

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



April 23, 2023

Third Sunday of Easter

“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

April 23, 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: "Without Seeing You" D. Haas
Chancel Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Springtime changes are bursting forth around us.

C: The earth awakens from winter with a display of wondrous color.

L: The cycle of living and dying continues.

C: As it has for ages past and will for ages to come.

L: Lent has passed and the celebration of Easter Sunday is over.

C: But the message of new life, new awakenings, and new possibilities remains with us. Glory to God!

Alleluia!

*HYMN: #299 That Easter Day with Joy was Bright

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

O Risen Christ, we are grateful that you walk among us on earth, bringing life and hope. Help us to recognize You; help us to be aware of Your presence in our time of worship and in our walks of life, through the gift of Your holy Spirit. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #291 Alleluia**

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord, Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19

I Peter 1: 17-23

*Luke 24: 13- 35

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Encounter with a Stranger"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Lord of All Most Holy" ... Keck/H. Hopson
Chancel Choir

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #34 Doxology**

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of Justice and Love, transform these offerings, that they may be gifts of justice and love for a world in need of hope and help. Let love flow through these offerings, that they may become gifts of love for the world.

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: #468 My Jesus, I Love Thee

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #305 He is Lord
He is Lord, He is Lord, He is risen from the dead and he is Lord! Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS are sponsored by Len & Rebecca Kesselring for the glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Alleluia! He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

GREETERS: Ina Denniger, Cindy Beck

USHERS: Cindy Beck, Corey Tancin

LAY READER: Diane Diefenderfer

**Saturday April 29. PNEC Spring Meeting at St. Thomas
UCC, Macada.**

Scriptures

Psalm 116: 1 – 4, 12 - 19 NRSV

¹ I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.

² Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.

³ The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came over me;
I was overcome by distress and sorrow.

⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD:
“LORD, save me!”

¹² What shall I return to the LORD
for all his goodness to me?

¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his faithful servants.

¹⁶ Truly I am your servant, LORD;
I serve you just as my mother did;
you have freed me from my chains.

¹⁷ I will sacrifice a thank offering to you
and call on the name of the LORD.

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the LORD—
in your midst, Jerusalem.

I Peter 1: 17 - 23 NRSV

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable

things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Luke 24: 13 - 35 NRSV

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

¹⁹ “What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over

to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So, he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary

MONDAY, APRIL 24

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
Beeline articles due

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal
No Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary.
*Congregational Meeting

Spring Rummage Sale!

Well, it's time for Spring Cleaning, and what better motivation than to supply Bethany with items for the rummage sale scheduled for Friday May 5th from 9-2 and 4-8. Also, they will be open Sat. May 6th from 9-2.

Donations of clothing and other small items can be brought to Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are needed for the sale as well as donations of food and baked goods.

Look for sign-up sheets in the narthex. Gail Correll is again chairing this fundraiser.