

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

Church Office: 610-868-4441

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

“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

January 29, 2023

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God is our hope and strength.

P: Thanks, be to God Who is our companion forever.

L: God knows us all too well, yet God will not leave us.

C: God is our hope and strength. Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #231 Arise, Your Light is Come!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

O God, our Maker, whose eye regards even the sparrow, you care for this world you have made with tenderness. Through Your loving Spirit, You seek to redeem creation and to make it whole again. You sent Your son Jesus to bind up our brokenness and heal our wounded spirits. Grant that we might be receptive to His healing touch, that we may be made whole and set free to love. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #647 We Have come to Join in Worship vs.1

We have come to join in worship and adore the Lord our God. Let us come in prayer, expecting God to speak his mighty Word. All in vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes Down. Christians, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Micah 6: 1-8

I Corinthians 1: 18-31

*Matthew 5: 1-12

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Meekness, Hunger and Thirst"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Blest Are They" ...D. Haas
Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of life and love, Savior of all, receive with these gifts our gratitude for Your guidance, penitence for our

pride and dedication to Your service in Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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: #113 Rejoice Ye Pure in heart

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #715 God Be with You vs.1
God be with you till we meet again, by his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely hold you; God be with you till we meet again.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS: and BULLETINS: are placed in honor of Bev Rumble's retirement! Enjoy!

GREETERS: Cindy Beck

USHERS: Cindy Beck, Bob Ruhe

LAY READER: Phillip Haines

Scriptures

Micah 6: 1 - 8 NRSV

6 Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

2 Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

3 “O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab
devised,

what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

6 “With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

I Corinthians 1: 18 - 31 NRSV

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Matthew 5: 1 - 12 NRSV

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2022 Giving Statements

Please pick up your giving statements from the narthex.

Any statements not picked up today will need to be mailed and since postage has again increased this is something we would like to avoid.

BETHANY OUTREACH

Bethlehem Emergency Shelter

Just a friendly reminder that we are scheduled to prepare the dinner meal at the shelter on Tuesday, February 14th, Valentine's Day and again two weeks later on Friday, March 3rd. At this time we are looking for any monetary donations to offset the cost of the meals for these two dinners as well as the breakfast bags we prepare for our guests to take with them the next morning when they leave the shelter. We are also looking for bakers for both nights. Since we are preparing the Valentine's Day meal, I am hoping our bakers would consider that theme when making their goodies. I am so happy to report that our remaining two nights at the shelter are fully staffed for both nights and a huge thank you goes out to our wonderful volunteers. We could not do this without you. I would like to have a brief meeting with our volunteers on Sunday, February 12th after church to go over some changes this month and to provide you with the volunteer applications for completion. Thank you again for your continued commitment to this very important philanthropy!

Blessing Bag Donations are being collected at St. Thomas UCC and here at Bethany from now until June to benefit students (ages 11-15) at a Charter School in Allentown. Items needed are travel size shampoo, conditioner, body wash, face wipes, washcloths, razors, shaving cream, tampons, pads, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, Look for the basket in our narthex.

Please remember when you are at Bethany for any reason to make sure all doors are closed and all lights

are turned off. On two different occasions I have come to church and found both the front and rear door slightly ajar. Since someone is not here every day this could cause problems. It just takes a minute to make sure the door is properly latched. Open doors could create a problem if we were to get a surprise fire inspection. Also, if you have an event in Fellowship Hall, please make sure all trash is removed and all leftover food and drink are removed from the refrigerator. Thank you, Bethany

2023 Flower and Bulletin Charts are posted on the BB on the left side of the main entrance.

Please note that the prices for fresh flowers will be - two vases will cost \$45. A rectangular arrangement will cost \$30.

Silk (S) flowers will be \$10. Bulletins will cost \$10. Be sure to indicate what type of flowers you want – real or silk.

As in the past, contact the office with your information for the bulletin no later than the Tuesday before your sponsored date. Thank you. We are now working with Country Rose Florist @ Westgate Mall.

Any questions, contact the church office.

Please consider signing up to support these programs. For \$20 you can celebrate someone's special day or something as simple as you saw the first robin of spring. With so much bad news let's look for the good.

Arise, Your Light Is Come! 231

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song! Rise

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
 claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
 up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 up like ea - gles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

FESTAL SON
S

Bach Family Concert - Zoellner Center

Join us on February 19 at 3pm as we perform under the direction of Christopher Jackson and dedicated Choral Directors, The Bach Choir collaboration invites youth choirs - **The Bel Canto Youth Chorus, Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts Touring Choir, Nazareth High School and The J.R. Masterman High School Choir** to perform with The Bach Choir and members of The Bach Festival Orchestra. Combining the music of Bach and an eclectic program of composers, the finale offered by some 200 voices sharing this exquisite music is not to be missed! Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$9 for students. See Pastor Todd for additional information!

113 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

1 Re - joi - ce, ye pure in heart, re - joi - ce, give thanks and sing;
 2 Bright youth and snow - crowned age, strong souls and spir - its meek,
 3 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as you go,

your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
 raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.
 send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an - cient days.
 from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe.

Refrain
 Re - joi - ce, give thanks and sing.

Bach Spring Concert- First Presbyterian Church Beth.

Celebrate the season of rebirth and spring awakening! Bach's *Easter Oratorio and Messiah* tells this story. Full of resurrection triumph, it also gives voice the doubt and fear of the first witnesses of the empty tomb. The final part of *Messiah* focuses on eternal life, including the rousing aria, "I know my Redeemer liveth," for soprano, and joyful choruses of thanksgiving and acclamation. Join us on March 26th @ 4pm. Tickets range from \$9-\$45.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
7PM Darts @ Home vs. First UCC

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal
7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2 Groundhog Day

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary.

CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

If worship is cancelled due to weather conditions, announcements will be on TV Channel 69 – WFMZ. Also, if we have your email address, an email will be sent.

FUN NIGHT AT BETHANY

Dick Roberts will serve as the DJ for a Fun Dance Hop in Fellowship Hall on Friday, Feb.10 beginning at 630. All are invited to come and why not invite a friend or other family member? You are asked to

**bring a snack and beverage to share. See you on the
dance floor.**