

Bethany Presbyterian Johnstown, PA
May 12th, 2024 7th Sunday of Easter
Celebrate the Gifts of Women/ Mother's Day
"Women Called To Lead with Love"

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather to worship God, for God is good.

P: God's steadfast love endures forever.

L: We gather to worship God, for God has called us, God's own people, and has given us gifts to be a faithful people.

P: We remember that God's steadfast love endures forever.

L: Let us now offer worthy worship to God,

P: whose steadfast love endures forever.

**HYMN "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" #284
(verses 1&2)**

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: God has given us the ability to lead with love. God has promised to forgive us when we fail to do this. God extends loving and healing mercy to us always, even before we ask for it. Knowing and trusting this steadfast love that is ours in Jesus Christ, let us now confess our sins and offenses before God and each other.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Loving and merciful God, you have searched us and known us and still you love us. We confess that we take this love and mercy for granted; we are careless with our gifts and resources, and we refuse to focus on you and your will for all creation. You call us to lead with love but we are reluctant leaders or we lead with only rules and efficiency in mind. Grant us, O God, caring hearts, attentive minds and renewed commitment to follow you and to help lead others to you. In the saving grace of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: The psalmist reminds us that God wants to gather us in like a mother hen gathers her brood under her wings.

P: Under the wings of God's love, we can let go of sin and guilt. We can abide in the love and mercy of Jesus Christ.

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

Prayer of Dedication

#625

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR LOVING LEADERS

L: Loving God, we thank you for mothers and fathers who lovingly raised and are raising their children and teaching them to be kind and thoughtful people. We thank you for the times they teach children how to work through difficult times, remembering they are always loved.

P: We thank you for teachers and pastors who challenged us to explore meaningful ways to be servant leaders serving with compassion and a sense of justice, with openness to all your people.

L: We thank you for strangers who do not look like us or sound like us, but serve as examples and role models as they lead and interact with others in tender, loving and caring ways.

P: We thank you for children and youth who are curious and searching and invite us to join them on their journeys. We are grateful that they remind us of the importance of play and not taking ourselves too seriously.

L: God, we also pray this day for those who do not lead with love. We pray for those who lead with a hardness of heart that shows disregard and disrespect for the human family and their welfare.

P: Give all leaders hearts of love and the desire to do better and be better. Grant them forgiveness and a commitment to be among those who lead with love, purpose and compassion. Be with all your people, loving God, this day and in the days to come. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

HYMN

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

#285

READING: 1 Corinthians 13 *(read responsively – bulletin insert)*

MEDITATION

Denise Ann Todero, CP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In a broken and fearful world the spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, And to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

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 "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" #284
(verses 3&4)

CHARGE and BLESSING

L: As you go from this place, "lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."
And as you go, remember that it is in the goodness of God that we are born.

P: It is in the providence of God that we are kept and cared for all the day long. And, it is in the love of God, fully revealed in Jesus Christ, that we are loved and redeemed.

L: In the name of the Creator God, the Savior God, and the Spirit God.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

