



Bethany Beeline

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BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“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.

VOLUME 23-9

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday, September 3

10:00 a.m. Worship in FH- use 5th Ave. entrance

Sunday, September 10

10:00 a.m. Worship in FH- use 5th Ave. entrance

Sunday, September 17

10:45 a.m. Worship in FH followed by Indoor Picnic

Sunday, September 25

10:45 a.m. Worship – in the Sanctuary



Dear Bethany Family,

Last August 15, 2022 Fred Buechner passed away at the age of 96. Fred was a Presbyterian minister and an author of 38 books. One of those books is "Listening to your Life", a daily devotional that sustained me spiritually when I took a sabbatical 26 years ago. Here is the reading for September 1.

Today ☀ September 1

IT IS A MOMENT of light surrounded on all sides by darkness and oblivion. In the entire history of the universe, let alone in your own history, there has never been another just like it and there will never be another just like it again. It is the point to which all your yesterdays have been leading since the hour of your birth. It is the point from which all your tomorrows will proceed until the hour of your death. If you were aware of how precious it is, you could hardly live through it. Unless you are aware of how precious it is, you can hardly be said to be living at all.

"This is the day which the Lord has made," says the 118th Psalm. "Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Or weep and be sad in it for that matter. The point is to see it for what it is because it will be gone before you know it. If you waste it, it is your life that you're wasting. If you look the other way, it may be the moment you've been waiting for always that you're missing.

All other days have either disappeared into darkness and oblivion or not yet emerged from them. Today is the only day there is.

I pray that your day today is one that you can bear or rejoice in.

Pastor Todd

A note from our Music Director:



A new project is about to begin because of a birthday gift I received. My present was an Intelligent planter where you can grow vegetables, herbs, flowers, or fruits with LED Grow lighting and water. On the front of the planter is the name of the product AHOPEgARDEN. Hmmmm. So, when I was about to write this article my attention was drawn to gardens and planting. Bare with me as I share some words found on church signs.

>The grass is not always greener on the other side.
The grass is greener where you water it.

> Plant yourself in church. God provides Miracle-Grow.

> Garden for God: Lettuce be kind and squash gossip.

> Garden for God: Turnip for church.

> Gardening for God brings peas of mind.

> The tiny seed knew that in order to grow it needed to be wrapped in dirt, covered in darkness, and struggle to reach the light.

> Forbidden fruit creates many jams.

> Pray for a good harvest but continue to hoe.

So, what does this have to do with a music ministry? Plenty. The music of the church has the ability to do some heavy-duty planting within the listener. For example, its instrumental music can plant an emotion, can invoke a spiritual response and bring forth a call to action. Choral music does all the above with an added text that inspires, teaches, and draws us into a closer relationship with our Lord. How many times have we heard others as well as

ourselves say..."That piece (or that anthem, or that hymn) at worship last Sunday was planted in my brain all week long!?"

That's what the music of the church can do...plant the spiritual seeds of our faith into our hearts and minds and allow that faith to grow in to music that is called upon when we need to rejoice, to ease suffering and pain, to sum up courage, and so much more. My hope (like AHOPEgARDEN) is that you allow the Music Ministry of Bethany Church to aid in keeping your roots firmly grounded and growing in the faith.

Those in the Handbell and Chancel Choir will have rehearsals on September 6th and 20th. The Chancel Choir will continue to sing weekly anthems and the Handbell Choir will play on Sunday September 17th. For those participating in the Live Nativity pageant, the dates are set for December 9th and 10th. Mark your calendars so we can musically plant the seeds of love, peace, joy and hope for those who have yet to experience the significance of the baby in the manger.

Joyfully,

Susan Denninger Wright



Rummage Sale

A Fall Rummage Sale will be held in Fellowship Hall on Friday October 6th from 8-4 and Saturday October 7th from 8-2. We will be needing volunteers to give time setting up for the sale, serving at the sale and helping with clean up. Gail Correll is in charge of this project and will be putting up a sign-up sheet. Donations of clothing and small household items can be brought to the back Sunday School room. Please do not bring electronics, TVs, or furniture.

PRAYER LIST: We ask that you check this list and let us know if there are any persons that no longer need to be on this list. Also, if you know of someone that needs our prayers, you can submit their name to Debbie Brown at 484358-3735 or the church office. Remember, because of the privacy to individuals; please be sure you have their permission before submitting their names for the prayer list.

Gracious God, help me face life's struggles with the love of Christ, who strengthens me. Amen

Joyce Bergey
Walter and Ann Williams
Ted and Marion Hendricks
Louise Snyder
Carol Haines
Sharon Haines
Ken & Joan Mathias
Marie Wolfe
Barbara Sigafos
Robert Frankenfield
Roger Wagner
Jan Smith
Susan Wuchter
Steve Tarasuk
Ashley Tarasuk
John Talijan
The family of Darlene Yocum
Ruth Smith
Fred Ackerman
Rebecca and Len Kesselring



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rev. Walter Long
- 16 Cindy Beck
- 20 Corey Tancin
- 24 Meghann Wright
- 25 Laura Sutter
- 28 Jenna Nguyen



ANNIVERSARIES

- 19 Katherine & John Knoll
- 25 Patti & Tim Hoyt
- 30 Barbara & Richard Roberts



2023 Flower and Bulletin Charts are posted on the BB on the left side of the main entrance. Please note two vases will cost \$60. A rectangular arrangement will cost \$30. Silk (S) flowers will be \$10. Bulletins will cost \$10. Be sure to indicate what type of flowers you want – real or silk. **Any questions, contact the church office.**



Altar Flowers

Sympathy

Our sympathies to the family of Darlene Yocum who passed away on August 19th. May God comfort the family and friends who she left behind.

