

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 23, 2023 Eighth 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 23, 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: "Once to Every Man and Nation" ...Fritz, arr. T. Williams

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We worship in the name of the One who calms the waters.

C: Jesus calls to us in our fear and says, "Be not afraid".

L: We worship in the name of the One who feeds the hungry.

C: Jesus offers His bread to us and we are satisfied. Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #185 Come Labor On

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Most loving God, we can scarcely comprehend the scope of Your forgiveness and Your amazing care for us. We confess that we miss the mark; we close ourselves off from Your saving presence; and in our pride, we withhold forgiveness from other people.

Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, grant us the assurance of Your love. Hear now our silent petitions for your grace . . .

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

P: Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit."

C: **It is God's love that enables us to grow and bear fruit. We say this to one another in faith and confidence, since nothing can separate us from God's love. Thanks be to God for forgiveness in Christ. 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

Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24

Romans 8: 12-25

*Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Leader: This is the Good News

People: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "Pulling Weeds"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "All Praise to Thee" ...Tallis arr. Pooler
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.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (pg.9)

Today we are receiving the elements by Intinction. All are
welcome.

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: #252 Once to Every Man and Nation

*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 Rebecca Kesselring in honor of the birthday of my husband Leonard Kesselring Jr. on July 22.

GREETERS: Jack & Diane Brunner

USHERS: Consistory

LAY READER: Jean Fennell

Scriptures

Psalm 139: 1 – 12, 23 – 24 NRSV

- ¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
- ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
- ³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
- ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
- ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

- ⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
- ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
- ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"
¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
- ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
- ²⁴ See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Romans 8: 12 - 25 NRSV

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its

enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13: 24 – 30, 36 - 43 NRSV

²⁴ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ” ³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The

Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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*

Task Force

Bethany now has a Task Force to work on the Futuring Project. Serving are Eric Derr, Matt Miller, Lisa Nguyen, Dick Roberts and John Talijan. Please keep the Task Force in your prayers.

Dick Roberts will be holding a dance here at Bethany on Fri. Aug.18th.

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.

Come, Labor On

Matt. 9:37-38

Jane L. Borthwick, 1859, alt.

ORA LABORA 4.10.10.10.4.

T. Tertius Noble, 1918

Unison

1. Come, la - bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har - vest plain
 2. Come, la - bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;
 3. Come, la - bor on. A - way with gloom - y doubts and faith - less fear!
 4. Come, la - bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west - ern sky,

While all a - round him waves the gold - en grain? And to each ser - vant
 To young and old the gos - pel glad - ness bear; Re - deem the time; its
 No arm so weak but may do ser - vice here; By fee - blest a - gents
 Till the long shad - ows o'er our path - way lie, And a glad sound comes

does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."
 hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws nigh.
 may our God ful - fill His righ - teous will.
 with the set - ting sun, "Well done, well done!"

Once to Every Man and Nation

EBENEZER (TON-Y-BOTEL) 8.7.8.7.D.

James Russell Lowell, 1845, alt.

Thomas J. Williams, 1890

Unison

1. Once to ev - ery man and na - tion Comes the mo - ment to de - cide,
 2. By the light of burn - ing mar - tyrs, Je - sus' bleed - ing feet I track,
 3. Though the cause of e - vil pros - per, Yet 'tis truth a - lone is strong,

In the strife of truth with false - hood, For the good or e - vil side;
 Toil - ing up new Cal - varies ev - er With the cross that turns not back;
 Truth for - ev - er on the scaf - fold, Wrong for - ev - er on the throne.

Some great cause, God's new mes - si - ah, Of - fer - ing each the bloom or blight,
 New oc - ca - sions teach new du - ties, Time makes an - cient good un - couth;
 Yet that scaf - fold sways the fu - ture, And, be - hind the dim un - known,

And the choice goes by for - ev - er 'Twixt that dark - ness and that light.
 They must up - ward still and on - ward, Who would keep a - breast of truth.
 Stand - eth God with - in the shad - ow Keep - ing watch a - bove his own.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, JULY 23

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall with Communion

MONDAY, JULY 24

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

Beeline Articles Due

TUESDAY, JULY 25

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal

7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JULY 27

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, JULY 30

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!