

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Hours: Mon, Tues and Thurs. 9:30-1:30

Church Office: 610-868-4441

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Pastor Todd Fennell

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music



November 5, 2023

All Saints Sunday

## **“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 5, 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: "Shall We Gather at the River?" ... arr. D. E. Wagner  
Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**P: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.**

L: O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in Him.

**P: The Lord redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge will be condemned. Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN: #298 I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Holy and merciful God, often we find the cost of discipleship far too high and are more ready to admire the saints than to imitate them - to praise them than to follow where they have led. We give our lives to the pursuit of worldly success and pleasure rather than spending ourselves for the sake of the kingdom. We**

**seek glory and power and give little thought to those who stumble and fall along the way. But in Christ You have set before us a better way. Forgive our sinful and selfish choices and lead us to paths of holiness and service; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also, with you.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison): #533 Joy in the Morning vs.1&2**

**There'll be joy in the morning on that day, there'll be joy in the morning on that day, for the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone, there'll be joy in the morning on that day. There'll be peace and contentment evermore, there'll be peace and contentment evermore, every heart, every voice on that day will rejoice, there'll be peace and contentment evermore.**

**READING OF SCRIPTURES**

Psalm 107: 1-9

I Thessalonians 2:9-13

\* Matthew 23: 1-2

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

**SERMON: "A Noble Ambition"**

**IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR SAINTS: WE RECOGNIZE AND REMEMBER**

Darlene Yocum

August 19, 2023

PRAYER: Pastor: O God, our strength and our redeemer, giver of life and conqueror of death, we praise you with humble hearts. With faith in your great mercy and wisdom, we entrust these saints to your eternal care. We praise you for your steadfast love for them all of the days of their earthly life. We thank you for all that they were to those who loved them and for their faithfulness to your church. We thank you that for these beloved, all sickness and sorrow is ended, death itself is past, and they have entered the home where all your people gather in peace.

**C Keep us all in communion with your faithful people in every time and place, that at last we may rejoice together in the heavenly family where Jesus Christ reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. All: Amen.**

#### OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "My Lord, What A Mornin'" ...M. Helvey  
Chancel Choir

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #34 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

#### \*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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (pg.7)

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: #296 For All the Saints

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #521 O Love That Will Not Let  
Me Go vs.1

**O Love that will not let me go. I rest my weary soul in  
thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean  
depths its flow may richer, fuller be.**

POSTLUDE

***Our worship ends, our service begins!***



FLOWERS and BULLETINS Wayne Kenneth Hollabaugh  
Happy Birthday November 3 Love of my Life and Richard  
Lee Hollabaugh Light of my life by Linda Hollabaugh

GREETERS: Corey Tancin

USHERS: Consistory

LAY READER: Bill Rumble

# Scriptures

## Psalm 107: 1 – 9 NRSV

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. <sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble <sup>3</sup> and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. <sup>4</sup> Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; <sup>5</sup> hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. <sup>6</sup> Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; <sup>7</sup> he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. <sup>8</sup> Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. <sup>9</sup> For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

## 1 Thessalonians 2: 9 - 13 NRSV

<sup>9</sup> You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. <sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. <sup>11</sup> As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, <sup>12</sup> urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. <sup>13</sup> We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

## Matthew 23: 1 - 2 NRSV

**23** Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses's seat;

## An Order for Communion

Invitation:

M: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**C: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth, and children, come from the east and the west, from the north, and the south, and gather about Christ's table.**

Call to Prayer:

M: God be with you.

**C: And also, with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to God.**

M: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

**Congregational Response: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know You as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen**

The Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving(unison)

**We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## \*For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.  
R. Vaughan Williams, 1906

William W. How, 1864, alt.

