

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

Church Office: 610-868-4441

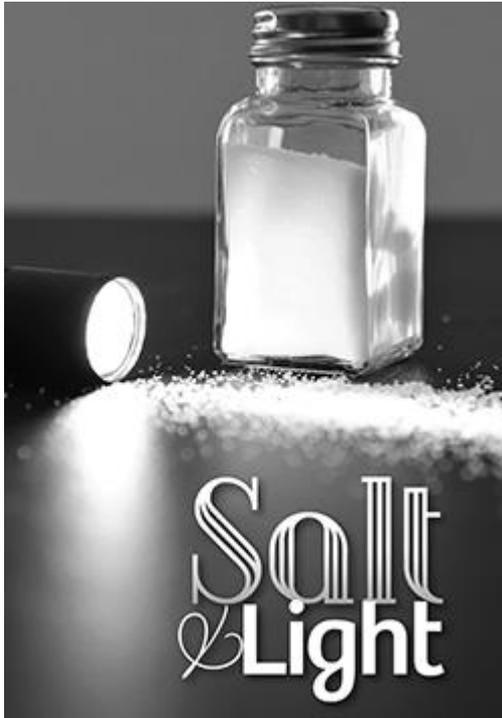
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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



February 5, 2023

Fifth 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 5, 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: "Andante Religiosa(4<sup>th</sup> Organ Sonata)"  
...Mendelssohn

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are a community of faith that has been created by the love of God.

**P: We are a people who have been set free by the word of forgiveness in Jesus Christ.**

L: We have come not to parade our own goodness but to praise the holiness of God.

**C: We have come not to boast of what we have done but to proclaim the redeeming work of Jesus Christ. Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN: #462 Renew Your Church

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have promised to receive us when we come to You. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have disobeyed your law. We have**

**not loved you or our neighbors as we should. Forgive us, O God, and grant that we may live and serve you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

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

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): This Little Light of Mine**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine. Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine let it shine.**

**READING OF SCRIPTURES**

Psalm 112: 1-10

I Corinthians 2: 1-12

\*Matthew 5: 13-20

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

**SERMON: "Salt & Light"**

**OFFERING INVITATION**

**OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY: "I'm Gonna Shout" ...D. Mengel  
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: #708 Go Forth for God

\*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!***



**We will be using the Blue Hymnals this week**

FLOWERS:

BULLETINS:

GREETERS: Judy & George Morgan

USHERS: Steve Tarasuk, Lisa Williams

LAY READER: Sue Wright

## **Scriptures**

### **Psalm 112: 1 - 10 NRSV**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!

Happy are those who fear the LORD,  
who greatly delight in his commandments.

<sup>2</sup> Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
and their righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;  
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

<sup>5</sup> It is well with those who deal generously and lend,  
who conduct their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> For the righteous will never be moved;  
they will be remembered forever.

<sup>7</sup> They are not afraid of evil tidings;  
their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;  
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

<sup>9</sup> They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;  
their righteousness endures forever;

their horn is exalted in honor.

<sup>10</sup> The wicked see it and are angry;  
they gnash their teeth and melt away;  
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

## **I Corinthians 2: 1 - 12 NRSV**

**2** When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. **2** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. **3** And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. **4** My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **5** so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

**6** Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. **7** But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory **8** and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. **9** But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

**10** God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. **11** For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. **12** Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

## **Matthew 5: 13 - 20 NRSV**

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

## **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.**

### **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 26<sup>th</sup> @ 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.

### **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. Please RSVP to Dick Roberts or the office by Tuesday Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **HEADS UP!**

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

February 5, 2023  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
Matthew 5:13-20 Restoring Beauty

“There are very few real emergencies. This doesn’t mean truly terrible things don’t happen. But if we can do things like breathe, delay gratification, feel our feelings in real time, keep ourselves from too much impulsivity, and reach for the right practice or people, we can survive—we can emerge—and-see—through disaster. And with spiritual hindsight, many of our disasters might turn out to be Holy Spirit portals: the way God gets in. Life as it stands will keep trying to shake us up or smash our boat onto the rocks. This is not because God is a jerk. It’s because Nature throws novel viruses and earthquakes and worse into our path. It’s also because humans are inventive and wonderful, but then we dream up things that ruin lives, like crystal meth, hyper capitalism, and high-waisted jeans (not a good look for anyone). If we think we are safe, we are wrong. Nothing can insulate us from loss. But safe was never the point. There are fates worse than death—like not ever really living. If you are lucky, you are currently between emergencies. Maybe you’ve had a rare chance to get off the roller coaster entirely.

Your legs have just stopped shaking, and you think, “I’m never doing that again.” You are sitting in the sun, eating something delicious and terrible for you: fried dough, a corn dog, a caramel apple that will pull out your crown. Enjoy the moment. It’s not going to last. And if you are in the middle of a fast-moving or slow-motion emergency—a sick toddler, a wayward teen, a relationship at a crossroads, a dance with addiction, a mental health crisis—only time will tell if it really was a true emergency. Because with the right kind of attention, ruptures can reveal us, emerge us, and help us evolve faster than any virus.” This is an excerpt from *How to Begin When Your World is Ending: A Spiritual Field Guide to Joy Despite Everything* copyright © 2022 Molly Phinney Baskette admin. Broadleaf Books. Used by permission. All rights reserved. *How to Begin When Your World is Ending* is available at [broadleafbooks.com](http://broadleafbooks.com) or wherever you purchase your books

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary

### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

9:30AM      1:30PM Office Hours  
7PM          Darts @ Trinity UCC

### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

9:30AM      1:30PM Office Hours  
7PM          New Member Meeting/Pastor's Office  
RSVPs needed for the Dance!

### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

5:30PM      Handbell Rehearsal  
7PM          Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

9:30AM      1:30PM Office Hours  
7PM          Consistory in FH

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

6:30PM      Dance in FH with DJ Dick Roberts. Please  
RSVP to Dick or the office by Tuesday

### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

4PM          Wedding

### **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.