

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



July 2, 2023 Fifth 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

June 25, 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))

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" from "Songs of America" ...D. E. Wagner
Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

M: We have gathered here this morning to worship God.

C: We have come seeking comfort, inspiration, community, and insight.

M: We have come to open ourselves to the power of God's presence in our midst.

C: Open our ears to the words of justice and truth.

All: We have come to offer up the seasons and the turnings in our lives and to seek God's help in our learning and growing.

*HYMN: #731 My Country 'Tis of Thee

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Eternal and Loving God, Who created all things from the void, teach us to know the power of silence and of

prayer. Fill our emptiness with Your peace and Your love, and fill our darkness with Your Light. Fulfill in us the potentials for which we were born and were called in to Your church, for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #728 God of the Ages vs.4**

Refresh your people on their toilsome way, lead us from night to never-ending day; fill all our lives with heaven born love and grace, and songs of praise we'll lift before your face!

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 89 1 - 4,15 - 18

Romans 6: 12 - 23

*Matthew 10: 40 – 42

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Rewards"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "If My People Will Pray" ... J. Owens
Based on II Chronicles 7:14

Chancel Choir

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #34 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

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 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

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: #727 America, the Beautiful**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION: God Bless America**

God bless America, Land that I love. Stand beside her, and guide her, Through the night with the light from above. From the mountains, to the prairies, To the oceans, wide with hope, God bless America, My home sweet home.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS and BULLETINS: are sponsored by Len & Rebecca Kesselring to honor the sacrifices of patriotic men and women who forged in the fires of self-sacrifice, loyalty, courage and wisdom a vision dedicated to the United States of America, forever free (Dorothy Ritter Funk)

GREETERS: Gail Correll

USHERS: Barbara Backensto, Gail Correll

LAY READER: Gail Correll

Scriptures

Psalms 89: 1 – 4, 15 - 18 NRSV

- ¹ I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
- ² I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
- ³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to my servant David:
- ⁴ 'I will establish your descendants forever
and build your throne for all generations.' " *Selah*
- ¹⁵ Happy are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your countenance;
- ¹⁶ they exult in your name all day long
and extol your righteousness.
- ¹⁷ For you are the glory of their strength;
by your favor our horn is exalted.

¹⁸ For our shield belongs to the LORD,
our king to the Holy One of Israel.

Romans 6: 12 - 23 NRSV

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. ¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification. ²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 10: 40 – 42 NRSV

⁴⁰ “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

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.

Please send thinking of you cards for Darlene and Ken Yocum. As Pastor mentioned Darlene has been moved to hospice care. 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 2

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate the birth of our nation.

MONDAY, JULY 3

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hour

TUESDAY, JULY 4

OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

No Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JULY 6

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, JULY 9

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall



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!