



Bethany Beeline

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

600 West Market Street

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

(610) 868-4441

Email: bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com www.uccbethany.org

“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 23-11

NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday, November 5 – All Saint's Day

10:45 a.m. Worship with Communion

Sunday, November 12

10:45 a.m. Worship

Sunday, November 19 Harvest Home and Thanksgiving

10:45 a.m. Worship with collection of Canned Goods

Sunday, November 26

10:45 a.m. Worship

REMEMBER to turn your clocks BACK one hour on Saturday night, Nov.4 for All Saints Sunday.

Dear Bethany Church Family,



I hope you are doing well in this beautiful Fall season with the changing of the leaves and cooler temperatures. CHANGE is something that has always been part of nature as well as the human condition. The other day I had my annual checkup with my doctor to fulfill the requirement of Medicare. With an EKG it was discovered that I have A-Fib with a pretty high heartbeat. I am now in this club with millions of people, mostly seniors. I trust that the cardioversion will restore my normal heart function.

So.....CHANGE happened to me and it was unexpected but needed to be faced with faith and with a plan.

So, it is for Bethany Church. Last January I wrote to you that with a fast deteriorating building we may be facing the hard decision to move in a new direction before having no choice but to move out.

The Bethany Futuring Project was developed and on Sunday, June 25 90 percent of the gathered body of members commissioned a Task Force to explore area churches to recommend to the Bethany family. On Sunday, October 22 Matt Miller shared the updated report of the Task Force with the encouragement of Bethany members to visit two area churches: St. Thomas UCC, Macada Rd. Bethlehem and St. John's UCC, Fullerton to experience for yourselves. In a handed-out packet are dates: Oct. 29, Nov. 12, 19 and 26. You might visit St. Johns on Nov.12 since Pastor Debra will be away from St. Thomas that Sunday. Please take this opportunity with an open mind and faith filled heart. And, remember Bethany with your envelope giving. On Sunday, Dec.3 you will have the opportunity to share feedback of your church visits after worship, here at Bethany. The beautiful hymn "Abide with Me" just came to mind. The second verse is:

"Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day.
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O Thou who changest not, abide with me."
May God abide with us all in Christ in these days forward.

P.S. Consistory approved at their last meeting that I be contracted to provide Transitional Pastoral Care after I officially retire at the end of this calendar year. That means visitation to our homebound members, hospital visits and being on call for the spiritual well-being of the Bethany family. Sunday Pastoral Supply for worship will be arranged and announced soon.

Pastor Todd



A note from our Music Director:

Most people you talk to these days seem to mention that time is going by so fast and where do the hours in a day go? I've really been pondering a different question lately, and that is, where have 50 years gone? In reality, I know that much has occurred since the time I stepped through the doors of Bethany UCC, but 50 years? How amazing is the journey that we as a church family have been on in the musical worship of our Lord. That was beautifully celebrated on October 15th when the congregation honored me for my 50 years as Director of Music at Bethany UCC. I want to thank everyone involved in the planning and execution of the day's events and all those in attendance. Additional thanks for the monetary congregational gift and the many cards and written letters of congratulations. I am acutely aware that all that I

have accomplished has been done with support and commitment from Bethany musicians and the blessings from our Lord. Please know how grateful I am for the wonderful years we have spent together in Bethany's Music Ministry and for the friendships made, and the fellowship shared.

Continuing on...rehearsals for the Handbell and Chancel Choir in November are on Wednesday Nov. 1, 15, and 29. Chancel Choir members and those wanting to participate in the Live Nativity Pageant Choir on Dec. 9th and 10th, please sign up in the choir room. Rehearsal for this event will be on Wed. Nov. 29th at 8:15 pm. The Handbell Choir will provide anthems on Sunday Nov. 5th and 19th. We will truly celebrate and praise the Lord with a variety of musical styles on Sunday Nov. 19th, Thanksgiving Sunday. No matter what the days bring...we are admonished to sing and make joyful music to our God, always thankful for His great and wonderful gifts.

Susan Denninger Wright



Thanks!

