

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

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

Church Office: 610-868-4441

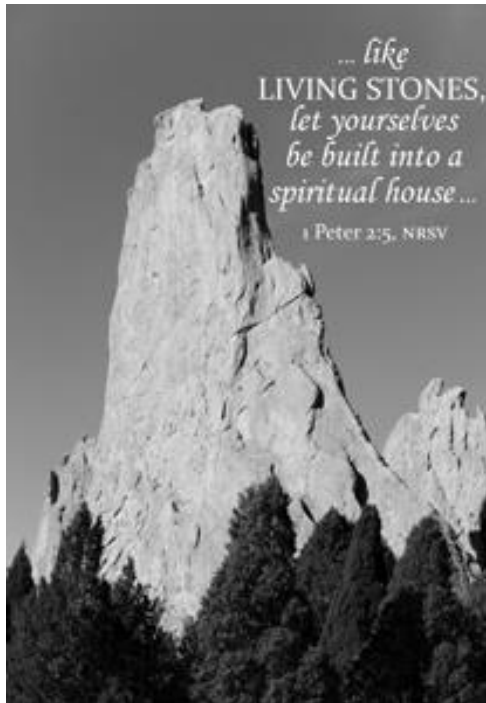
E-Mail: [bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com](mailto:bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com)

Web address: [www.uccbethany.org](http://www.uccbethany.org)

Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



May 7, 2023

Fifth 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

May 7, 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: "This is My Father's World" F. Sheppard, arr.  
Bennett/Berry                      Piano / Organ Duet

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come to Christ, that living stone, rejected by the world, but in God's sight chosen and precious.

**C: We have responded to Christ's call, and seek to be built into a spiritual house, a living reminder of God's presence on earth. Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN: #21 This is My Father's World

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**O God of compassion and mercy; You showed the Way in Jesus Christ and we choose to follow our own ways. Forgive us our narrowness; have mercy on us for days too void of Your word; forgive us our attitudes that hurt and destroy and our actions that go against Your intentions for us. Cleanse and restore us, that we may be renewed and empowered by Your Spirit. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

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

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #652 This Is the Day

**This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day; this is the day that the Lord has made.**

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16

I Peter 2: 2-10

\*John 14: 1- 14

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "A Haven for Troubled Hearts"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Awake My Heart" ... J. M. Marshall  
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 love, we offer our gifts of time, spiritual gifts and financial gifts as a sign of our love for You and the world. We ask Your blessing on the gifts where You meet us in our suffering, and raise us up, so that all may come to know of Your abiding love. In Jesus name. 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: #247 Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: Bind Us Together  
Bind us together, Lord; Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. Bind us together, Lord; Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together with love.**

**POSTLUDE**

***Our worship ends, our service begins!***



FLOWERS and BULLETINS are sponsored by Walter Long in honor of the Birthday on May 6<sup>th</sup> of Deborah Young  
The additional flowers are in honor of Kaitlin's graduation from the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University by Minh, Lisa, Jenna, and Erin Nguyen. Kaitlin will begin her general surgery residency at St. Luke's hospital in June.  
Congratulations Dr. Kaitlin A. Nguyen!  
GREETERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti  
USHERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti  
LAY READER: Dan Sabetti

## Scriptures

### Psalm 31: 1 – 5, 15 - 16 NRSV

- <sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;  
do not let me ever be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me.
- <sup>2</sup> Incline your ear to me;  
rescue me speedily.  
Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me.
- <sup>3</sup> You are indeed my rock and my fortress;  
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;
- <sup>4</sup> take me out of the net that is hidden for me,  
for you are my refuge.
- <sup>5</sup> Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.
- <sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand;  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
- <sup>16</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.

## I Peter 2: 2 - 10 NRSV

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

<sup>8</sup> and

“A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

## John 14: 1 - 14 NRSV

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

**Thanks,  
Everyone!**



Many Thanks to all who served and donated at the Rummage sale this weekend. There may be items for sale after church.



**Bach Spring Festival**

**The Bach Choir is presenting it's 115<sup>th</sup> Festival Weekend Concerts on May 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at Packer Chapel on the Lehigh University Campus. Visit the Bach Choir of Bethlehem @ [bach.org](http://bach.org) to order tickets.**

### *FUNDRAISERS -*



#### **GET YOUR PEANUTS, CASHEWS, AND ALMONDS HERE!**

We will be selling nuts in June watch the bulletin for dates! We sell Almonds, Cashews, and Peanuts. Call Debbie Brown at 484-358-3735. Everyone is invited to help on nut preparation days. Saturdays from 9 AM-Noon (Attention Youth – this can be Community Service time) and Mondays from 8 AM until finished. It's a time of fun and fellowship. Lunch is served on peanut prep Mondays. Peanuts, Cashews & Almonds \$5



## Gift Cards from Martellucci's

\$25 gift cards for Martellucci's Pizza are available for purchase the 1<sup>ST</sup> Sunday of every month from Margy Sabetti.

## Strengthen the Church

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.** Bethany will receive this special offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 28. Envelopes will be provided.

### Bethany United Church of Christ

#### Financial Report

January through April 25, 2023

	Income	Expense	Over/Under
January 2023*	\$5,749.43	\$6,880.22	-1,130.79
February 2023*	\$6,090.99	\$9,647.14	-3,556.15
March 2023*	\$5,647.96	\$11,456.72	-5,808.76
April 25, 2023	\$6,715.55	\$7,593.76	-878.21
Total*	\$24,203.93	\$35,577.84	-11,373.91

\*Note: Total Parsonage Fund Transfer not included in Income above Total \$11,000.00

April 30<sup>th</sup>      \$1381.00

# This Is My Father's World

GOD OF CREATION

21

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-tening ears all  
2 This is our Fa-ther's world: O let us not for-get that  
3 This is my Fa-ther's world: he shines in all that's fair; in the

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
though the wrong is great and strong, God is the rul - er yet.  
rus - tling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me ev-ery-where.

This is my Fa-ther's world: I rest me in the thought of  
He trusts us with his world, to keep it clean and fair— all  
This is my Fa-ther's world: why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas—his hand the won - ders wrought.  
earth and trees, all skies and seas, all crea - tures ev - ery - where.  
Lord is King, let heav - en ring! God reigns; let earth be glad!

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TERRA BEATA

## Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know

Johann C. Schwedler, 1741  
Tr. Benjamin H. Kennedy, 1863

HENDON 7.7.7.7.7.  
H. A. César Malan, 1827

1. Ask ye what great thing I know That de - lights and  
2. Who de - feats my fier - cest foes? Who con - soles my  
3. Who is life in life to me? Who the death of  
4. This is that great thing I know; This de - lights and

stirs me so? What the high re - ward I win? Whose the name I  
sad - dest woes? Who re - vives my faint - ing heart, Heal - ing all its  
death will be? Who will place me on his right, With the count - less  
stirs me so: Faith in him who died to save, Him who tri - umphed

glo - ry in? Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.  
hid - den smart? Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.  
hosts of light? Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.  
o'er the grave, Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

### **SUNDAY, MAY 7**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary.

### **MONDAY, MAY 8**

9:30AM      1:30PM Office Hours

### **TUESDAY, MAY 9**

9:30AM      1:30PM Office Hours

### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 10**

No Rehearsals

### **THURSDAY, MAY 11**

Office Closed

7PM              Consistory in FH

### **SATURDAY, MAY 13**

9:30AM      1:30PM Office Hours

### **SUNDAY, MAY 14 Mother's Day!**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary.

