

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Hours: Mon, Tues and Thurs. 9:00-1:00

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



November 19, 2023

Twenty-Fifth 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

November 19, 2023

10:45 AM

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)**

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Native American Flute ...Jerry Miller
"We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer"
(We Gather Together) ...C. Dobrinski
Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Praise the Lord. I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.

P: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who have pleasure in them.

L: He provides food for those who fear Him; God is ever mindful of His covenant.

P: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. A good understanding all those who practice it. Let us worship God!

*HYMN: #721 Come Ye Thankful People Come
Brass Quartet and Organ

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

O God, giver of all things, we are grateful for the many blessings You give to us. Help us to remember them and to return to You our very lives in service of one another. As you provide feasts for our bodies bless us with love

and grace and strength for our souls, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #81 We Gather Together vs.1

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing, sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

ANTHEM: "Sing A Song of Thanks" ...A. Vivaldi
Chancel Choir

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalm 103: 1-8

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

* Luke 17: 11-19

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "A Good Old Recipe"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Let the People Praise" ...B. Red
Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #724 Sing to the Lord of Harvest vs.1

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise; with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise.

By him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move; sing to the Lord of harvest a joyous song of love.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy God, You are the maker of heaven and earth. Accept these offerings we present to You today. May they become vessels of support for your work in this church and in Your world. Consecrate us anew as living sacrifices, to Your service. In Jesus name we pray, 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: # 14 Now Thank We All Our God
Brass Quartet and Organ**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION: #723 For the Fruit of All Creation
vs.3**

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God. For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE: For the Beauty of the Earth
Brass Quartet**

Our worship ends, our service begins!

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



FLOWERS and BULLETINS: are in loving memory of husband, father and “Pappy” Harry W. Denninger by wife Ina, daughters Susan and Diane, and grandchildren Meghann, Matthew, Laura and Katherine.

GREETERS: Cindy Beck

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Len Kesselring

LAY READER: Sue Wright

Many, many thanks to all of our Bethany musicians who have made this a special morning and a true celebration of thankfulness and praise.

Scriptures

Psalm 103: 1 – 8 NRSV

- ¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.
- ² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—
- ³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- ⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- ⁶ The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,

his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

2 Corinthians 9: 9 - 15 NRSV

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written,

“He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Luke 17: 11 - 19 NRSV

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, “Jesus,

Master, have mercy on us!” 14 When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. 16 He prostrated himself at Jesus’s feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? 18 Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?” 19 Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 Harvest Home

10:45 Worship in the Sanctuary, join us as we celebrate Thanksgiving and collect canned goods for those in need.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours
7PM Darts vs. East Hills

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

7PM Thanksgiving Eve Service @ both St. Thomas and St. John’s

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23 Happy Thanksgiving

Office Closed

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

10:45 Worship in the Sanctuary

PNEC Meeting recap Saturday. November 4, 2023

I had the opportunity to be part of the Fall Hybrid Meeting. The presentation at 10:15 couldn't have been more relevant to the work of the Congregational Futuring task force and Bethany UCC. The focus of the Pennsylvania UCC conference leadership has been the creation of a Keystone UCC to more effectively serve the Pennsylvania UCC churches. Over the last 6-8 months the leadership of the PNEC, PSEC, Penn Central and Penn West UCC have met and discussed how they could be more effective resource in the support of our churches mission efforts. It became clear early in these discussions that merging the 4 conferences was the optimal solution in support of the local churches. In the past there had been discussions without a resolution but this new structure as a more effective unified approach was inescapable. As a result of that early discovery moment this Keystone group's conversations then focused on how to best serve the UCC worship communities, how this would forge new relationships, and increase mission opportunities. As was stated, the merger was seen not as an end but as a new beginning. The use of the term communities was intentional as the community was no longer defined as a physical location. One of the questions that kept the conversations future-focused was "are we holding onto what we were as to what we can become" in moving our missions forward. I think this question strikes at the heart of our own "futuring" project. Are we, as a community of Christians best served by holding onto what we were and try to "go back to the Future", or focus on what we can become when we join forces with like-minded Christians?

I hope that each of you have taken or will take the opportunity to attend the services of one of those like-minded Christian communities (St. John's UCC or St. Thomas') so that we can have an informed open conversation after our worship service on December 3rd.

