

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



August 20, 2023 Twelfth 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 20, 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: "Beautiful Savior" Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting.

C: The name of the Lord is to be praised.

L: The Lord is high above all nations.

C: And His glory above the heavens.

All: Praise the Lord! Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #419 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

We come into Your presence with thanks, Creator God, for all that fills our lives with joy: the love of family and friends, the comfort of our homes, the challenge of work, and the delight of leisure. Forgive us that too often we have taken all these things for granted, failing to see them as your gifts. In this time of worship, stretch our understanding, that we may know our lives in the perspective of Your sovereign authority. Teach us to live in the world with faithfulness to your intention for

the world, and to be at home wherever Your Spirit leads us; through Jesus Christ your faithful witness. 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 133

Romans 11: 1-6; 25-32

*Matthew 15: 10-28

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: "Great is Your Faith"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place" ...
Norwegian Melody, Hughes 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: #411 How Firm a Foundation**

Vs.1 All, Vs.2 Men, Vs.3 All, Vs.4 Women, Vs.5 All

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION: #72 Great Is Thy Faithfulness (refrain only)**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have
needed thy hand provided great is thy faithfulness, Lord
unto me!**

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: Bob Ruhe

USHERS: Bob Ruhe, Cindy Beck

LAY READER: Len Kesselring

Scriptures

Psalm 133 NRSV

- ¹ How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
- ² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
- ³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

Romans 11: 1 – 6, 25 - 32 NRSV

11 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. **2** God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? **3** "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars; I alone am left, and they are seeking my life." **4** But

what is the divine reply to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”⁵ So, too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.⁶ But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

²⁵ I want you to understand this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not claim to be wiser than you are: a hardening has come upon part of Israel until the full number of the gentiles has come in.²⁶ And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “Out of Zion will come the Deliverer; he will banish ungodliness from Jacob.”

²⁷ “And this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”²⁸ As regards the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but as regards election they are beloved for the sake of their ancestors,²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience,³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy.³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Matthew 15: 10 - 28 NRSV

¹⁰ Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth

proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.” ²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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.

Many Thanks to Dick Roberts for the Dance last Friday night. It was a blast!



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



Rummage Sale

Rummage Sale donations can now be brought to bethany for the Oct. 6th sale. Please bring them to the Sunday school room to the right of the stage.

Thank you!

Joyful Noise

Next Sunday will be a Joyful Noise Collection to benefit the people of the Maui fires which have devastated the west end of the island, including some of our churches.



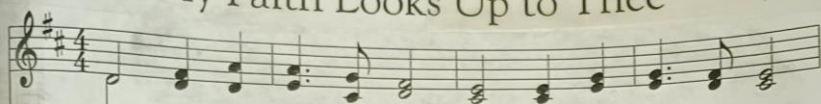
Mark Your Calendars!

On Sunday September 17th we will have our final worship of the summer in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate with an Indoor Church Picnic. We will worship @ 10:45 then follow with our world-famous potluck and hot dogs. Please plan to attend and if you'd like to volunteer to help with any part of this event, please contact the office. Maybe you'd like to run some games or some other post lunch activities.

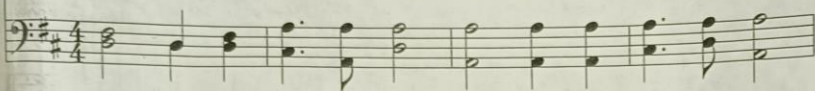
Think about it, you know you want to.

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

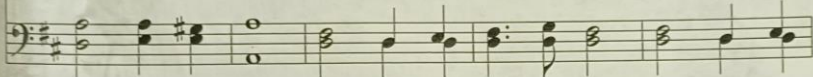
419



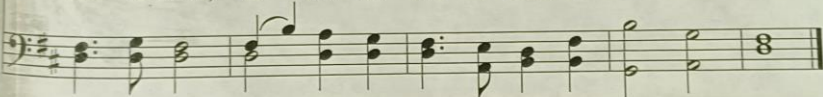
1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!



Please remember to turn off all lights when leaving the building. The secretary gets scared if she comes to work and finds the lights on and nobody here!

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
 3 "When through the deep waters I call you to go,
 4 "When through fier-y tri-als your path-way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je-sus still leans for re- pose,

is laid for your faith in his ex-cel-lent Word!
 for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
 the riv-ers of sor-row shall not o-ver-flow;
 my grace, all suf-fi-cient, shall be your sup-ply;
 I will not, I will not de-sert to its foes;

What more can he say than to you he has said,
 I'll strength-en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 for I will be with you in trou-ble to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt you, I on-ly de-sign
 that soul, though all hell should en-deav-or to shake,

to you who for ref-uge to Je-sus have fled?
 up-held by my right-eous, om-nip-o-tent hand.
 and sanc-ti-fy to you your deep-est dis-tress.
 your dross to con-sume, and your gold to re-fine.
 I'll nev-er, no, nev-er, no, nev-er for-sake!"

WORDS: Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.; vss. 2-5 para. Isaiah 43:1-5
 MUSIC: F. W. Howland, Church Music, 1832

FOUNDATIO
 11.11.11

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall
11AM Task Force Meeting in Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, AUGUST 21

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours
Beeline Articles Due!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal
7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall with Handbell
Prelude



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. This is your last chance I plan to run new directories next week. Thanks!