

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
January 29th, 2023 4th Sunday After Epiphany

CALL TO WORSHIP **

L: When we seek justice for the other,
when we love kindness more than ever,

P: we live as God asks us to live.

L: When we walk humbly through life,
when we offer mercy to those who hurt us,

P: we are the blessing God hopes we will be.

L: When we are willing to look foolish by following Jesus,
when we choose weakness rather than power,

P: we reflect the One who is in our midst.

HYMN "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #2

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: If we want to truly live in God's presence, we must live as God's faithful people. Let us begin by confessing all the mistakes we have made, the wrongs we have done, the people we have hurt. Join me as we pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: What have we done to you, dear God? We dishonor you every time we treat another with disrespect. We shatter your heart when we find it easier to break our word, then to take the risk to keep it. We fill your ears with the gossip, lies, and slander we speak about those around us.

**You are wise enough to forgive our foolishness;
you are strong enough to overcome our weakness;
you are loving enough to heal the hurt we cause to you and to others. And so you give us new hope and new life in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: What has God done to us - shown mercy! What has God done for us - forgiven us! This is the good news for us.

P: We will not boast, for it is not our doing. We will give thanks to God for such grace and hope.

L: Friends, Believe the Good News

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen

GLORIA PATRI

#623

CHURCH NEWS

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet your neighbor by saying, "The Peace of Christ be With You.")

REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

Offertory

Doxology

#625

Prayer of Dedication**

May we always be foolish enough to offer our gifts to you, Generous God, for you use them to bring justice to the oppressed, to bring laughter to those who mourn, and to offer wonder to little children. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Lesson	Micah 6:1-8	p. 805
New Testament Lesson	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	p.991
Gospel	Matthew 5:1-12	p.837

MESSAGE

Denise Ann Todero, CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"The Apostles' Creed"

HYMN "He Leadeth Me"

#461

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Hear our prayers, O Lord. **P: And let our cry come unto Thee.**

L: Let us bless the Lord! **P: Thanks be to God.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

#601

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: We have been nourished by God's grace and hope,

**P: and so we will go to those who hunger for justice,
as well as to those who thirst for reconciliation.**

L: We are called to follow the One who is weak and powerless,

**P: and so we will bring healing to the broken among us,
as well as comfort to those who grieve in every moment.**

L: We learn what is right and good from the Holy Spirit,

**P: and so we will go as fools to be blessings to the wise,
as well as to do not what is easy, but what is difficult.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be With You" #602

**** © Rev. Thom Shuman**

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Tina Varner

The one thing we must see is that the Beatitudes by which Jesus begins this sermon are not a mild and sentimental collection of platitudes. They are a frontal challenge to almost everything we assume about "the way it is" in the world.

The only way they make sense is if Jesus Christ himself is able to sustain the blessings that he pronounces.

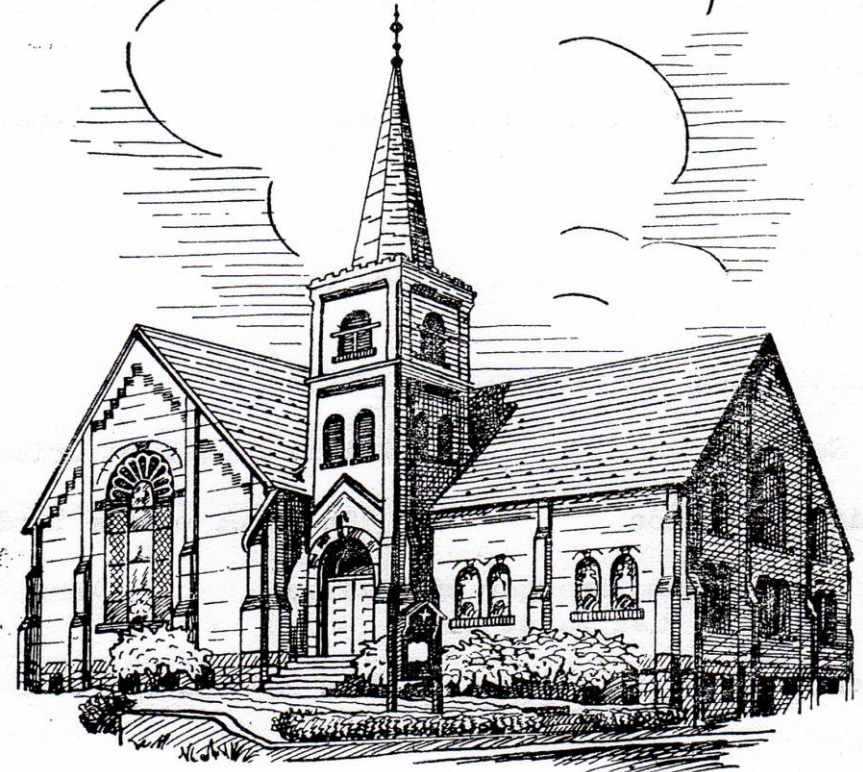
When that fact becomes our fact, and when we become convinced that Jesus Christ has the authority to support his promises, then the word "blessed" not only invites us to find the right path but also to welcome the path we find.

We now have the biblical doctrine of success.

.....Earl Palmer, *The Enormous Exception*

God doesn't bless us just to make us happy;
He blesses us to make us a blessing.....Warren Wiersbe

**BETHANY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**




814-539-9194

www.bethanyjohnstown.com

Offering: 01/22
Attendance: 12
Local 1260.00
Benev. 87.10
Improv. 73.90
Total 1421.00

Saturday January 22nd
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday January 29th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.



Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
Pastor Denise	Ruby Porch
Lois Henry	Christine Paratore
Dawna Sheets	David Hayduk
Buzz & Jeanne Lehman	Susie Keefer
Bob & Marie Whorl	Chloe Kern
Bev Holbay	Tyler & Julie Kalp
Wendy Manges	Linda Hayes
Mark Todero	David Varner
Diane Brewer	Loretta Davidson
The Todero Family	Nancy Thomas
Shirley Gavazoni	Elaine Bilger
Linda & Richard Oaks	All Shut- Ins
Sean Rovon	All in Nursing Homes
Carl & Linda Thomas	All First Responders
Kenny Rager	All Service Men & Women
Beverly Rager	All Healthcare Professionals

Suggested Per Capita for 2023 is \$40 per person. Feel free to contribute more if you'd like. Please use the special envelope marked Per Capita to make this contribution.

Sign Ups for 2023 Lay Leaders are still being accepted. You can now sign up for a full month or for a single week. If you would like to help out, sign up on the back bulletin board. Contact Pastor Denise with any questions.

Weekly Flower and Bulletins for 2023 are now available. The cost is \$25 per week for flowers and \$10 per week for bulletins. If you purchase flowers and bulletins for the same week the cost is \$30. To reserve a week, sign up on the back bulletin board or fill out the form on the church website.

Donations for the West End Food Pantry can be placed in the bins by the Blaine St. entrance. All non-perishable food items are appreciated, especially following the holiday season.

To Place Announcements Or Concerns List Names in the bulletin contact Ed Sheets at 539-3495 or email at bethanyjtown@hotmail.com or contact Pastor Denise at 479-2382 or email her at datodero@atlanticbb.net.

Please do not leave them on the church answering machine.

In Case of Emergency, please call Pastor Denise at 479-2382 or cell 248-8174. Do not depend on the hospital contacting the church or the pastor.

Visit Our Website (www.bethanyjohnstown.com) or follow us on Facebook (Bethany Presbyterian Church- Johnstown, PA) for the latest news, information and much more!