

# 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 21, 2023

Seventh 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 21, 2023

10:45 AM

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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: "Wherever He Leads I'll Go" ...B.B. McKenny  
*Whoever will come after me, let him...take up his cross  
and follow me." Mark 8: 34*  
Banjo and vocal - Bob Ruhe

CALL TO WORSHIP

M: Let us rejoice and be glad; let us shout to God with songs of joy.

**C: For God has gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

M: Let us sing praises to God; let us sing praises to our sovereign God.

**C: For God is ruler over all the earth. Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN: #111 When Morning Gilds the Skies

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Holy God, You have revealed in the ascension of Jesus that we have Your only Son to intercede for us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. We lift our petitions by His Grace; Empower Your church throughout the world in**

**her witness. Strengthen our congregation in our work and ministry and bless this hour of worship by Your Holy Spirit. Amen**

**\*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 47

Acts 1: 6-14

\*Matthew 28: 16-20

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "The Making of Apostles"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Lovely Appear" (from the Oratorio "The Redemption") C. Gounod, arr. E. Schenck

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: #443 Trust and Obey

\*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 placed in Honor of the 68<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Theodore and Marion Hendricks Sr. by their children, grandchildren and great grandchild. You are loved!

GREETERS: Corey Tancin

USHERS: Len Kesselring, Volunteer

LAY READER: Sue Wright

## **Scriptures**

### **Psalm 47 NRSV**

- <sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
- <sup>2</sup> For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He subdued peoples under us  
and nations under our feet.
- <sup>4</sup> He chose our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*
- <sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- <sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- <sup>7</sup> For God is the king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a psalm.
- <sup>8</sup> God is king over the nations;  
God sits on his holy throne.
- <sup>9</sup> The princes of the peoples gather  
as the people of the God of Abraham.

For the shields of the earth belong to God;  
he is highly exalted.

## **Acts 1: 6 - 14 NRSV**

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of <sup>[a]</sup> James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

## **Matthew 28: 16 - 20 NRSV**

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came

and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

## *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 are \$5

### **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
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	\$1024.00
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	\$1235.00

### **Recap of discussion on future of Bethany UCC**

As promised by the consistory we will keep all the congregation informed of the discussions surrounding the future of Bethany UCC First I want to thank Dave Deremer from the PNEC for providing guidance and facilitation at last night's discussion. Second, thank those folks that took the time to be part of that discussion that are not part of the consistory (Phil and Sharon Haines and Len and Rebecca Kesselring). The process that Dave facilitated gave voice to all the folks who attended. As a UCC church this is not only vital but part of our structure as a church. There was a lot of passion and historical context voiced as part of the discussion. There is no question that, given a better set of financial circumstances, the consensus would be to continue to fight the good fight for many years to come. However, that not only ignores the reality but also risks giving up a chance



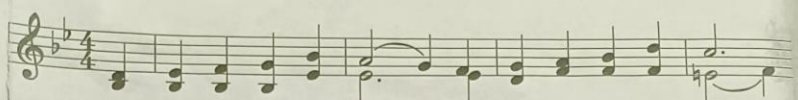
for us to leave a legacy as a church with a 131-year history of contribution to west Bethlehem and the PNEC. We must move forward and look at the other options and opportunities. The process will begin with some initial conversations with churches that align well both liturgically and activity. More importantly churches that represent the best opportunity to thrive into the near future as Christians wanting to impact our communities. The first step will be a meeting of the consistory president, Dave and the pastor with the pastor and consistory of those churches to try and determine if there is a synergy there (a one plus one equals three-kind of result). That will happen over the next 3-4 weeks. At the next consistory meeting on June 8th, we will hash out and summarize the results of those conversations. Like this letter I will provide a recap in the bulletin. With that letter in tow, we will convene with the congregation after our June 25th service to answer any questions and listen to any thoughts moving forward. We all agreed that we will strive to over-communicate which is foundational to the UCC approach. At the same time, we will be as honest and straightforward on our options moving forward. There are no easy answers, but we will succeed to the best of our abilities, and with guidance from God, ensure that we continue our faith mission as Christians.

