

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 30, 2023 Nineth 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 30, 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: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" ...Hugh S. Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts!

C: My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;

L: My heart and flesh sing for joy to the Living God.

C: Blessed are those who dwell in Thy house, ever singing Thy praise! Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #56 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Tender and compassionate God, whose strength is made perfect in our weakness, help us to believe that You receive us as we are, to be carriers of the messages of Your love, like earthen vessels that carry treasures. May we worship You in spirit and in truth, through the grace of Jesus 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 105: 1-11

Romans 8: 26-39

*Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Our Weakness, His Strength"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" ... 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.

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: #71 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

*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: Corey Tancin

USHERS: Corey Tancin, Tom Hoffert

LAY READER: Mike Reiniger

Scriptures

Psalm 105: 1 – 11 NRSV

- ¹ O give thanks to the LORD; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- ² Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
- ³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- ⁴ Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
- ⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,
- ⁶ O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
- ⁷ He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.
- ⁸ He is mindful of his covenant forever,
of the word that he commanded for a thousand
generations,
- ⁹ the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac,
- ¹⁰ which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
- ¹¹ saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance."

Romans 8: 26 - 39 NRSV

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13: 31 - 33, 44 - 52 NRSV

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” ⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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.

They will hold their next meeting on August 20th.

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



Bethany Dart team will be defending its Championship title for the 2023-24 season. If you are interested in some fun and fellowship, and a little bit of friendly competition against other local churches, contact Steve Tarasuk team captain.

stephen.tarasuk@gmail.com

Talk or text (610)554-0125



August Fun Event

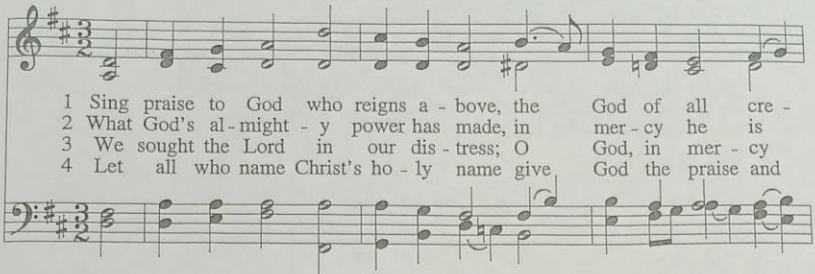
If you like music, especially the oldies, then we invite you to Bethany's Bandstand, Friday, August 18, Fellowship Hall starting around 6:30PM. All types of music will be featured - ballads, polkas, country, rock and roll, etc. Participate in the dance crazes from the Charleston to the Electric Slide and in musical fun games. Test your 1950' 1960's and musical knowledge with various quizzes. Join in the dancing or just listen to the great music of decades past. No charge. (Bring your own snacks and drinks). Join us for a night of fun. "

Dick

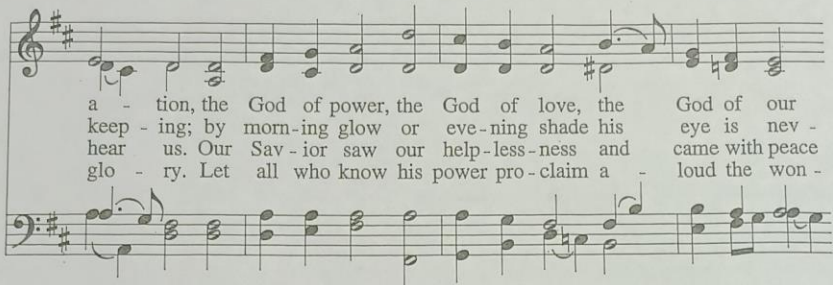


The special floral arrangement is given in honor of Pastor Todd's 43rd anniversary of ordination. Forty-three years of ministry prayers, praise, song, preaching, visiting, shepherding, "walking alongside", encouraging, listening & sharing God's love and grace to many in his path each day. May God continue to bless & use him. July 27, 1980 - July 27 2023

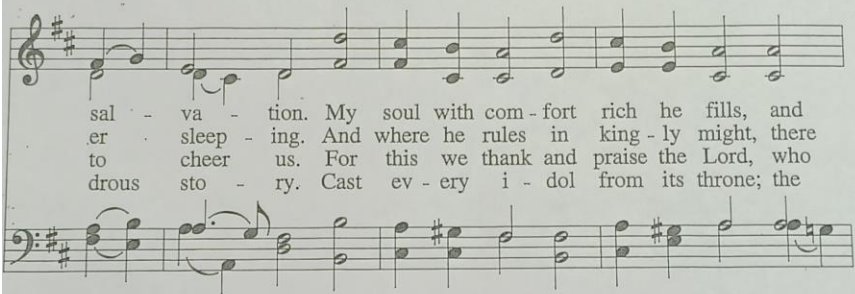
Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above 56



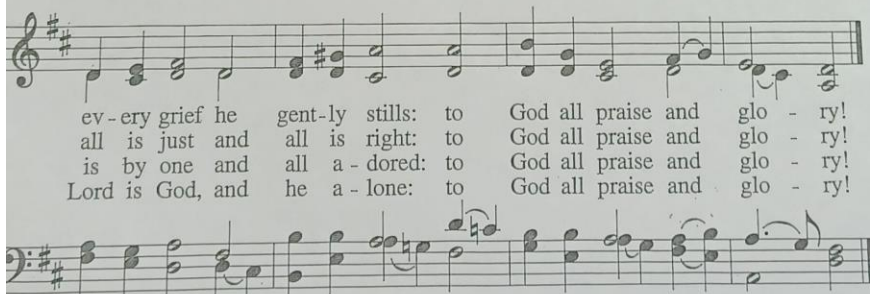
1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
 2 What God's al - might - y power has made, in mer - cy he is
 3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy
 4 Let all who name Christ's ho - ly name give God the praise and



a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our
 keep - ing; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade his eye is nev -
 hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness and came with peace
 glo - ry. Let all who know his power pro - claim a loud the won -



sal - va - tion. My soul with com - fort rich he fills, and
 er sleep - ing. And where he rules in king - ly might, there
 to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord, who
 drous sto - ry. Cast ev - ery i - dol from its throne; the



ev - ery grief he gent - ly stills: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 is by one and all a - dored: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry!

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 71

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a
 2 Praise to the Lord, a-bove all things so won-drous-ly reign -
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal-
 ing; shel-tering you un-der his wings, and so gent-ly sus-
 you: sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy shall dai-ly at-be-
 him! All that has life and breath, come now with prais-es be-

va-tion! Come, all who hear; now to his
 tain- ing! Have you not seen all that is
 tend you. Pon-der a-new what the Al-
 fore him. Let the A-men sound from his

tem-ple draw near, join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!
 need-ful has been sent by his gra-cious or-dain-ing?
 might-y can do, if with his love he be-friends you.
 peo-ple a-gain; glad-ly for-ev-er a-dore him.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, JULY 30

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, JULY 31

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

No Rehearsals

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

10AM Worship with Healing Service in Fellowship
Hall



Please let the office know no later than Monday morning if you wish to participate in the healing service next Sunday.