

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

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Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music

Rev. Dr. David H. DeRemer, Supply Pastor



February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

“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

February 18, 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: Grace Greater than Our Sin ...arr. Smith/Hustad
Piano – Rebecca Kesselring Organ – Susan Wright

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Welcome, travelers, to the journey of faith.

C: We come to join with Christ in his journey to the cross

P: We come to respond to God's call to the church

C: We come to accept the cost and joy of discipleship.

P: Come people of God. Let us worship and give thanks.

C: Let us worship the God of the cross and the empty tomb

*HYMN: #272(E&R) There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, we confess our reluctance to understand your will and our hesitancy to act upon it. We are quick to blame others and slow to accept responsibility for ourselves. We desire some guarantee of your favor. At the same time, we shudder to think about the suffering of the cross and what it portends for us and for our world. Submerge us in your Spirit. Grant us faith to perceive good arising from evil and to sense your immediate presence always in our midst. Amen.

*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

*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): #270 O

How

He Loves You and Me

O how he loves you and me, O how he loves you and me; he gave his life – what more could he give? O how he loves you, O how he loves me, O how he loves you and me!

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Psalm 126

*Mark 5:1-13

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Jesus and the Demon Possessed Man"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Wings of the Dawn" ... L.A. Spencer
Chancel Choir

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: #470(E&R) Savior Thy Dying Love

Savior thy dying love Thou gavest me, Nor should I aught with-hold, Dear Lord, from Thee; in love my soul would bow, My heart fulfil its vow, Some offering bring Thee now, Something for Thee.

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

God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in a dark world. Accept these gifts of money and time, indeed, the gift of our very selves. May they bring your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness. Let them shine for all to see. 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: #93 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION: #393 Blest Be the Tie That Binds
From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reigns through all
eternity.**

Our worship ends, our service begins!



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

GREETERS: Cindy Beck

USHERS: Cindy Beck, Bob Ruhe

LAY READER: Diane Diefenderfer

Scriptures

Psalm 126 NRSV

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

⁵ May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

⁶ Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

Mark 5: 1 - 13 NRSV

⁵ They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes. ² And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. ³ He lived among the tombs, and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain, ⁴ for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces, and no one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from a

distance, he ran and bowed down before him, ⁷ and he shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.” ⁸ For he had said to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” ⁹ Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” ¹⁰ He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the region. ¹¹ Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding, ¹² and the unclean spirits begged him, “Send us into the swine; let us enter them.” ¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, stampeded down the steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea.

2024 Flower and Bulletin Charts are posted on the BB on the left side of the main entrance. Please note two vases will cost \$60. A rectangular arrangement will cost \$30. Silk (S) flowers will be \$10. Bulletins will cost \$10. Be sure to indicate what type of flowers you want – real or silk. We are now working with Country Rose Florist in Westgate.

Any questions, contact the church office.

As in the past, contact the office with your information for the bulletin no later than the Tuesday before your sponsored date. Thank you.

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. 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.



Anyone wishing to place a tulip, daffodil or mum in our sanctuary or make a donation for an artificial lily for Easter Sunday is asked to fill in the necessary information below and return it to the Church Office accompanied by a check. Checks can be made out to "Bethany UCC" marked Easter flowers. **The deadline for all orders is Monday, March 18.**

Thank you.

Name:

Number of Tulips @ \$10 each _____

Number of Daffodils @ \$10 each _____

Number of mums @ \$10 each _____

Artificial lily donation _____

In Loving Memory of:

or

In Honor of:

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Dave DeRemer. We begin our Lenten "Journey to the Cross"

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19 President's Day

Office Closed

7PM Darts vs. Star of Bethlehem

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

1:00PM 5:00PM Office Hours

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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 8th, 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

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Rom. 11:33
 Frederick W. Faber, 1862

GOTT WILL'S MACHEN 8.7.8.7.
 Johann Ludwig Steiner, 1735

1. There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy like the
 2. Souls of men, why will ye scat - ter like a
 3. For the love of God is broad - er than the

wide - ness of the sea; There's a kind - ness in his
 crowd of fright-ened sheep? Fool - ish hearts, why will ye
 mea - sure of man's mind, And the heart of the E -

jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
 wan - der from a love so true and deep?
 ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness 93

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light.
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word.
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - ered in our place.

Praise the One who frees the pris - oners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
Praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - ery dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand.
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
From this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - ery land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

WORDS -

NETTLETON