

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



For **God** did not
send his **Son** into the
world to condemn
the world, but to **save**
the world through **him**.
JOHN 3:17, NIV

March 5, 2023

Second 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 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: "What Wondrous Love is This" from Southern Harmony...arr. L. Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: This is the season of Lent, a season to remember Jesus' question, "Are you able to drink the cup that I drink?"

All: A season to ask ourselves how we, like Simon the Cyrene, might help to bear the cross. Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #66 To God Be the Glory

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Amazing Lord, Creator of ourselves and of our World, we thank You that You reveal yourself in the events of human history. We thank You that You have shown Yourself in Christ, 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

Psalm 121

Romans 4: 1-5,13-17

*John 3: 1-17

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: “The Risk of Rebirth”

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: “God So Loved the World” ...J. Stainer
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: #63 Give to Our God Immortal Praise vs. 1,4,5

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)

Do-na No-bis pa-cem, pa-cem; do-na no-bis pa-cem.
(Handbell introduction then sing melody 3x)

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS are presented by Debbie Brown in honor of Erin & Jackie the birthday twins as well as all of my nieces and nephew.

GREETERS: Judy & George Morgan

USHERS: Corey Tancin, Gail Correll

LAY READER: Sue Wright

Scriptures

Psalm 121 NRSV

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
² My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
⁴ He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.
⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
⁸ The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

Romans 4: 1 - 5,13 - 17 NRSV

⁴ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but

through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

John 3: 1 – 17 NRSV

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

BETHANY OUTREACH

Bethlehem Emergency Shelter

Thank you to everyone who helped out with this week’s dinner. Whether you volunteered or donated it was appreciated by the guests of the shelter.

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.

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.

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.

Sponsor a Bill

It is once again time to renew our music licensing for the next year. This helps Sue to arrange the beautiful music we hear each week as part of our service. The price for this license is \$150, we have received a donation for \$75 towards this so far. If you would like to contribute to this cost, please mark your donations to Music License. Thank You

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

NEEDED

Someone to clean up leaves and debris around the church, mostly on the 5th Ave. side. Let the office know.

Pastor's Vacation

Pastor Todd is away this week March 8-16. Pastor Dennis Schappell is covering pastoral emergencies.

To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry, great things he hath done; so loved he the
 2 O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood, to ev - ery be -
 3 Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our re -

world that he gave us his Son, who yield - ed his life an a -
 liev - er the prom - ise of God; the vil - est of - fend - er who
 joic - ing through Je - sus the Son; but pur - er, and high - er and

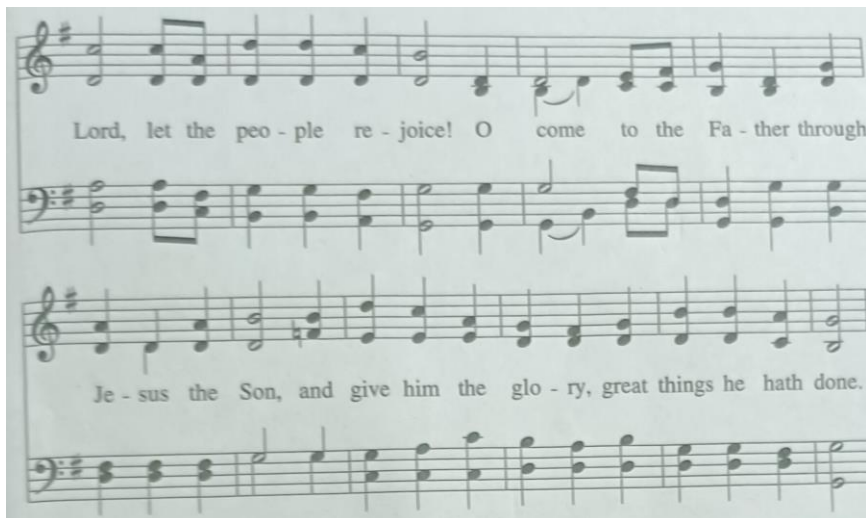
tone - ment for sin, and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 tru - ly be - lieves, that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 great - er will be our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)
 MUSIC: William H. Doane (1832-1915)

TO GOD BE THE GLORY
 11.11.11.11.Ref.



THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary followed by the Annual Meeting

MONDAY, MARCH 6

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
7PM Darts Bye Week

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal
7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with guest Rev. Tex Culton as well as Joyful Noise for Alzheimer's Research.

Give to Our God Immortal Praise 63

1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise; mer - cy and
 2 He built the earth, he spread the sky, and fixed the
 3 He fills the sun with morn - ing light; he bids the
 4 He sent His Son with power to save from guilt and
 5 Through this vast world he guides our feet, and leads us

truth are all his ways: won - ders of grace to
 star - ry lights on high: won - ders of grace to
 moon di - rect the night: his mer - cies ev - er
 dark - ness and the grave: won - ders of grace to
 to his heav - enly seat: his mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 shall en - dure, when suns and moons shall shine no more.
 God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 shall en - dure, when this our world shall be no more.

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 under 5 eats free. As always, the Rumbles will man the kitchen so we know the food will be tasty. Mark your calendars and purchase your tickets from Bev Rumble.