

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



March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent

“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

March 19, 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: "Be Thou My Vision" ...arr. H. Hopson
Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: This is the season of Lent, a season to remember the sufferings of Jesus Christ.

C: A season to give sacrificially to others through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

L: We give because God first gave His love in Jesus.

C: Let us worship God together!

*HYMN: #422 Amazing Grace

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Holy God, Your Son Jesus wept for the people because of the hardness of their hearts. Warm our hearts with Your pure love, so that we might care deeply for those around us, near and far. Transform our caring into bread for the hungry, healing for the sick, and hope for those who hunger and thirst for justice, to the glory of Your name. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #270 O How He Loves You and Me**

O how he loves you and me, O how he loves you and me; he gave his life – what more could he give? O how he loves you, O how he loves me, O how he loves you and me!

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 5: 8-14

*John 9: 1-41

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: “Light for the Blind”

THE INSTALLATION TO CONSISTORY: Barry Smith

Congregation: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to honor your leadership and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS to OGHS

OFFERTORY: “Wings of the Dawn” ...L.A. Spencer
Chancel Choir

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Savior Thy Dying Love vs.1**

**Savior, Thy dying love Thou gavest me, Nor should I
ought with-hold, Dear Lord, from Thee; in love my soul
would bow, My heart fulfil its vow, Some offering bring
Thee now, Something for Thee.**

***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: #93 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION: Day by Day**

**Day by day, Dear Lord, of thee three things I pray; To
see thee more clearly, Love thee more dearly, Follow
thee more nearly, Day by day.**

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS are presented to the honor and glory of God and the Savior Jesus Christ by Len and Rebecca Kesselring.

GREETERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

USHERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

LAY READER: Dan Sabetti

Scriptures

Ephesians 5: 8 - 14 NRSV

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

John 9: 1 - 41 NRSV

⁹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is

coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” ¹⁰ “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked. ¹¹ He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.” ¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said. ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided. ¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. ¹⁹ “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?” ²⁰ “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why

his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" ²⁶ Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" ²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses!" ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." ³⁸ Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." ⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" ⁴¹ Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

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.

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.

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 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.

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

March Fundraisers

As we heard at the annual meeting we need to bring in additional income so this month gives you three opportunities to help. First, we are selling flowers to decorate both the church and your home for Easter. You have your choice of Tulips, daffodils, and mums. The cost is \$10 each and order forms are on the radiator in the Sanctuary. Second, we will be taking orders for Easter Candy from Chocolates on Broadway until March 26th. Order forms are in the narthex. Third it's time for nuts! We will be selling peanuts, cashews, and almonds for \$5 per bag. Please place your orders by March 20th in order to enjoy these holiday treats. Thanks in advance for your help and orders.

Alzheimer Joyful Noise

What a great collection was received last week in Joyful Noise. We kicked off our collection with \$870. You may still contribute until Palm Sunday April 2nd. If you wish to pay by check please write Alzheimer's in the memo part of your check. Thank you all!

Amazing Grace!

422

G G/D D7 Em C G G/D D/C G/B

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re - lieved;
3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his word my hope se - cures;
4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils and snares I have al - read - y come;
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,

G G/B C G Em G/D D7 G

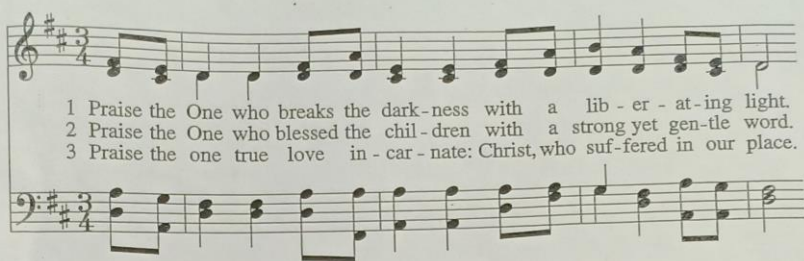
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
he will my shield and por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Thank you!

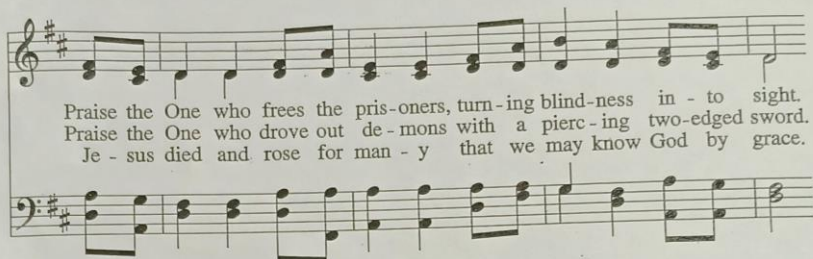
A big Thank You to everyone who participated in yesterday's Pancake and Sausage breakfast. Whether you helped or bought tickets your contribution was appreciated.

Thank you to Zack Talijan for his hard work helping me clean up the office. He is a hard worker who pitched in to get rid of years of accumulation. Stop in and check out our office. There is room to work and store needed items.

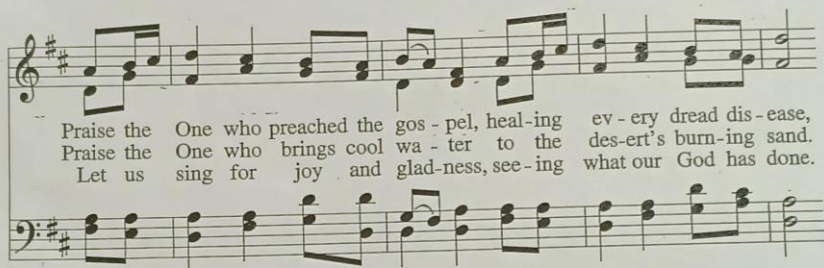
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness 93



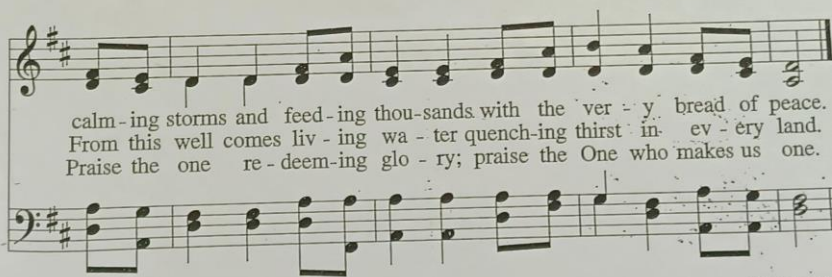
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light.
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word.
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place.



Praise the One who frees the pris - oners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
Praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - ery dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand.
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
From this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in - ev - ery land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with OGHS Offering

MONDAY, MARCH 20

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

7PM Darts @ Bethany

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

5:30PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary as we dedicate the
AED in memory of Dolly Ackerman

AED

Please join us on Sunday March 26th as we dedicate the AED device placed in the Sanctuary here at Bethany. This was placed in memory of Dolly Ackerman who was an active member here at Bethany. Dolly always kept an eye on everyone while she worked here at Bethany and this device will continue her watching over us to ensure the well-being of all who attend services or events here. Many thanks to the Ackerman Family and all who contributed to her memory.