Your brother-in-Christ

Matthew Miller

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:

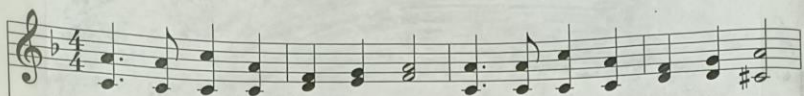
**St. Thomas UCC 902 E. Macada Rd. Bethlehem
Rev. Debra Hess, Pastor WORSHIP at 10:15 AM
Website: stthomasuccbeth.org**

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

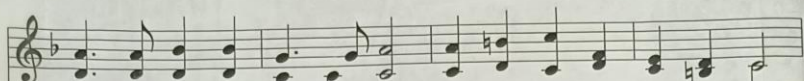
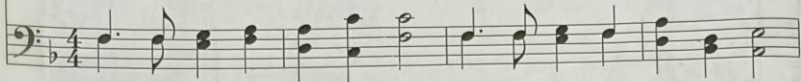
- 1. Make your worship visit on 19, or 26**
- 2. There are Packets in the rear of the Sanctuary with Worship Evaluation Forms so you can make notes about your visits. Also, there is a sheet listing the Amenities and Leadership elements of each congregation.**
- 3. Gather on December 3 after worship with the rest of the Bethany congregation for a time of discussion about your visits.**

**Both Churches are also offering services on
Thanksgiving Eve @ 7pm**

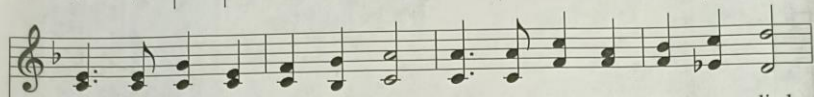
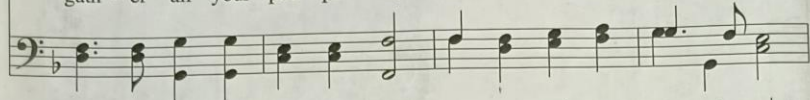
721 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



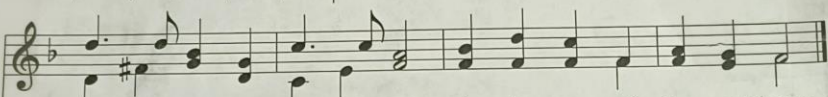
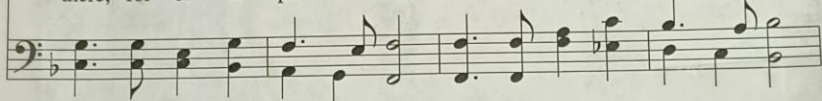
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un-to his praise to yield,
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home,
 4 E-ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to your fi-nal har-vest home,



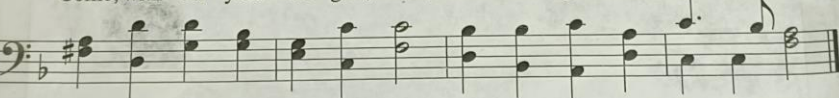
All is safe-ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be-gin.
 wheat and tares to- geth-er sown, un-to joy or sor-rows grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of-fens-es purge a-way,
 gath-er all your peo-ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our ma-ker, does pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied;
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap-pear,
 give his an-gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for-ev-er pu-ri-fied, in your pres-ence to a-bide.



come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.
 Lord of har-vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit-ful ears to store in his gar-ner ev-er-more.
 Come, with all your an-gels, come, raise the glo-rious har-vest home.



WORDS: Henry Alford (1810-1871) alt

ST GEORGE'S WINDSOR

14 Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice - es,
 2 O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

who won - drous things has done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to - cheer us;
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en,

who, from our moth - er's arms, has blessed us on our way
 and keep us in his grace and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God whom earth and heaven a - dore;

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

WORDS: Merrin Binkart (1586-1649); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.

NUN DANKET ALLE GOT

POINSETTIA PLANTS



Anyone wishing to place a poinsettia plant in our Sanctuary to help decorate and beautify our church for the Christmas holidays, is asked to fill in the necessary information below and return it to the church office accompanied by your payment. Checks are payable to "Bethany

UCC" marked Poinsettia in your memo area. **The deadline for all orders is Sunday, December 17.**

RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO CHURCH OFFICE

_____ Red Poinsettias @ \$10.00 a plant

IN MEMORY OF _____ or _____ IN HONOR OF
(circle one)

Please place in bulletin as follows:

Given by:

_____ DONATION ONLY (Money is given directly to the Church)

_____ I want the poinsettia plant(s)

TOTAL _____