

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Hours: Mon and Fri 9:00-1:00 and Wed 1:00-5:00

Church Office: 610-868-4441

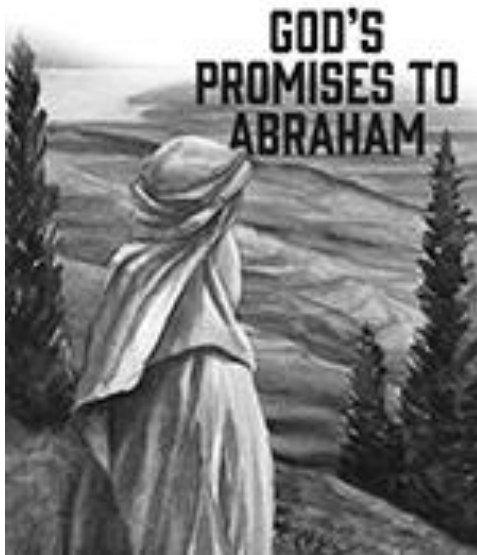
E-Mail: [bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com](mailto:bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com)

**Web address:** [www.uccbethany.org](http://www.uccbethany.org)

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music

Rev. Dr. David H. DeRemer, Supply Pastor



January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

**“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

January 28, 2024

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: "Ever Faithful, Ever Near" ...F. Ritter

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: From the midst of our real lives with their very real problems,

**C: We come to seek courage and strength from the presence of God and the support of one another.**

P: As persons who love imperfectly and are loved imperfectly,

**C: We come to be renewed by the perfect love of God, proclaimed in the community of Love and faith.,**

P: Let us worship, with hearts open to the love of God, with hands outstretched to one another,

**C: And with our whole selves willing to accept the cost and joy of being Christ's disciples.**

\*HYMN: # 501 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**God of grace and glory, we thank you that you judge us not by the perfection of our actions, but by our readiness to live boldly by faith. Help us, as individuals and as a congregation, to trust you and follow where you lead, that in Christ your name may be glorified in all the earth. Amen.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE:**

Leader: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you" Let us offer each other a sign of peace. 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 SCRIPTURES**

Gen 12:1-9

\*Matt 9:9-13; 18-26

Leader: This is the Good News

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON: "Promise Made"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Be Thou My Vision" ...arr. A. Parker  
Chancel Choir

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #44 Doxology**

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

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS, GIFTS AND SELF**

**God of Light. We present these gifts with love. We rejoice in our ability to share, but long to do more. Help us to be like the magi and carefully plan the gifts we bring you. May we not be satisfied with what is enough, but instead be inspired to do more. May these gifts be used so others may know the hope that is found in you. In His 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: #566 Your Servant Comes This Hour**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: #717 Go Now in Peace vs.1**

**Go now in peace; though friends must part, your presence lives in every heart. Your gifts to us no words can tell: go now in peace, in Christ go well.**

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

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



FLOWERS: and BULLETINS: are presented by Len and Rebecca Kesselring to honor the Glory of God.

GREETERS: Corey Tancin

USHERS: Corey Tancin, Tom Hoffert

LAY READER: Eric Derr

## Scriptures

### Genesis 12: 1 - 9 NRSV

**12** Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

## **Matthew 9: 9 – 13; 18 – 26 NRSV**

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>12</sup> But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

<sup>18</sup> While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” <sup>19</sup> And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. <sup>20</sup> Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, <sup>21</sup> for she was saying to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” <sup>22</sup> Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that moment. <sup>23</sup> When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, <sup>24</sup> he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup> But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. <sup>26</sup> And the report of this spread through all of that district.

**AUDIO & VIDEO RECORDINGS** If you or anyone you know would like to receive the link to the audio recording of the worship service, please let Bill Rumble know at [wrumble@ptd.net](mailto:wrumble@ptd.net). A copy of the bulletin is included with the audio link. Thank you, Bill, for making sure we are able to see and hear the services.

## **CHURCH CANCELLATIONS**

If worship is cancelled due to weather conditions, announcements will be on TV Channel 69 – WFMZ. Also, if we have your email address, an email will be sent.