*Unison*

1. For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, Who thee by  
 2. Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might: Thou, Lord, their  
 3. O may thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold, Fight as the  
 4. O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine! We fee - bly  
 5. And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long, Steals on the

faith be - fore the world con - fessed, Thy name O Je - sus, be for - ev - er  
 cap - tain in the well - fought fight; Thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true  
 saints who no - bly fought of old, And win with them the vic - tor's crown of  
 strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; Yet all are one in thee, for all are  
 ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, And hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are

blest.  
 light.  
 gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 thine.  
 strong.



## Hold on to Faith

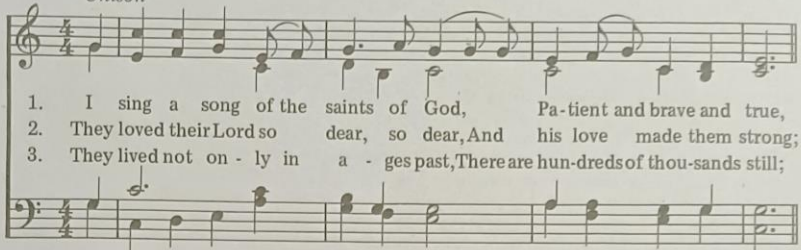
It's been almost a week since we celebrated Halloween. You might know Halloween as a day for trick-or-treating, costumes and kids' parties. But did you know that it started as a holy day? In fact, the root word of Halloween (hallow) means holy. The ending of the word, "een" is short for "evening." Halloween is the eve of the Christian holiday of All Saints Day.

Traditionally, Halloween was the day to defy death, to shout to evil, "Our God is greater and we are not afraid of you!" Centuries ago, Celtic people gathered on this day around bonfires, wore costumes and enacted battles between forces of good and evil. Some of the rituals we still follow today, like scary costumes and jack-o-lanterns, continue that tradition.

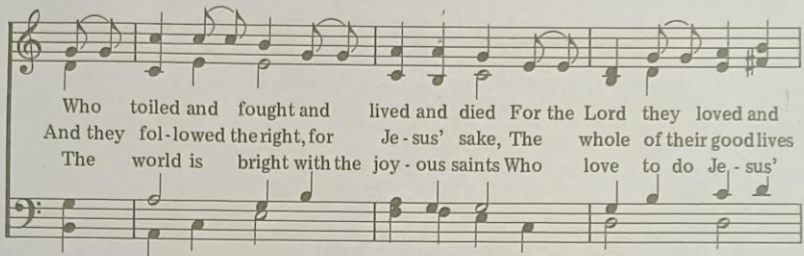
All Saints Day, officially on November 1 but often celebrated in United Church of Christ congregations on the first Sunday in November, is a day to remember and honor saintly people in the past. On this day, we might recall those people in our congregation, family or wider church community who have had an impact on the world in God's name. The following day, November 2, is officially All Souls Day. On this day, we honor everyone who has passed away, especially those who lived ordinary lives which did not garner recognition like the Saints. Many churches combine All Saints and All Souls celebrations as a reminder that God welcomes all into the tender arms of love and mercy in the life that is to come.

However, you celebrated this week, or continued in your worship today, this week is a powerful one that can in many ways mirror the entire Christian journey. Beginning with the ancient rituals of Halloween, you have had the chance to look death in the face and proclaim that you are not afraid, because you know that the eternal life God promises is stronger than death. Then, on all Saints Day, you recognize the power of those whose connection to God is especially visible. Finally, on All Souls Day, you celebrate a God whose love encompasses all, now and into eternity. Thanks be to God!

