

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



September 10, 2023 Fifteenth 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

September 10, 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: "A Quiet Reflection" B. Kevin Boesinger
In memory of those who died on September 11, 2001 and its aftermath. May we never forget...

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let our praise today be made new.

C: May we sing a new song, pray a new prayer, dance a new dance, and speak and hear a new word.

L: Let the faithful delight in the Holy One's marvelous acts

C: From the seats in the sanctuary to the couches in our homes.

L: Let us glorify God with our voices, the work of our lives, and the joy of our souls.

C: Glory to God! Praise the Holy One!

*HYMN: #87 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God who journeys with us, we give thanks to be gathered in Your presence. May we acknowledge You in the brightness of the day and in the stillness of the night. Provide us a vision of Your reign on earth and in

our lives. Make us Your witnesses to a world in need of hope and peace. Infuse us with Your love, and may this time gathered as Your people transform us to reflect Your goodness in the world. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #657 He Has Made Me Glad**

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart; I will enter His courts with praise. I will say, "This is the day that the Lord has made!" I will rejoice for He has made me glad. He has made me glad; He has made me glad I will rejoice for He has made me glad. He has made me glad; He has made me glad I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 119: 33-40

Romans 13: 8-14

*Matthew 18: 15-20

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: "The Armor of Light"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

**OFFERTORY: "There's a Quiet Understanding" ... Smith/
Wilson**

Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #688 We Give thee But Thine Own vs.1

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

*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: #59 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #719 Go, My Children, with My Blessing vs.4

I, the Lord, will bless and keep you and give you peace; I, the Lord, will smile upon you and give you peace. I, the Lord, will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother. Go, my children, I will keep you and give you peace.

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: Volunteer

USHERS: Volunteers

LAY READER: Jean Fennell

Scriptures

Psalm 119: 33 - 40 NRSV

- ³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.
- ³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.
- ³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.
- ³⁶ Turn my heart to your decrees
and not to selfish gain.
- ³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
be gracious to me according to your word.
- ³⁸ Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.
- ³⁹ Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.
- ⁴⁰ See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness be gracious to me.

Romans 13: 8 – 14 NRSV

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18: 15 – 20 NRSV

¹⁵“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Thank you

To My Bethany Family,

Thank you for all the lovely cards to help me celebrate my 95th birthday. They added so much to my day. Your thoughtfulness was certainly appreciated due to my impairment in sight, Marcie read each card to me - it was like hearing each of you personally saying, "Happy Birthday Marie". Thank you again & again.

With Love, Marie

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

Joyful Noise

Wow! We collected \$535.00 to send to those affected by the Maui fires. We will continue to accept donations until Sunday September 17th. Great Job!



Mark Your Calendars!

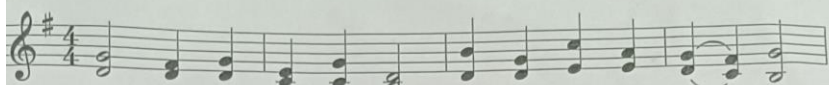
Next Sunday September 17th we will have our final worship of the summer in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate with an Indoor Church Picnic. We will worship @ 10:45 then follow with our world-famous potluck and hot dogs. Please plan to attend and if you'd like to volunteer to help with any part of this event, 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. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in Fellowship Hall. Remember in addition to your potluck item you also need to bring drinks.

Task Force

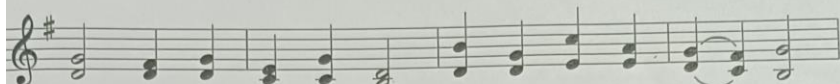
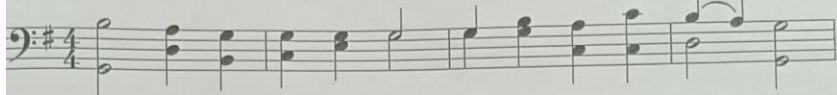
Bethany now has a Task Force to work on the Futuring Project. Serving are Eric Derr, Matt Miller, Lisa Nguyen, Dick Roberts, Sherri Gangewere and Corey Tancin. Please keep the Task Force in your prayers.

