

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 9, 2023 Sixth 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 9, 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: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" ...M. S. Kelsey

CALL TO WORSHIP

M: Incline Your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

C: Preserve my life, for I am devoted to You; save Your servant who trusts in You.

M: O Lord, You are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on You.

C: So, we give thanks with our whole hearts and we glorify Your name forever. Bless this hour of worship!

*HYMN: #655 Come Away from Rush and Hurry

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Loving Christ, Your earthly ministry was full of struggle as well as joy: yet You were faithful in following God's will. Breathe your Spirit into our lives, that we may never fall back from the way of discipleship or the effort of loving. Grant that we may find true joy and

peace as we accept the cost of faithful discipleship. For it is in Your name we pray. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also, with you.**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison):** I've Got Peace Like a River" Spiritual

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 145: 8 - 14

Romans 7: 15 - 25

*Matthew 11: 25 - 30

Leader: This is the Good News

People: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "Can You Take a Yoke?"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Take My Yoke Upon You" ... Williams/Nolan
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: #473 What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION: #718 Forth in Your Name vs.4**

Help me to bear your easy yoke and every moment watch and pray: and still to things eternal look and hasten to that glorious day.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



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

GREETERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

USHERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

LAY READER: Sue Wright

Scriptures

Psalm 145: 8 - 14 NRSV

- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹ The LORD is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.
- ¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
- ¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,
¹² to make known to all people your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
The LORD is faithful in all his words
and gracious in all his deeds.
- ¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

Romans 7: 15 - 25 NRSV

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not

want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin.

Matthew 11: 25 – 30 NRSV

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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. 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*

Last Monday Morning the General Synod of the UCC elected the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson to be the new General Minister. She is the first woman and person of color to this post.

Pastor Todd is away from July 13th to the 16th. Rev. Tex Culton will be our guest Pastor next Sunday. The Rev. Dennis Schappell will be available in case of emergency.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, JULY 9

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, JULY 10

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hour

TUESDAY, JULY 11

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hour

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

5:30PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JULY 13

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

7PM Consistory in Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, JULY 16

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall with Rev. Tex
Culton.



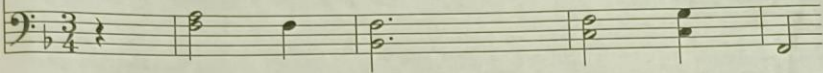
Please remember to provide the office with any address changes as I would like to issue a new directory in July. Please email the office or write the information on a paper and leave it in the office. Thanks!

Come Away from Rush and Hurry 655

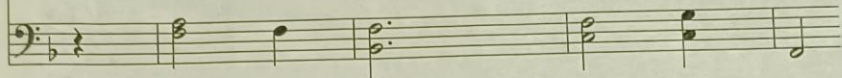
Unison



- 1 Come a - way from rush and hur - ry to the still - ness of God's peace;
- 2 In the pas - tures of God's good - ness we lie down to rest our soul.
- 3 Come, then, chil - dren, with your bur - dens—life's con - fu - sions, fears and pain.



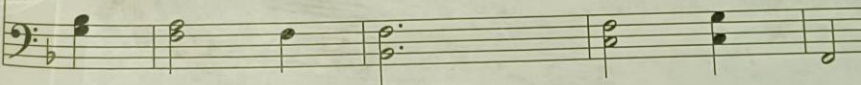
from our vain am - bi - tion's wor - ry, come to Christ to find re - lease.
 From the wa - ters of God's mer - cy we drink deep - ly, are made whole.
 Leave them at the cross of Je - sus; take in - stead his king - dom's reign.



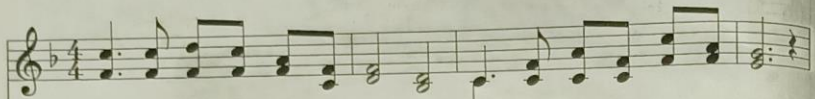
Come a - way from noise and clam - or, life's de - mands and fren - zied pace;
 At the ta - ble of God's pres - ence all the saints are rich - ly fed.
 Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them—he a - lone will sat - is - fy.



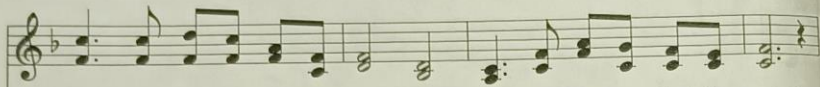
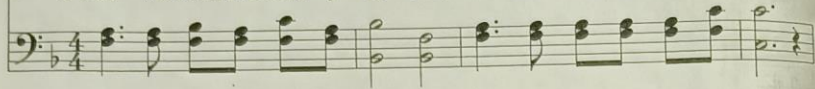
come to join the peo - ple gath - ered here to seek and find God's face.
 With the oil of God's a - noint - ing in - to ser - vice we are led.
 All our long - ings find at - tain - ment when to self we glad - ly die.



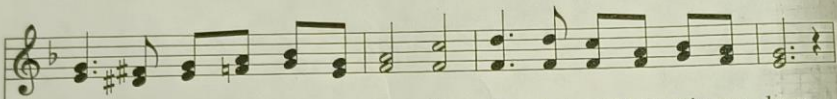
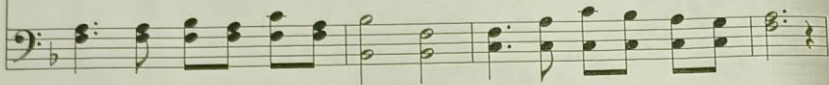
473 What a Friend We Have in Jesus



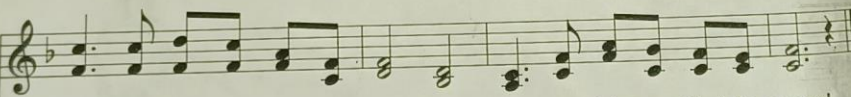
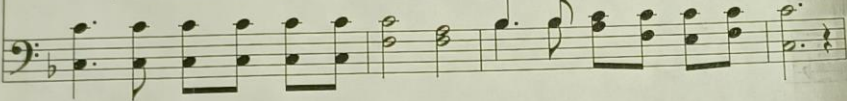
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y la - den, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer!



O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

