

**Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA**  
**MORNING WORSHIP**  
**September 17th, 2023**  
**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**CALL TO WORSHIP\*\***

L: In sacred times of word, wonder, and awe, in ordinary days of work and play:

**P: in every moment, God is with us.**

L: Whether we are stuck in doubt's mud, or standing on faith's shoreline:

**P: in every place, God is with us.**

L: In those who teach us and those who trouble us;  
in those who surprise us, and those who forgive us:

**P: in every person, God is with us.**

**HYMN "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" #97**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION\*\***

L: As we stand before God, we think of all the ways we bicker with others, all those times we have not shown mercy and grace to those around us. Let us bow our hearts and confess our sin to God, as we pray together, saying,

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*\***

**It is never easy for us to confess but deep down inside, we know that graced, we have trouble being grace-full to others; forgiven, we are eager to judge and punish all who hurt us; freed, we find ways to put restrictions on people we fear.**

**Forgive us, Servant God. You show mercy more often than we deserve; you pardon us more times than we can count. And why? Because we are the Lord's - sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ, who died and lived again, so we might live beyond death with you.**

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*\***

L: God's hand of mercy is stretched out to us, making a way through all that threatens us, to touch us with grace and hope.

**P: We stand before our God, singing praise to the One who turns our despair into joy, our fears into faith.**

L: Friends, Believe the Good News

**ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen**

**GLORIA PATRI**

**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**

**LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

|                      |                         |              |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| <b>First Lesson</b>  | <b>Exodus 14:19-31</b>  | <b>p.58</b>  |
| <b>Second Lesson</b> | <b>Romans 14:1-12</b>   | <b>p.988</b> |
| <b>Gospel Lesson</b> | <b>Matthew 18:21-35</b> | <b>p.852</b> |

**MESSAGE**

**Denise Ann Todero, CP**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**The Apostle's Creed**

**HYMN "God of Grace and God of Glory" #292**

**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 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" #68**

**BENEDICTION/SENDING\*\***

L: Whether we believe or whether we struggle, we are God's.

**P: Let us go out to welcome the doubters and disciples around us.**

L: Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

**P: Let us go to embrace all who have been abandoned by the world.**

L: Whether we are brave or quake at the knees, we are the Spirit's.

**ALL: Let us go to encourage our sisters and brothers who struggle.**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "May The Lord"**

*(printed on the inside back cover of the Hymnal)*

**\*\*© Rev.Thom Shuman**

**ORGANISTS : John Griffin and Elaine Bilger  
COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero  
WORSHIP LEADER: Tomi Nosko**

*General Oglethorpe once said to John Wesley,*

*"I never forgive and I never forget."*

*To which Wesley responded,*

*"Then Sir, I hope you never sin."*

*\* \* \* \* \**

*"I can forgive, but I cannot forget,"*

*is only another way of saying, "I will not forgive."*

*Henry Ward Beecher*

*\* \* \* \* \**

*We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive.*

*He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love.*

*There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us.*

*When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.*

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr*



**Bethany Presbyterian Church**

**Blaine Street & Chandler Avenue**

**Johnstown, PA 15906**

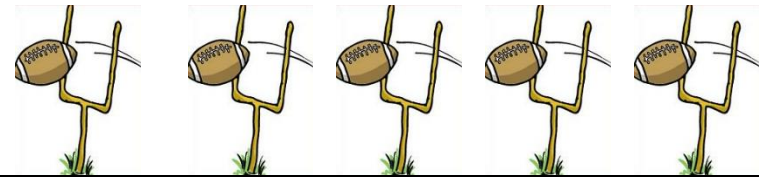
**815-539-9194**

**[www.bethanyjohnstown.com](http://www.bethanyjohnstown.com)**

**Offering: 09/10**  
**Attendance: 23**  
**Local 451.30**  
**Benev. 31.25**  
**Improv. 26.45**  
**Total 509.00**

**Sunday September 17th**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday September 24th**  
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.



**The Session Meeting** scheduled for today has been postponed until Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Musician Michael Facciani** will perform at First Presbyterian Church tonight at 6 p.m. The performance is called “Remembering The Big Hymns Under The Big Dome”. There is no cost to attend but a free will offering will be collected.

**Weekly Flower and Bulletins** for 2023 are still available for most weeks. 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.

| Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers... |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Pastor Denise  | David Hayduk                 |
| Lois Henry   | Susie Keefer                 |
| Dawna Sheets   | Chloe Kern                   |
| Buzz & Jeanne Lehman                                   | Tyler & Julie Kalp           |
| Marie Whorl  | Linda Hayes                  |
| Bev Holbay   | Nancy Thomas                 |
| Wendy Manges   | Rich Horner                  |
| Mark Todero  | Randy Maurer                 |
| Shirley Gavazoni                                       | Kim Redvay                   |
| Sandra Boring  | Jay Freedline                |
| Beverly Rager  | Dave Kelly                   |
| Mikey Ferante  | Dave & Karen Vivis           |
| Susan Willis   | Chuck Schmidt                |
| Jim Kuntz  | All Shut- Ins                |
| Joel Marple  | All in Nursing Homes         |
| Dave Lampel  | All First Responders         |
| Jessie Rager   | All Service Men & Women      |
| Samuel Holbay  | All Healthcare Professionals |

**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 814-248-8174 or email her at datodero55@gmail.com.  
**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](http://www.bethanyjohnstown.com)) or follow us on Facebook (Bethany Presbyterian Church- Johnstown, PA) for the latest news, information and much more!