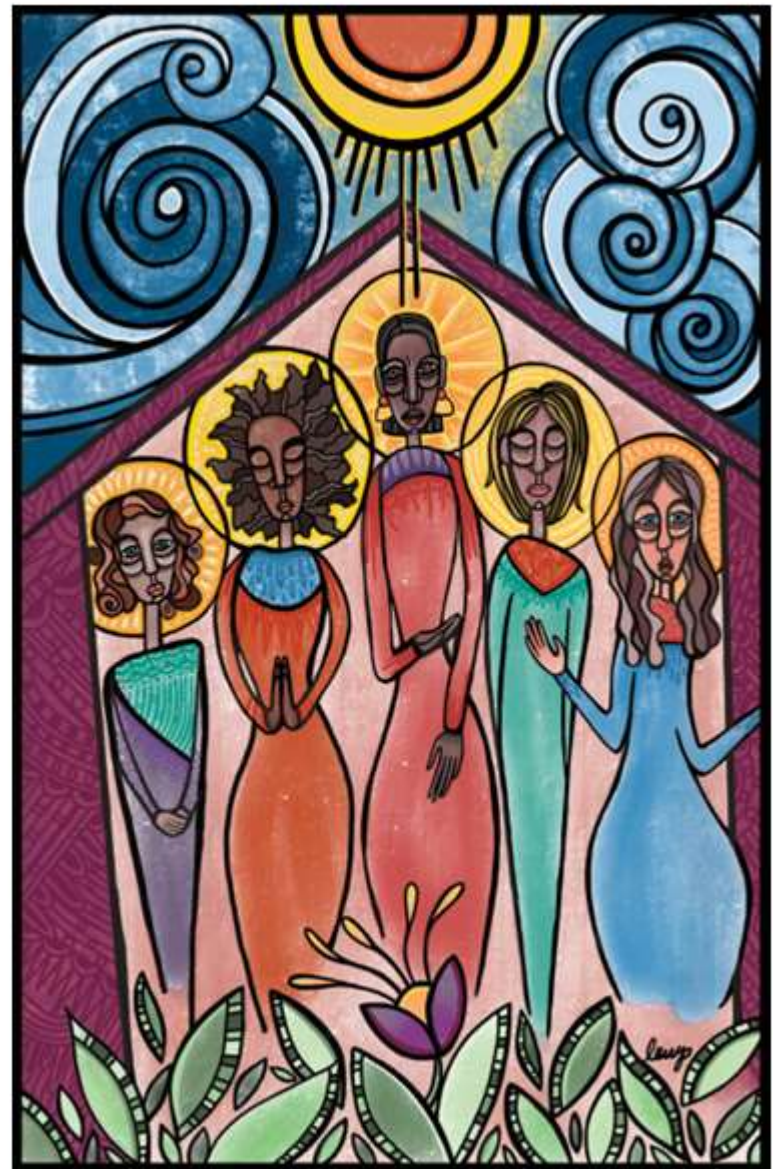
#286

Service resources from PCUSA

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Tomi Nosko



*They Stood (Daughters of Zelophehad),
Lauren Wright Pittman*

Offering: 05/05
Attendance: 16
Local 759.00
Benev. 52.50
Improv. 44.50
Total 856.00

Sunday May 12th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday May 19th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Pentecost Sunday



Pentecost Sunday is set for Sunday May 19th. During the service we will collect red non-perishable foods (both red-colored foods and foods with red packaging) to benefit the West End Food Pantry. **Orders for Pentecost Geraniums are also being collected and orders are due today.**

Coffee Hour will be held on Sunday May 26th following Morning Worship. The start time for Morning Worship also changes to 10 a.m. for the summer on May 26th and we will also resume collecting the offering and the passing of the peace during that service as well.

Ed Sheets is in need of clean plastic grocery bags. If you have some you would like to get rid of, they can be placed in the box in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your assistance!

Sign Ups For 2024 Lay Leaders and Flower/Bulletin Sponsorships are still being accepted. If you are interested, please see the back bulletin board for more information. You can also order flowers/bulletins on the church website.

Pine Springs Camp has a variety of programs and camping options. For more information, visit www.pinesprings.org or search for Pine Springs Camp on Facebook.

Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
Lois Henry	Nancy Thomas
Dawna Sheets	Rich Horner
Jeanne Lehman	Dave & Karen Vivis
Marie Whorl	Chuck Schmidt
Bev Holbay	Joshua Holbay Family
Mark Todero	Dominic Serratore
Carl Newfield	Loretta Davidson
Beverly Rager	Irene Barefoot Bischof
Mikey Ferante	Rodney Gramling
Jill Sheets	Gary Lichtenfels
Betty Clemenson	Bob Kinsey
Pat Pecora	All Shut- Ins
Linda Orlidge	All in Nursing Homes
Frank Cassat	All First Responders
JR Bilger	All Service Men & Women
Linda Hayes	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) or follow us on Facebook (Bethany Presbyterian Church- Johnstown, PA) for the latest news, information and much more!

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

L: If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

P: And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

L: If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

P: Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

L: It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

P: It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

L: But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

P: For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

L: When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

P: For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

L: And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.