## **Sponsor A Bill**

**It's time to renew our CCLI License which is an important tool for our music ministry. If you would like to pay all or a portion of this the cost for the year is \$158.00. Please let the office know if you would like to help.**

## *Special Congregational Meeting*

*A special congregational Meeting is called by Consistory for Sunday Feb. 11, immediately after church. The agenda is to adopt a budget and consider issues regarding Bethany's future. Committee chairpersons please submit reports by January 29 for inclusion in the Annual Report. Please plan to stay for this important meeting.*



## **Moravian Sugar Cake Fundraiser**

**Pickup Tuesday, February 13**

**8AM – 2PM**

**Essentials Cafe**

**418 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Bethlehem**

**\$10 each**

**Call to order: 610-865-0256**

*\*8 inch square cakes*

***\*\*All proceeds benefit Essentials Café\*\****

***\*\*Sponsored by West Side Moravian Church \*\****



# 501 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

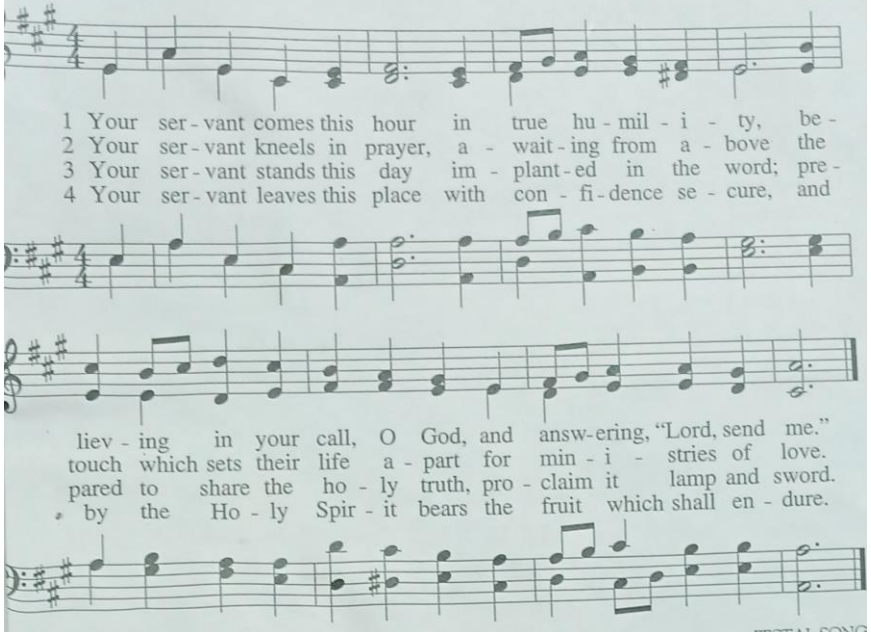
1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land;  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;

I am weak, but thou art might - y—hold me with thy power - ful hand;  
 let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through;  
 bear me through the swell - ing cur - rent, land me safe on Ca - naan's side:

Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no  
 Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and  
 Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to

more, (want no more,) feed me till I want no more.  
 shield, (strength and shield,) be thou still my strength and shield.  
 thee, (give to thee,) I will ev - er give to thee.

## Your Servant Comes This Hour 566



1 Your ser - vant comes this hour in true hu - mil - i - ty, be -  
2 Your ser - vant kneels in prayer, a - wait - ing from a - bove the  
3 Your ser - vant stands this day im - plant - ed in the word; pre -  
4 Your ser - vant leaves this place with con - fi - dence se - cure, and

liev - ing in your call, O God, and ans - w - ering, "Lord, send me."  
touch which sets their life a - part for min - i - stries of love.  
pared to share the ho - ly truth, pro - claim it lamp and sword.  
by the Ho - ly Spir - it bears the fruit which shall en - dure.

FESTAL SONG

***Those Who Serve***  
***New schedules have been printed and are in the rear of the Sanctuary for those who serve.***

### **Poinsettias**

**On the windowsills in the sanctuary are some Bethany orphans. These poinsettias graced our sanctuary on Christmas Eve and for a few weeks after. I have been tending them but they are lonely and would love to go home with you. Please take one if you would like if not, I will continue to provide them with love and care.**

**Debbie**

## *The Footprints Prayer*

*One night I had a dream...I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and Across the sky flashed scenes from my life.*

*For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; One belonged to me, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of my life flashed before us, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times along the path of my life, there was only one set of footprints.*

*I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life This really bothered me, and I questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, You would walk with me all the way; But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I needed you the most, you should leave me.*

*The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child. I love you, and I would never, never leave you during your times of trial and suffering.*

*When you saw only one set of footprints, It was then that I carried you.*

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

### **TODAY SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Dave DeRemer. There will be a brief consistory meeting after service.

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 29**

9:00AM      1:00PM Office Hours  
Beeline Articles Due  
7PM              Darts @ Bethany vs. East Hills

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31**

1PM 5PM Office Hours  
5:30PM      Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
7PM              Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

9:00AM      1:00PM Office Hours

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

10:45AM      Worship in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Dave DeRemer.

**From the Secretary,**

**Since things have changed here at Bethany there will be some changes made to the office hours. I will still be here three days a week but some of the days and times will change. Starting January 8<sup>th</sup>, I will work Monday from 9am – 1pm, Wednesday from 1pm – 5pm and Friday from 9am – 1pm. I will change the bulletin and answering machine to reflect these changes. As always it never hurts to call first if you are stopping by.**

**Thank you,  
Debbie**