

# 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



July 16, 2023 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

**“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

July 16, 2023

10:00 AM

We encourage our visitors to include their name, address, and phone number in the Guest Book at the top of the steps and come again. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to become part of the community of faith and mission here at Bethany.

(\*) PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE  
**(Bold Text is said or sung by everyone)**

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Trumpet Voluntary" ...J. Clarke, arr. M.L. Thompson      Handbell Choir

## CALL TO WORSHIP

M: The Word is a lamp and a light. The word illuminates our life.

**C: We welcome The Word with praise and thanksgiving.**

M: The Word comes from the mouth of God and accomplishes its purpose.

**C: We hear The Word that loves and embraces, challenges and convicts, renews and restores.**

M: The Word is life, offers a future with hope, and creates peace in the midst of the storm.

**C: We receive The Word among us with rejoicing. We worship The Word in spirit and in truth!**

\*HYMN: #67 Come, We That Love the Lord

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Creator, your presence among us illuminates our lives. Make us fertile soil, receptive to the seeds planted by your word. Nourish us with Living Water and grow us through the energy of your empowered and healing rays of sunshine. Let us encounter you afresh as we gather in community. May our worship show our love for you and each other. Make your presence known to us and through us for your glory. 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 SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3: 1-15

\*Matthew 13: 1- 9, 18-23

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "The Lord is My Shepherd"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "He Plants Me Like a Seed" ...D. Huntsinger  
Chancel Choir

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #44 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:

**Holy One, we thank you for revealing yourself to us  
and through us with abundance and flourishing. Give us  
generous hearts. May our offerings offer a testimony  
honoring your provision and giving glory to your name.  
Receive these gifts and magnify them for the needs of  
your creation. 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: #748 Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #393 Blest Be the Tie That Binds  
**Blest Be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

## POSTLUDE

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



FLOWERS and BULLETINS: are sponsored by Len & Rebecca Kesselring to celebrate the glory of God.

GREETERS: Cindy Beck, Ina Denninger

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Corey Tancin

LAY READER: Debbie Brown

## Scriptures

### **Exodus 3: 1 - 15 NRSV**

3 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." <sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them from the

Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup> Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” <sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” <sup>12</sup> He said, “I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” <sup>13</sup> But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

### **Matthew 13: 1 – 9, 18 – 23 NRSV**

**13** That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the

thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> If you have ears, hear!" <sup>18</sup> "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this<sup>[b]</sup> age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup> But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

### *Blessing Bags*

*For the summer we are collecting items to be used at the shelter. The most urgent needs are Travel size shampoo, conditioner, body wash, face wipes, washcloths, razors, shaving cream, tampons, pads, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste.*

### Thinking of You

Please send thinking of you cards for Darlene and Ken Yocum. I think it would mean a lot to them to know that we are thinking of them. Maybe include a memory of something you shared with them.

*1573 Primrose Lane  
Daytona Beach, FL 32117*

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

### **SUNDAY, JULY 16**

10AM                  Worship in Fellowship Hall with Rev. Tex Culton

### **MONDAY, JULY 17**

9:30AM              1:30PM Office Hour

### **TUESDAY, JULY 18**

9:30AM              1:30PM Office Hour

### **WEDNESDAY, JULY 19**

No rehearsals

### **THURSDAY, JULY 20**

9:30AM              1:30PM Office Hours

### **SUNDAY, JULY 23**

10AM                  Worship in Fellowship Hall with Communion



*Please remember to provide the office with any address changes as I would like to issue a new directory in July. Please email the office or write the information on a paper and leave it in the office. Thanks!*



# Come, We That Love the Lord 67

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Come, We That Love the Lord'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed between the two staves of each system.

1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known, join  
2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God; but  
3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets be -  
4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - ery tear be dry; we're

in a song with sweet ac - cord, and thus sur - round the throne.  
chil - dren of the heav - en - ly King may speak their joys a - broad.  
fore we reach the heav - en - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets.  
march - ing through Em - man - uel's ground to fair - er worlds on high.

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1749)

ST. THOMAS

## Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing 748

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's

joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,  
 joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace; O di - rect us  
 in our hearts and lives a - bound; ev - er faith - ful,

and pro - tect us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
 ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.