

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



Jesus Rebukes Peter

September 3, 2023 Fourteenth 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 3, 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: "He Leadeth Me/Tell the Nations" Bradbury, Nichol, Walch, arr. Schram

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give thanks to the Holy One!

Many: The God of our ancestors is with us!

One: Give thanks to the Holy One!

Many: We call upon the name of our God, and our God responds.

One: Give thanks to the Holy One!

Many: The steadfast and faithful love of our God lasts forever!

*HYMN: #314 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Forgiving God, we acknowledge that repentance opens the door to forgiveness and transformation. We turn from our desire for comfort over compassion, easy solutions or challenging resolution, and avoidance over confrontation. We need your strength, fortitude, and conviction to overcome our fear of loss to make room

for the gains of new life for ourselves and our neighbors through our generous and sacrificial living. Hear now our personal petitions for Your grace...

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***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 105: 1-11

Romans 12: 9-21

*Matthew 16: 21-28

Leader: This is the Good News

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: "Whose Side Are You On?"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "God is so Good/ Where He Leads Me" ...
arr. J. Coates, Jr.

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: #350 The Summons

*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: Gail Correll

USHERS: Barbara Backensto, Gail Correll

LAY READER: Dan Sabetti

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 12: 9 – 21 NRSV

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16: 21 – 28 NRSV

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be

killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance^[a] to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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!

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. 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 and Sherri Gangewere. Please keep the Task Force in your prayers.

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus 344

Unison ^C

1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -
 2 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be -
 3 Though none go with me, I still will fol - low, though none go
 4 Will you de - cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
 hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -
 with me, I still will fol - low, though none go with me, I still will
 cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de - cide now to fol - low

Je - sus— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fore me— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fol - low— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 Je - sus?— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

^C ^{C7} ^F ^C ^{C/G} ^{D9/A} ^{G7/B} ^C

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. Thank you!

The Summons

Unison

1 Will you come and fol - low me if I but
 2 Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but
 3 Will you let the blind - ed see if I but
 4 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but

call your name? Will you go where you don't
 call your name? Will you care for cruel and
 call your name? Will you set the pris - oners
 call my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same? Will you
 kind and nev - er be the same? Will you
 free and nev - er be the same? Will you
 you and nev - er be the same. In your

let my love be shown, will you let my
 risk the hos - tile stare should your life at
 kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?
prayer in you and you in me?
mean in you and you in me?
grow in you and you in me.

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 Labor Day

Office Closed

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal

7PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

9:30AM 1:30PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

10AM Worship in Fellowship Hall



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. A copy is on the back table please verify information is correct. This is your last chance I plan to run new directories next week. Thanks!