

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



May 28, 2023

Pentecost Sunday

"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 28, 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: Holy Spirit, Truth Divine ... arr. L. Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

M: Why have we gathered?

C: We have gathered to give witness to the presence of God's Spirit in our time.

M: This Spirit has moved Christ's disciples throughout the centuries to proclaim Christ with a burning desire.

C: Christ's disciples were people set on fire by the coming of God's Spirit.

M: We pray for that same spirit to move among us.

C: To rekindle our faith and action with the flame of Pentecost. Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #188(E&R) Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Spirit of power and grace, confused and bewildered by Your power, we turn aside from You transforming grace; uncertain about the future, we allow our troubles and

fears to consume us and to keep us from tasting Your promised joy. We fail to tap into Your empowering spirit. We want proof before we are satisfied. Give to us trusting hearts and open us to Your Word that offers direction and strength for the future. Hear our silent petitions for your forgiveness, strength and renewal ...

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #492 Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me, Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalm 47

Acts 1: 6-14

*Matthew 28: 16-20

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

int

SERMON: "The Ghost, the Church and the Saints"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS (Strengthen the Church)

OFFERTORY: "Come Holy Spirit, God and Lord" ... L. Smith
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:

Holy God, thank you for sending the gift of your Holy Spirit. Fill our hearts and minds with Your gifts of faith, hope and love. We dedicate ourselves and these offerings to Your good purposes in the world. Bless us and bless them, we pray. Amen

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (pg. 8)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER - THE PLAYING OF TAPS– 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: #132 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #74 Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Creator spirit, by whose breath were fashioned sea and sky and earth; who made the stormy chaos cease and gave us life and light and peace; and to your glory let there be glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS: are presented in honor of those who sacrificed their lives for the United States. May we never take our freedoms for granted! God Bless America! The Kesselrings

BULLETINS: Today are given in loving memory of Wayne & Lois Shelly, by their daughter, Nedra.

GREETERS: Jack & Dianne Brunner

USHERS: Consistory

LAY READER: Bill Rumble

Scriptures

First Corinthians 12: 1 - 13 NRSV

12 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant. **2** You know that when you were gentiles you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. **3** Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, **5** and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, **6** and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. **7** To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **8** To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to

another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

John 20: 19 - 23 NRSV

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

FUNDRAISERS -



GET YOUR PEANUTS, CASHEWS, AND ALMONDS HERE!

We will be selling nuts in June with orders due on June 12th with prep days on the 17th and 19th! 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 today Pentecost Sunday, May 28. Envelopes are in the back of the sanctuary.

Bethany United Church of Christ
Financial Report
January through May 21st, 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 th	\$1381.00
May 7 th	\$1024.00
May 14 th	\$1235.00
May 21 st	\$911.00

An Order for Communion

Invitation:

M: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

C: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth, and children, come from the east and the west, from the north, and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

Call to Prayer:

M: God be with you.

C: And also, with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to God.

M: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Congregational Response: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know You as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen

The Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving(unison)

We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Story of Taps

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The captain chose a bugler.

He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as "Taps" ...used at military funerals was born.

The words are ...

**Day is done...Gone the sun
From the lakes...From the hills...From the sky
All is well...safely rest...God is nigh.**

Fading light...Dims the sight...And a star
 Gems the sky...Gleaming bright
 From afar. Drawing nigh...Falls the night.

Thanks, and praise...For our days...Neath the sun
 Neath the stars...Neath the sky.
 As we go. This we know...God is nigh.

188 The Holy Spirit MERCY

SAMUEL LONGFELLOW, 1864 7-7-7-7. Art. from LOUIS M. GOTTSCHALK, 1829-1869

Not too fast

1. Ho - ly Spir - it, Truth di - vine, Dawn up - on this soul of mine;
 2. Ho - ly Spir - it, Love di - vine, Glow with - in this heart of mine;
 3. Ho - ly Spir - it, Power di - vine, Fill and nerve this will of mine;
 4. Ho - ly Spir - it, Right di - vine, King with - in my con - science reign;

Word of God, and in - ward Light, Wake my spir - it, clear my sight.
 Kin - dle ev - ery high de - sire; Per - ish self in Thy pure fire.
 By Thee may I strong - ly live, Brave - ly bear, and no - bly strive.
 Be my Law, and I shall be Firm - ly bound, for - ev - er free. A - MEN.

132 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart,
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Did you not bid us love you, God and King,
 4 Teach me to feel that you are al - ways nigh;
 5 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

free it from sin, through all its puls - es move,
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 love you with all our heart and strength and mind?
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as you are,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies,
 I see your cross— there teach my heart to cling.
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 the bap - tism of the heav - en - de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek you and O let me find!
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, MAY 28

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

MONDAY, MAY 29 Memorial Day

Office Closed

TUESDAY, MAY 30

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal

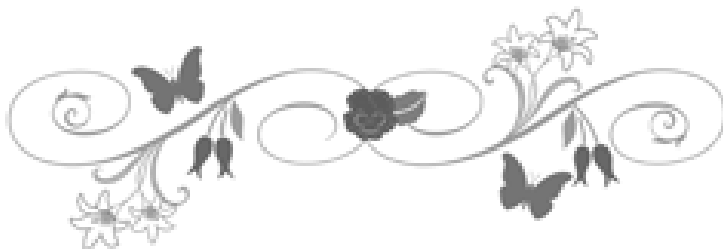
7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

10AM Worship in the Sanctuary



Iron Pigs Game on July 1st.

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