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

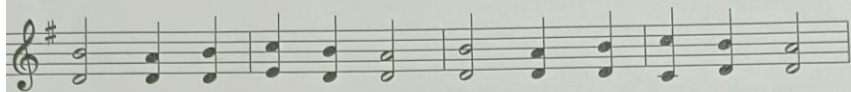
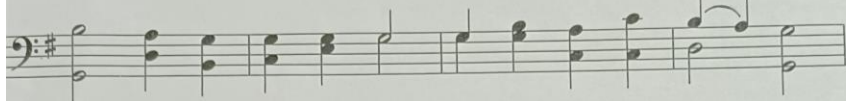
87



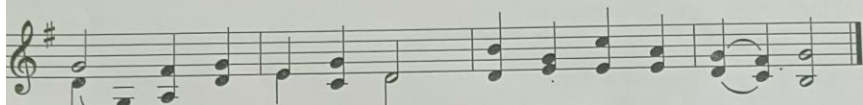
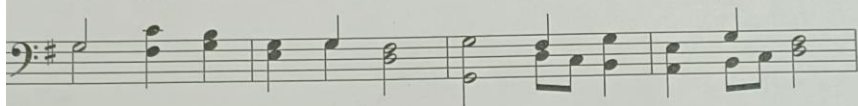
1 Come, Chris-tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joi - ce;
 Christ is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,



praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"



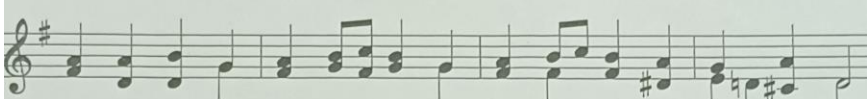
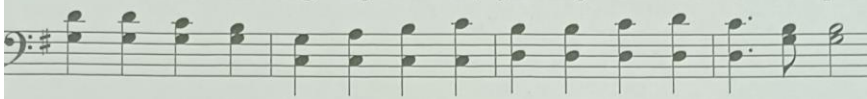
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee 59



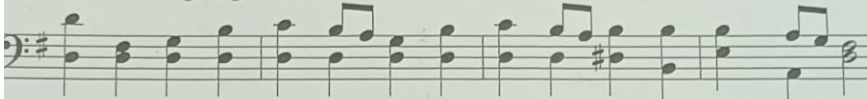
- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
- 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
- 4 Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



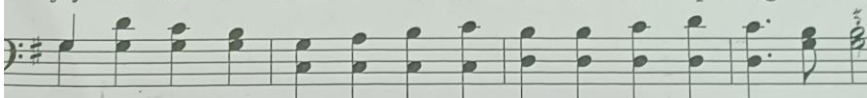
hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, join - ing all with - in its span.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the dark of doubt a - way
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er— all who live in love are thine
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine
joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward in the tri - umph song of life



May We Never Forget

"On this day... 22 years (September 10th) ago, 246 people went to sleep in preparation for their morning flights. 2,606 people went to sleep in preparation for work in the morning. 343 firefighters went to sleep in preparation for their morning shift. 60 police officers went to sleep in preparation for morning patrol. 8 paramedics went to sleep in preparation for the morning shift. None of them saw past 10:00 am Sept 11, 2001. In one single moment life may never be the same. As you live and enjoy the breaths you take today and tonight before you go to sleep in preparation for your life tomorrow, kiss the ones you love, snuggle a little tighter, and never take one second of your life for granted."

—Unknown

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 Patriots Day

9:00AM 2:00PM Office Hours

7PM Darts in FH

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

No Rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:00AM 12:00PM Office Hours

7PM Consistory in FH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

10:45AM Worship in Fellowship Hall followed by
Indoor Picnic!



Rummage Sale

Rummage Sale donations can now be brought to Bethany for the Oct. 6th and Oct. 7th sale. Please bring them to the Sunday school room to the right of the stage. Also please sign up for any help that you are able to give or contact Sharon Haines @ momhainesx4@al.com or 610-570-9166

Thank you!