Your brother in Christ Matthew Miller

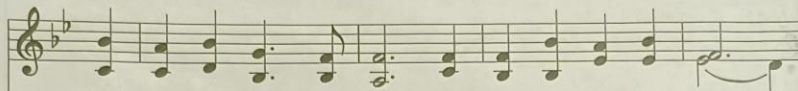
## **Iron Pigs Game on July 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Please see the flier in the narthex regarding tickets and game information. The game is Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup> @ 6:35pm against the Rochester Red Wings. Ticket orders must be turned into Gail Correll by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

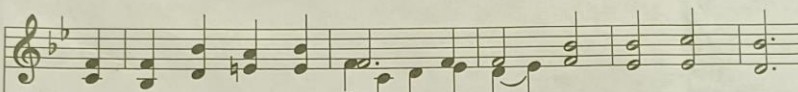
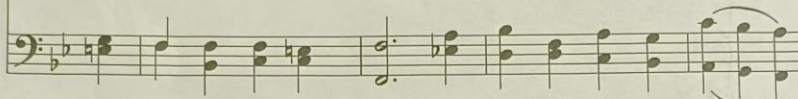
# 111 When Morning Gilds the Skies



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries,  
 2 Does sad - ness fill my mind? A sol - ace here I find,  
 3 The night be - comes as day, when from the heart we say,  
 4 Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di - vine,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Or fades my earth - ly bliss?  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! The powers of dark - ness fear  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this th'e - ter - nal song

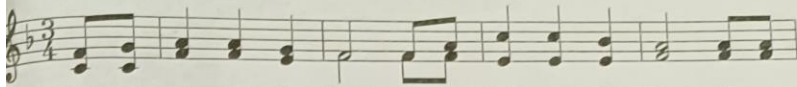


to Je - sus I re - pair, may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 My com - fort still is this, may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 when this sweet chant they hear, may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 through all the a - ges long, may Je - sus Christ be praised!

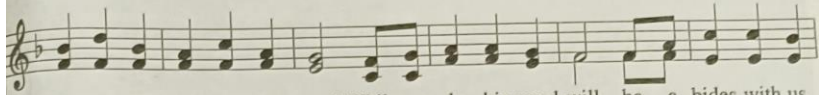


## Trust and Obey

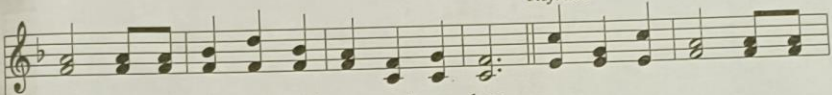
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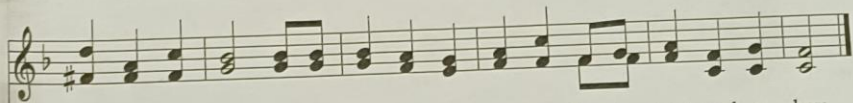
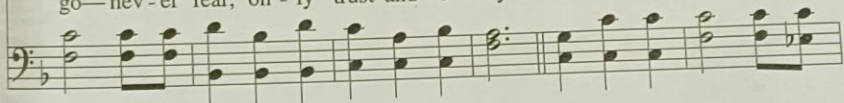
1 When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, what a  
 2 Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share, but our  
 3 But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of his love un - til  
 4 Then in fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll



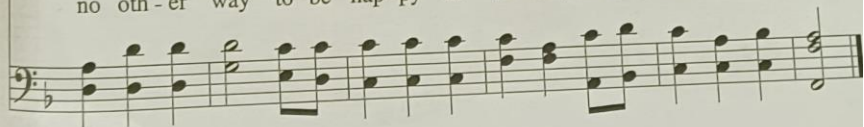
glo - ry he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he a - bides with us  
 toil he will rich - ly re - pay; not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a  
 all on the al - tar we lay; for the fa - vor he shows and the joy he be -  
 walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends we will

*Refrain*

still, and with all who will trust and o - bey.  
 cross, but is blest if we trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's  
 stows are for them who will trust and o - bey.  
 go - nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.



no oth - er way to be hap - py in Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey.



## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

### **SUNDAY, MAY 21**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary.

### **MONDAY, MAY 22**

9:30AM      1:30PM Office Hours  
Beeline Articles Due

### **TUESDAY, MAY 23**

9:30AM      1:30PM Office Hours

### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 24**

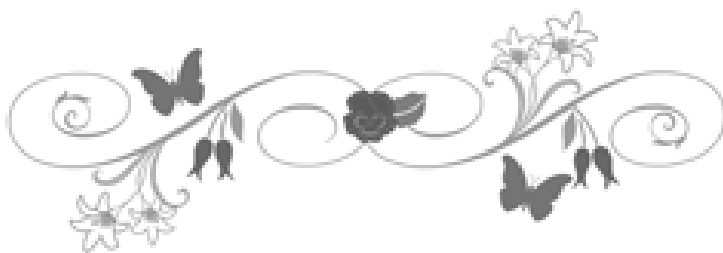
No Rehearsals

### **THURSDAY, MAY 25**

9:30AM      1:30PM Office Hours

### **SUNDAY, MAY 28 Pentecost Sunday**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary with Communion and  
Strengthen the Church  
Offering



*A belated thank you to Rebecca Kesselring for her beautiful music last Sunday which allowed Susan to have a much-needed vacation.*

*Thank you to Bob Ruhe for sharing his music with us today!*