

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

Jesus immediately reached out
his hand and
caught him...

Matthew 14:31, NRSV



August 13, 2023 Eleventh 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

August 13, 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: "How Can I Keep from Singing." ...B. Boertje.
(Quaker Hymn)

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Make a joyful noise for God.

C: Come and celebrate His ways.

L: God has redeemed us as His people.

C: Bless the Lord, for His patient love toward us. Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #496 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Eternal 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 potential for which we were born and were called into Your church, 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): #50 Great is the Lord vs.1

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just; by his power we trust in his love. Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true; by his mercy he proves he is love. Great is the Lord and worthy of glory! Great is the Lord and worthy of praise. Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice; Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 105:1-6

Romans 10: 5-15

*Matthew 14: 22-33

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: Wind and Fear

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Sing an Alleluia to the Lord" ... D. E. Wagner
Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #34 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: #424 How Can I Keep from Singing**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION: #242 O Sing a Song of Bethlehem**

O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill, of him who walked upon the sea and bade the waves be still; for through the waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll, when faith has heard the master's word, falls peace upon the soul.

POSTLUDE

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS: and Bulletins: are dedicated to the honor and Glory of God by Len and Rebecca Kesselring

GREETERS: Jack & Diane Brunner

USHERS: Jack Brunner, Volunteer

LAY READER: Beverly Rumble

Scriptures

Psalm 105: 1 – 6 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,

Romans 10: 5 – 15 NRSV

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (That is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (That is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart”

(That is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to

righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Matthew 14: 22 - 33 NRSV

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So, Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

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.

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

Votes needed for Beth. Emergency Shelter to receive the \$10,000 grant from Fidelity Bank, E. Broad St. Votes need to be made in person by August 17.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

No Rehearsal

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
7PM Consistory in Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

6:30PM Oldies Dance in Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall followed by a meeting of Bethany's Task Force.



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!

496 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

last - ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last - ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last - ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, on Je - sus,
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing on Je - sus,
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean - ing on
 lean-ing on Je - sus, lean-ing on

ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 Je - sus, lean-ing on Je - sus,

How Can I Keep from Singing? 424

F B \flat F C

1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,
 2 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv-eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!

F B \flat F C7 F

I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.
 It finds an ech-o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain F C Dm C F C F

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

F B \flat F F/C C7 F

Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

ENDLESS SON