

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

Web address: www.uccbethany.org

Matt Miller, Consistory President

Susan Wright, Director of Music

Rev. Dr. David H. DeRemer, Supply Pastor



**God Promises Abraham
Many Descendants**

February 4, 2024

Fifth 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

February 4, 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: "Holy is the Lord" ...arr. K. Mc Chesney
Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Come, gather together like those who sat at Jesus' feet so many years ago.

C: We gather with joy, for we too want to be disciples of Christ.

P: I tell you, Christ is here with us, calling us now to life and love.,

C: Let us praise God for bringing us together, and coming to us in Jesus Christ.

*HYMN: # 17 Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

O Spirit that flows through all life, you were powerfully present in the life and ministry of Jesus. Yet many were looking for something more dramatic, someone less simple. Like them, we do not always recognize your presence. Give us hearts to respond to your Spirit that we may glorify your name in Christ Jesus. 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 17:1-16

*Mark 8:31-38

Leader: This is the Good News

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Promise Delivered"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Father, In Thy Mysterious Presence Kneeling" ... Van Denman Thompson

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 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 to be sung pg. 740

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: #2 O Worship the King**

***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!



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

GREETERS: Judy & George Morgan

USHERS: Jack Brunner, Eric Derr

LAY READER: Sue Wright

Scriptures

Genesis 17: 1 - 16 NRSV

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³ Then Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding, and I will be their God."

⁹ God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰ This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² Throughout your generations every male among you shall be circumcised when he is eight days old, including the slave born in your

house and the one bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring. ¹³ Both the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money must be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

¹⁵ God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her and also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Mark 8: 31 - 38 NRSV

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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.

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.

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.

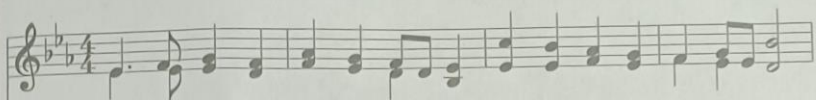
Debbie

From the Secretary,

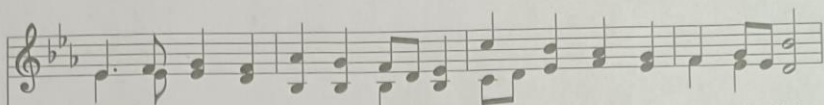
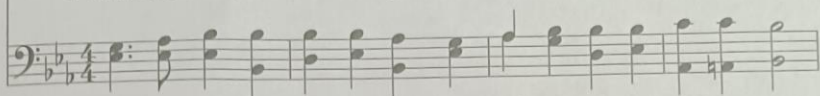
Since things have changed here at Bethany there will be some changes made to the office hours. I will still be here three days a week but some of the days and times will change. Starting January 8th, I will work Monday from 9am – 1pm, Wednesday from 1pm – 5pm and Friday from 9am – 1pm. I will change 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**

Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him 17



1 Praise the Lord! O heavens, a - dore him; praise him, an - gels in the height;
2 Praise the Lord, for he is gra - cious; nev - er shall his prom - ise fail;



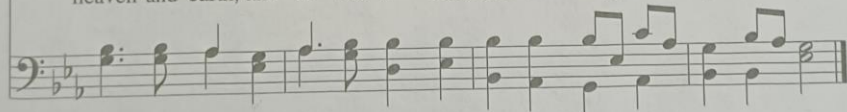
sun and moon, bow down be - fore him; praise him, shin - ing stars of light.
God has made his saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.



Praise the Lord, for he hath spo - ken; worlds his might - y voice o - beyed;
Praise the God of our sal - va - tion; hosts on high, his power pro - claim;



laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid - ance he has made.
heaven and earth, and all cre - a - tion, laud and mag - ni - fy his name.



O Worship the King

2

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O Worship the King'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 O wor-ship the King, all glo-ri-ous a-bove, O grate-ful-ly
2 O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the
3 Thy boun-ti-ful care what tongue can re-cite? It breathes in the
4 Frail chil-dren of dust, and fee-ble as frail, in thee do we

sing his power and his love; our Shield and De-fend-er, the
light, whose can-o-py space, His char-iots of wrath the deep
air, it shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it de-
trust, nor find thee to fail; thy mer-cies how ten-der, how

An-cient of Days, pa-vil-ioned in splen-dor and gird-ed with praise.
thun-der clouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
scends to the plain, and sweet-ly dis-tills in the dew and the rain.
firm to the end, our Mak-er, De-fend-er, Re-deem-er and Friend.

WORDS: Robert Grant (1779-1838); para. Psalm 104
MUSIC: Arr. Johann M. Haydn (1737-1806); William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, Vol. II, 1815

LYONS
10.10.11.11.



Sharon L. Haines

(October 21, 1962 - January 27, 2024)

Sharon L. Haines, 61, of Bethlehem, passed away peacefully while under the care of hospice in Lehigh Valley Hospital – Muhlenberg. She and her beloved husband Philip B. Haines would have celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary on Valentine’s Day.

Born in Bethlehem, she was a daughter of the late Louis J. Sr. and Anna Mae (Kram) Korpics.

A graduate of Liberty High School and Millersville University, Sharon belonged to the Parent Support Organization of the Pennsylvania Youth Theater and was a founding member of Friends of Liberty Theater. Sharon was a member of Bethany Church – UCC. She enjoyed attending Iron Pigs games with her husband and was a season ticket holder.

Sharon was an avid Donny Osmond/Osmond Family fan throughout most of her life. Recently, she attended a Marie Osmond Concert and had the exciting opportunity to meet Marie Osmond as well as several of the QVC hosts who were attending the concert.

Throughout her busy life she found the most joy when spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Surviving with her husband Philip, are children, Christopher Haines of Bethlehem, Cassandra (Samantha) Haines-Riiska of Clermont, FL, Courtney (Michael) Dupre of Davenport, FL and Cameron Haines of Bethlehem; two grandchildren Maggie and Skyler; and a step-son Jesse

Haines of Schnecksville. She was predeceased by her sister Cheryl E. Korpics in 1990.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 10, in Bethany Church, 600 W. Market Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. Burial will be private. Sharon's funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Pearson Funeral Home, Bethlehem. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Sharon's name may be sent to the church.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours
7PM Darts @ College Hill

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

1PM 5PM Office Hours

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

9:00AM 1:00PM Office Hours
6pm Private event

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

11:00AM Memorial Service for Sharon Haines

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

10:45AM Worship in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Dave DeRemer. Congregational Meeting immediately after service.