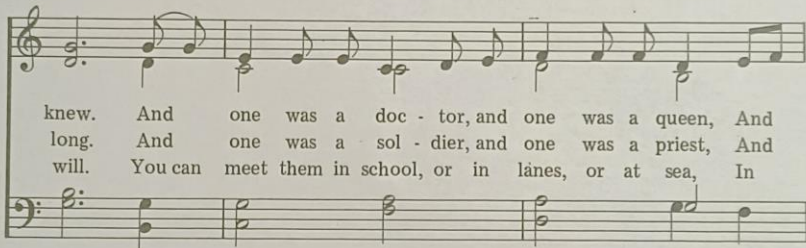
## I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

*Lesbia Scott, 1929, alt.**GRAND ISLE Irregular  
John H. Hopkins, 1940**Unison*


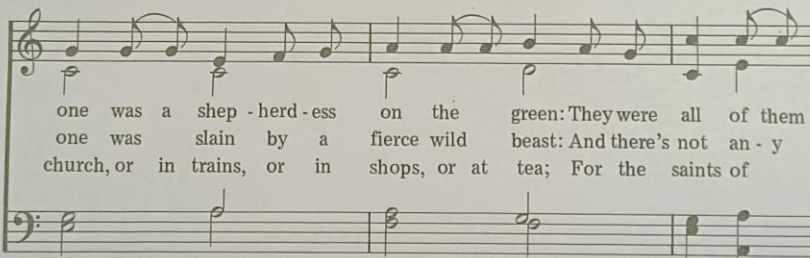
1. I sing a song of the saints of God, Pa-tient and brave and true,  
2. They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, And his love made them strong;  
3. They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, There are hun-dreds of thou-sands still;



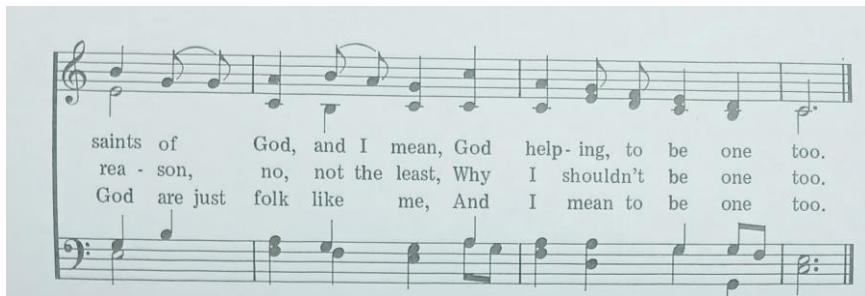
Who toiled and fought and lived and died For the Lord they loved and  
And they fol-lowed the right, for Je - sus' sake, The whole of their good lives  
The world is bright with the joy - ous saints Who love to do Je - sus'



knew. And one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, And  
long. And one was a sol - dier, and one was a priest, And  
will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, In



one was a shep - herd - ess on the green: They were all of them  
one was slain by a fierce wild beast: And there's not an - y  
church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea; For the saints of



### *Darlene Mohring Yocum*

*Darlene was born on January 29, 1948 and passed away from cancer on August 19, 2023. She was a graduate of Liberty High school. Darlene loved working with children and was the director of Sunday school at Christ UCC and Bethany UCC for many years as well as running Vacation Bible School and fundraisers.*

*She was married to Ken Yocum for 36 years and adopted his children once they were married.*

*Darlene enjoyed being a grandmother and spending as much time with them as possible.*

*Other things that Darlene enjoyed were yard sales, collecting light houses and always having a dog in her life.*

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 All Saints Day**

10:45          Worship in the Sanctuary, join us as we honor the Bethany Saints and celebrate communion

### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6**

9:30AM          1:30PM Office Hours  
7PM              Darts here vs. First UCC

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 Election Day**

12:00PM        4:00PM Office Hours

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

9:00AM          1:00PM Office Hours  
7PM              Consistory in Fellowship Hall

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

Veteran's Day, Thank a Vet!

### **NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

10:45          Worship in the Sanctuary

### **Don't Forget to Vote!**

**Tuesday is Election Day here in Pennsylvania. Please remember to get out and vote. A wise woman (my daughter Jennie) is fond of asking people who complain about the government, "Did You Vote?" if they answer "No" she says "Then don't complain" So remember get out and vote!**

### *Veteran's Day*

*"America without her soldiers would be like God without his angels." – Claudia Pemberton*