THOSE WHO SERVE

September 3

Flowers: Len & Rebecca Kesselring
Bulletins: Len & Rebecca Kesselring
Greeters: Gail Correll
Ushers: Barbara Backensto, Gail Correll
Reader: Jean Fennell
Altar Guild: Joan Hottle

September 10

Flowers: Rebecca & Len Kesselring
Bulletins: Rebecca & Len Kesselring
Greeters: Dan & Margy Sabetti
Ushers – Dan & Margy Sabetti
Reader: Dan Sabetti

September 17

Indoor Church Picnic here at Bethany 10:45am

Flowers: Rebecca & Len Kesselring
Bulletins: Rebecca & Len Kesselring
Greeters: Len Kesselring, Tom Hoffert
Ushers: Len Kesselring, Corey Tancin
Reader: Barbara Reiniger

September 24

Flowers: Rebecca & Len Kesselring
Bulletins: Rebecca & Len Kesselring
Greeters: Judy & George Morgan
Ushers: Tom Hoffert, Barbara Backensto
Reader: Debbie Brown

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 3rd 10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall
- 4th Happy Labor Day! Office closed
- 6th 5:30PM Handbell rehearsal
7PM Chancel Choir rehearsal
- 10th 10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall
- 11th 7pm Darts here vs. Holy Cross
- 14th 7PM Consistory in FH
- 17th 10:45AM Worship in Fellowship Hall followed
by our Indoor Church Picnic! No rain or bugs!
- 18th 7pm Darts @ First UCC
- 20th 5:30PM Handbell Choir
7PM Chancel Choir
- 24th 10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary
- 25th 7pm Darts here vs. Trinity UCC

October Upcoming Events

10/1 Worldwide Communion Sunday/ Neighbors in Need

10/6 & 10/7 Rummage Sale

10/15 Service in honor of Susan Wright's 50th Anniversary

Task force update

Greetings to all,

As a preface to the update, I wanted to answer three questions that some of our task force members have been confronted with since the inception of the team One, what was the process in determining the current makeup of the task force? I was looking for a mix of age, gender, longevity of membership and if possible, and previous actual experience in effort like we are now pursuing, IN the end we met those objectives (almost).

- Dick Roberts and Lisa Nguyen long-time members (in Lisa's case 4 generations of her family).
- Eric Derr- newest member who also had prior experience in the area of mergers with his previous church.
- John Talijan- a new member who has jumped in feet first since attending.
- Me- as president of the consistory I could be the communication bridge between the task force, the governing body (i.e., consistory) and the congregation at large.

NOTE; John Talijan is not currently able to serve on the task force due to his Illness Two, why only five members?

My experience on these types of transitional task forces played a role in determining the size.

My experience has shown that the more extensive a strategic task force team is, the less effective they're likely to be. The sweet spot is around five team members. Big enough to have a range of skills, experiences and abilities. Small enough to be nimble and quick.

Three, what is the objective of the futuring project effort?

This is a reminder that the primary objective for this task force is to take the critical steps in exploring other congregations for Bethany to join and/or form a new congregation through the merger of two or more congregations.

The first steps in supporting the project objective are underway. We first identified churches that met the following initial criteria. One, within close proximity of current active membership (in this case this was a 15–20-minute drive time) and two, be a UCC or Union congregation. With those criteria in mind, we have identified three churches for which we will be attending their services, and then meeting key stakeholders post-service. Each church supplied us with their annual report.

They are

St. Thomas UCC in Bethlehem (Macada Rd.) on Sunday September 17th

St. John's UCC in Bethlehem Township (Farmersville) on Sunday, September 24th

St. John's UCC in Fullerton (Grape St.- Whitehall)- on Sunday, October 1 (tentative)

Besides getting the feel of the congregation's response to new people (welcoming, nurturing) and the relevance and power of the sermon and its message, we have a set of questions that we will ask at the post-service meeting with those key stakeholders to further establish the viability of moving forward with that church.

NOTE; We welcome any who wish to attend the services for that church on those dates, please feel free to do so. Also, with John's uncertain role at this point, I would like to extend an invitation to one or two more people who would like to be part of this task force.

I will be part of this Sunday's service to answer any additional questions that you may have.

Thanks to all of you for your support in our efforts.

Your brother in Christ,
Matthew Miller

Happy Anniversary

As many of you are already aware, Susan Denninger Wright, Director of Music at Bethany United Church of Christ, will attain 50-years of employment at our Church on October 10, 2023. On July 1, 1973, Sue first played a Church Service at Bethany and that same morning, the Congregation elected Sue as its Church Organist and Choir Director, replacing Fern Koplín who had recently retired. Sue immediately began her music ministry at Bethany, playing the organ/piano during each Sunday Service and on October 10, 1973, Sue signed her Employee Agreement with Pastor Lamar Dirk officiating. To celebrate Sue's **Golden Anniversary** as Bethany's organist-choir director and Director of Music, on **Sunday, October 15, 2023, beginning at 10:45 A.M.**, a special service will be held in the Church Sanctuary immediately followed by a luncheon in the Church's Fellowship Hall. You and your family members are invited to attend the Church Service and luncheon. There is no cost for you or family members to attend the luncheon. However, obviously, we need to know in advance if you (and any family members) are going to attend the celebration so that we may prepare for the number of attendees at the luncheon following the Church Service. Should you wish to provide a written tribute to Sue for her 50-years of music ministry at Bethany and/or perhaps how she may have personally impacted your faith, please send (or bring) such to the Church office before October 12, 2023. More information will be communicated to everyone in the next week. Please reach out to anyone you know especially past members who may have been one of Sue's voices and let them know they're welcome.

Bethany UCC
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