The Rummage Sale made \$1,020. MANY THANKS to Gail Correll, Sharon Haines, Dick Roberts and all who served at the sale and gave donations.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Robert Frankenfield
14 Lyndell Robinson
18 Cassandra Haines-Riiska
 Courtney Dupre
21 Beverly Rumble
24 Terry Stauffer
26 Diane Brunner
 Barbara Wagner



The following couples have anniversaries in November:

11 Joan & Kenneth Mathias, Jr.
14 Susan & Thomas Wright, III

DID I MISS ANYONE? If so, call the church office



*A Service of Thanksgiving will be held
Wednesday, November 22 at 7pm at St.
Thomas UCC, 902 E. Macada Road,
Bethlehem. Please bring an item for the Food
Collection for New Bethany.*

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 484-358-3735 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 Sigafoos
Robert Frankenfield
Roger Wagner
Susan Wuchter
Steve Tarasuk
Ashley Tarasuk
John Talijan
Ruth Smith
Fred Ackerman
Rebecca and Len Kesselring
Susan Wuchter
Beverly Stephanko
Todd Fennell



Those Who Will Serve

November 5 – All Saints Day

Flowers: Linda Hollabaugh

Bulletins: Linda Hollabaugh

Greeters: Corey Tancin

Ushers: Consistory

Reader: Bill Rumble

Altar Guild: Gail Correll

November 12

Flowers: Sabetti

Bulletins: Sabetti

Greeters: Jack and Diane Brunner

Ushers: Jack Brunner, Steve Tarasuk

Reader: Mike Reiniger

November 19 - Harvest Home and Thanksgiving

Flowers: Sue Wright

Bulletins: Sue Wright

Greeters: Cindy Beck

Ushers: Tom Hoffert, Len Kesselring

Reader: Sue Wright

November 26

Flowers: Rebecca Kesselring

Bulletins: Rebecca Kesselring

Greeters: Barbara Backensto and Lisa Williams

Ushers: Barbara Backensto and Bob Ruhe

Reader: Bob Ruhe

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1st All Saints Day
5:30PM Handbell Choir
7PM Chancel Choir
- 5th All Saints Sunday
10:45AM Worship with Communion
- 7th Election Day Voting @ Bethany
- 9th 7PM Consistory
- 12th 10:45AM Worship
- 15th 5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal
7PM Chancel Choir
- 19th Harvest Home/Thanksgiving Sunday
10:45AM Worship
- 22rd 7PM Thanksgiving Eve Service @ Trinity UCC
- 23th Happy Thanksgiving Day
- 26th 10:45AM Worship
- 29th 5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal
7PM Chancel Choir

It's Your Turn . . .

The Congregational Futuring Task Force visited three area UCC congregations during September and October. They attended worship, toured the building, reviewed annual reports and newsletters, and met with the pastor and consistory members for questions and conversation. Of the three, the task force felt that St. John's UCC on William Penn Highway would not be a good fit. However, two other congregations gained positive ratings from the Task Force Members.

We now want you to visit and experience Sunday worship at these two:

St. Thomas UCC 902 E. Macada Rd. Bethlehem
Rev. Debra Hess, Pastor WORSHIP at 10:15 AM
Website: stthomasuccbeth.org

St. John's UCC (Fullerton) 575 Grape St. Whitehall
Rev. Steve Davis, Pastor WORSHIP at 9:30 AM
Website: stjohnsuccfullerton.org


Here's the plan:

1. Make your worship visit on October 29, November 12, 19, or 26 (not November 5).
2. Attached are two Worship Evaluation Forms so you can make notes about your visits. Also, there is a sheet listing the Amenities and Leadership elements of each congregation.
3. Gather on December 3 after worship with the rest of the Bethany congregation for a time of discussion about your visits.
4. Don't forget to maintain your weekly offering to Bethany even when you are visiting other congregations. The Bethany expenses continue, particularly now in the heating season.

Congregational Futuring Project

Worship Evaluation Form

1. Give an example of the hospitality you experienced.
2. What was your impression of the building?
3. How was the worship environment inspirational for you?
4. What did you learn from the sermon?
5. Were you uplifted/inspired by the hymns and anthem?
6. How did you sense the presence of the Holy during worship?
7. Is there anything else about your visit that you want to note.



Messiah
Sing

Christmas Portion
Come to sing in the
chorus or to listen

Four Soloists
Wednesday, December 6th

7:30pm

Nazareth Moravian Church
4 S. Main Street
Nazareth, Pa 18064

Celebrating their 276th year
(just 8 years after Handel's Composition)

All singers need to register
(Name & Voice Part)

To: Rev. Todd Fennell, Director
by Sunday, December 3

trjfnl@gmail.com

Free Will Offering
Social to Follow

Bethany UCC
W. Market Street
600 Bethlehem PA 18018-5299
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

