

IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR SAINTS: WE RECOGNIZE AND REMEMBER

Darlene Ackerman

March 12, 2022

Dorothy Kraemer

May 30, 2022

Lillian Connors

July 4, 2022

Ruth Bowers

August 6, 2022

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PRAYER: Pastor: O God, our strength and our redeemer, giver of life and conqueror of death, we praise you with humble hearts. With faith in your great mercy and wisdom, we entrust these saints to your eternal care. We praise you for your steadfast love for them all of the days of their earthly life. We thank you for all that they were to those who loved them and for their faithfulness to your church. We thank you that for these beloved, all sickness and sorrow is ended, death itself is past, and they have entered the home where all your people gather in peace.

C Keep us all in communion with your faithful people in every time and place, that at last we may rejoice together in the heavenly family where Jesus Christ reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. All: Amen.

OUR AMBASSADOR TO PNEC ...Beverly Rumble

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Bound for Jubilee" ...J. Eilers
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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (pg.8)

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: #529 For All the Saints vs. 1,2,5

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #521 Abide with Me vs.5

**Hold now your cross before my closing eyes; shine
through the gloom and point me to the skies; heaven's
morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in
death, O Lord, abide with me.**

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS Wayne Kenneth Hollabaugh
Happy Birthday November 3 Love of my life and Richard Lee
Hollabaugh Light of my life by Linda Hollabaugh
GREETERS: Corey Tancin

USHERS: Consistory

LAY READER: Bill Rumble

Scriptures

2 Thessalonians 2: 1 – 5, 13 - 17 NRSV

2 As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way, for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. ⁴ He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?¹³ But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits^[a] for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ For this purpose he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Mark 12: 28 - 34 NRSV

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" ²⁹ Jesus

answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³² Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³ and ‘to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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.

Don’t Forget to Vote!

Tuesday is Election Day here in Pennsylvania. Please remember to get out and vote. A wise woman (my daughter Jennie) is fond of asking people who complain about the government, “Did You Vote?” if they answer “No” she says “Then don’t complain” So remember get out and vote!

An Order for Communion

Invitation:

M: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

C: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth, and children, come from the east and the west, from the north, and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

Call to Prayer:

M: God be with you.

C: And also, with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to God.

M: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Congregational Response: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know You as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen

The Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving(unison)

We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

November 6, 2022
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Hold on to Faith

It's been almost a week since we celebrated Halloween. You might know Halloween as a day for trick-or-treating, costumes and kids' parties. But did you know that it started as a holy day? In fact, the root word of Halloween (hallow) means holy. The ending of the word, "een" is short for "evening." Halloween is the eve of the Christian holiday of All Saints Day.

Traditionally, Halloween was the day to defy death, to shout to evil, "Our God is greater and we are not afraid of you!" Centuries ago, Celtic people gathered on this day around bonfires, wore costumes and enacted battles between forces of good and evil. Some of the rituals we still follow today, like scary costumes and jack-o-lanterns, continue that tradition.

All Saints Day, officially on November 1 but often celebrated in United Church of Christ congregations on the first Sunday in November, is a day to remember and honor saintly people in the past. On this day, we might recall those people in our congregation, family or wider church community who have had an impact on the world in God's name. The following day, November 2, is officially All Souls Day. On this day, we honor everyone who has passed away, especially those who lived ordinary lives which did not garner recognition like the Saints. Many churches combine All Saints and All Souls celebrations as a reminder that God welcomes all into the tender arms of love and mercy in the life that is to come.

However you celebrated this week, or continued in your worship today, this week is a powerful one that can in many ways mirror the entire Christian journey. Beginning with the ancient rituals of Halloween, you have had the chance to look death in the face and proclaim that you are not afraid, because you know that the eternal life God promises is stronger than death. Then, on All Saints Day, you recognize the power of those whose connection to God is especially visible. Finally, on All Souls Day, you celebrate a God whose love encompasses all, now and into eternity. Thanks be to God!

Chorus

1. I sing a song of the saints of God, Pa-tient and brave and true,
 2. They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, And his love made them strong;
 3. They lived not on-ly in a-ges past, There are hun-dreds of thou-sands still;

Who toiled and fought and lived and died For the Lord they loved and
 And they fol-lowed the right, for Je-sus' sake, The whole of their good lives
 The world is bright with the joy-ous saints Who love to do Je-sus'

knew. And one was a doc-tor, and one was a queen, And
 long. And one was a sol-dier, and one was a priest, And
 will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, In

one was a shep-herd-ess on the green: They were all of them
 one was slain by a fierce wild beast: And there's not an-y
 church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea; For the saints of

saints of God, and I mean, God help-ing, to be one too.
 rea-son, no, not the least, Why I shouldn't be one too.
 God are just folk like me, And I mean to be one too.

For All the Saints

Unison, verses 1, 2, 5 and 6.

1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress and their might; thou,
 5 But lo! there breaks a yet more glo - rious day: the
 6 From earth's wide bounds and o - cean's far - thest coast, through

thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 Lord, their cap - tain in the well-fought fight;
 saints tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray; the
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,

name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 thou in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 King of glo - ry pass - es on his way.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 All Saints Day

10:45 Worship in the Sanctuary, join us as we honor the Bethany Saints and celebrate communion

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
7PM Darts @ Holy Cross

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 Election Day

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Veteran's Day, Thank a Vet!

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13 Stewardship Sunday

10:45 Worship in the Sanctuary

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!