

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



February 12, 2023

Sixth 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

February 12, 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: "He Set Me Free" Bob Ruhe - Banjo

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Jesus said, "Seek, and you will find"

P: "Ask, and it will be given."

L: "Knock, and it will be opened for you."

C: These great promises of Christ call us to long for the goodness of the Lord, for all His blessings to become ours. Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #501 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

O God, without Your Word we have nothing to say, and without Your Spirit, we are helpless. Give us Your Holy Spirit, so that we may be a people of prayer and that we may guard against all that can cause trouble and pain. Walk with us and protect us from evil. In Jesus' name we pray. 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

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

Psalm 119: 1-8

I Corinthians 3: 1-9

*Matthew 5: 21-26; 38-48

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: “ Tough Love”

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: “You Raise Me Up” ...arr. T. Fettke
Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #44 Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, you heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*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: #496 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #717 Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace, though friends must part, your presence lives in every heart. Your gifts to us no words can tell: go now in peace, in Christ go well.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS: Happy Valentine's Day to my children and their spouses, love you Mom!

BULLETINS: Happy Valentine's Day to Bubs, love of my life!
Nana

GREETERS: Cindy Beck

USHERS: Cindy Beck, Bob Ruhe

LAY READER: Diane Diefenderfer

Scriptures

Psalm 119: 1 - 8 NRSV

- ¹ Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD.
- ² Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,
- ³ who also do no wrong
but walk in his ways.
- ⁴ You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.
- ⁵ O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!
- ⁶ Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.
- ⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.
- ⁸ I will observe your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.

I Corinthians 3: 1 - 9 NRSV

3 And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people but rather as fleshly, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³ for you are still fleshly. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not fleshly and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴ For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not all too human?

⁵ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So

neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will receive wages according to their own labor. ⁹ For we are God's coworkers, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Matthew 5: 21 – 26; 38 - 48 NRSV

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder,' and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' ²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹ But I say to you: Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also, ⁴⁰ and if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, give your coat as well, ⁴¹ and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴² Give to the one who asks of you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if

you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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 interior 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.

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!

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.

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.

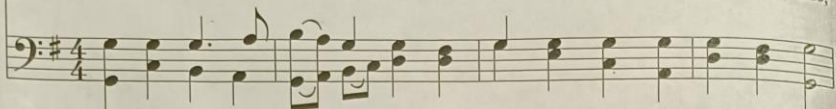
HEADS UP!

This year's annual meeting is on March 5th so I will need all committee reports no later than February 13th in order to send out the reports with the two-week lead time needed per bylaws.

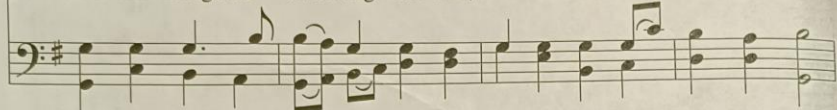
501 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land;
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;



I am weak, but thou art might - y—hold me with thy power - ful hand:
 let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through:
 bear me through the swell - ing cur - rent, land me safe on Ca - naan's side:



Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no
 Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
 Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more, (want no more,) feed me till I want no more.
 shield, (strength and shield,) be thou still my strength and shield.
 thee, (give to thee,) I will ev - er give to thee.



496 *PERSEVERANCE* Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

last - ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last - ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last - ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing,
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing on Je - sus,
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms; lean - ing
 lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on

ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary. Super Bowl Sunday is traditionally when we celebrate the big game between the top two teams in the NFL. It is also known as Souper Bowl Sunday and here at Bethany we will be collecting both cans of soup or money to purchase food for the local food bank. Short meeting after service for Shelter volunteers.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 Happy Valentine's Day

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

No Rehearsals

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 Transfiguration Sunday

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary

PANCAKE BREAKFAST MARCH 18TH

Well, it seems Pastor Todd is hungry for Pancakes and Sausage, so that means Bethany is having a breakfast! Join us on Saturday March 18th at either 9 or 10am to enjoy a breakfast of Pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee or tea. We will keep the cost at \$7/ person. As always, the Rumbles will man the kitchen so we know the food will be tasty. Mark your calendars and watch for ticket sales.