

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

Church Office: 610-868-4441

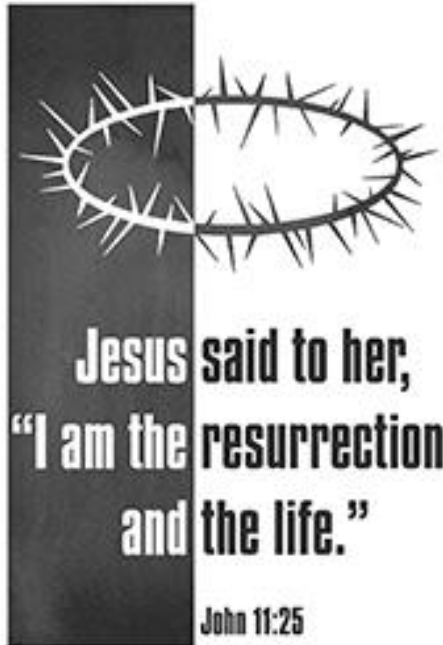
E-Mail: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com

Web address: www.uccbethany.org

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



March 26, 2023

Fifth 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 26, 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: "O Divine Redeemer" ...C. Gounod
Piano/Organ Duet

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

C: A season to remember that to follow Christ is to take up our crosses and to be servants of all.

L: A season to ask ourselves how we, like Peter, are afraid to turn away.

C: A season to reclaim Jesus as the One who raises us to new life Let us worship God together!

*HYMN: #91 Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Loving and powerful God, we thank You that You reveal Yourself in the events of human history. We thank You that You have shown Yourself in Jesus, who shared our human life, walking the path of obedience all the way to the cross. May we also die to ourselves and live for the world, through the empowerment of Your spirit. 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

Romans 8: 6-11

*John 11: 1-45

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: “For the Glory of God”

THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW AED EQUIPMENT

In memory of Darlene “Dolly” Ackerman

(See page 11)

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS to OGHS

**OFFERTORY: “Hear My Prayer” ...Moses Hogan
Chancel Choir**

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

Savior, Thy dying love Thou gavest me, Nor should I aught 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: #461 Breathe on Me, Breath of God**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION: “God Be with You” ... Tomer, arr. C. Dobrinski Handbell Choir and Congregation, Bells will play once then congregation will join in.**

God be with you till we meet again, By His counsels’ guide, uphold you. With His sheep securely fold you God be with you till we meet a again, Till we meet, till we meet, Till we meet at Jesus’ feet; Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you, God be with you, God be with you till we meet again.

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: Corey Tancin

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Len Kesselring

LAY READER: Rebecca Kesselring

Scriptures

Romans 8: 6 - 11 NRSV

⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

John 11: 1 - 45 NRSV

11 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same

one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.)³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.”⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days,⁷ and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”⁸ “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light.¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”¹² His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.”¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead,¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem,¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;²⁶ and

whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." ²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. ³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." ⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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.

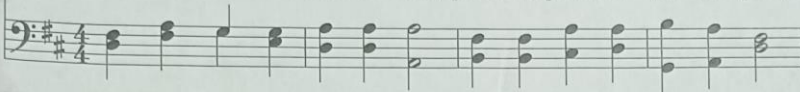
Alzheimer Joyful Noise

What a great collection we have received so far in our Joyful Noise for March. We have currently collected \$1090. 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!

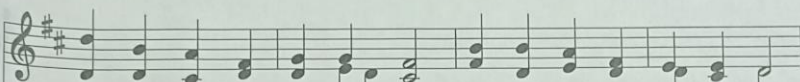
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 91



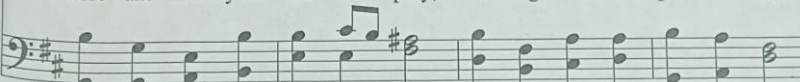
1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the dawn till your glo - ries shine on me;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of right-eous-ness, a - rise, tri-umph o - ver shades of night:
joy - less is the day's re - turn till your mer - cy's beams I see:
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief:



Day-spring from on high, be near, Day-star, in my heart ap - pear!
as they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
more and more your - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day!



BES

Friday March 31st is Community Night at the Shelter. Sherri is coordinator for the evening and is looking for help with serving, clean up and showers. The meal is being provided so no meal prep is involved. Please see Sherri after the service if you are interested in volunteering.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God 461

1 Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, breath of God, so that your will is mine,
4 Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what - e'er you love, and do what you would do.
un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with your fire di - vine.
but live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

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

Last week we began our collection for One Great Hour of Sharing. So far, we have collected \$193 to provide immediate aid and long term support to people experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster, or crisis around the world. Contributions may be made until Palm Sunday.

Litany of Dedication

Pastor: By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,

**Cong.: And by the breath of His mouth all their host.
(Psalm 33:6)**

Pastor: The Spirit of God has made me,

**Cong.: And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
(Job 33:4)**

Pastor: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

**Cong.: The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise
the simple (Psalm 19:7)**

Pastor: Awake, O sleeper and arise from the dead,

Cong: And Christ will shine on you. (Ephesians 5:14)

Pastor: We gather this day and, in the service, to remember
the life of Darlene” Dolly” Ackerman,

Cong.: And to dedicate this memorial in her name.

Pastor: We are grateful for this gift of an Automated External
Defibrillator

**Cong.: That is now available to save the life of a member
or guest of Bethany.**

**All: We dedicate this gift in the name of Darlene “Dolly”
Ackerman and give thanks for the generosity of family
and friends in the provision of this gift.**

Prayer



THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

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

MONDAY, MARCH 27

9AM Nut Making in FH
9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

5:30PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, APRIL 2 Palm Sunday

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary as we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

March Fundraisers

As we heard at the annual meeting, we need to bring in additional income so this month gives you 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. Thanks in advance for your help and orders.