

Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
October 22nd, 2023 21st Sunday After Pentecost

CALL TO WORSHIP **

L: Each morning, God's grace awakens us, each evening, God's peace cradles us.

P: Compassion is our constant companion, as we go through work, school, the day.

L: In every moment, God is present with us; God whispers words which can change our lives.

P: Justice is our faithful teacher, pointing to where we can carry out fairness.

L: When we find ourselves groping in the shadows, God's light will provide a way home.

P: We turn the corner, and hope is waiting for us; we return home, and find a feast prepared.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Praise to the Lord, Almighty" #8

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

We know, despite our sincere efforts to live in God's way, that all too easily we slip off the path to the kingdom. Trusting that God will answer our prayers and forgive us, let us confess our sins, as we pray together,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

Great Lover of Justice, hear our prayers: called to treat all people equally, we take sides and pick favorites; chosen to be your children, we arrogantly assume others are not so honored; challenged to be examples of faith, we reveal our worst natures to our families and friends.

Forgive us, Giver of Rest. Enable us to stop putting you to the test, so we can open our hypocritical hearts to your healing touch of compassion and hope. As Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, has given all for us, may we give ourselves to you - confidently, completely, faithfully.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: Hear the good news: the One who created goodness and beauty is also the One who shows no partiality, but offers grace and peace to all.

P: God has heard our prayers and done the very thing we asked - forgiven us, healed us, restored us.

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

ALL: You do not choose favorites, Holy God, but pour out your blessings on all your children, trusting that we will empty our hearts, our lives, our treasure in meeting the needs of those around us. Bless these gifts, and use them to bring healing and hope to your people. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament	Exodus 33: 12-23	p.76
New Testament	1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10	p.1029
Gospel	Matthew 22:15-22	p.857

MESSAGE Rev. Deb Groeger

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostle's Creed

HYMN

"More Love to Thee"

#363

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 "Be Thou My Vision"

#382

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: Go forth now, filled with God's grace.

P: We will cradle others in God's peace.

L: Go forth now, with the words that can transform the world.

P: We will go to speak up for those who are not heard.

L: Go forth now, taking the Light of God into the world.

P: We will go into every shadowed corner with hope lighting the way.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Let There Be Peace"

** © *Rev. Thom Shuman*

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: Denise Ann Todero

WORSHIP LEADER: Brenda Molnar

A voluntary dedication, a daily assignment of all work and play and activity for the glory of God can make anything genuine prayer, whether it is digging ditches, doing the dishes, selling insurance, or even playing golf, which is often the same as digging ditches.

.....John W. Lynch

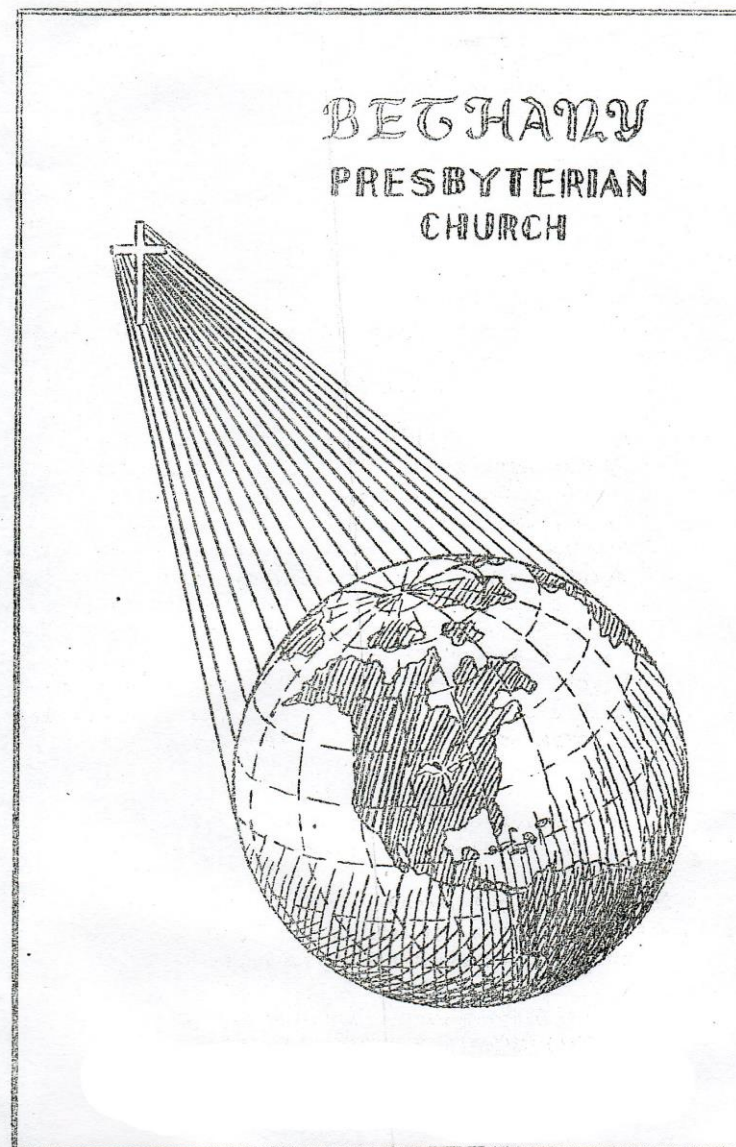
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The person who offers to God a second place offers him no place.

John Ruskin

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What is stewardship but giving to God that which belongs to God!



Offering: 10/15
Attendance: 19
Local 753.00
Benev. 52.20
Improv. 44.80
Mem Fund ~~445.00~~
Total 1295.00

Sunday October 22nd
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

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

Items For The Newsletter are due by Sunday October 29th. This edition will cover November-December. Items can be placed in the offering plate or sent to Ed Sheets.

Mark Your Calendars! Pine Springs Camp will hold their annual Friends Dinner on Sunday October 29th from 3:30-6:30 p.m. inside the Refuge Dining Hall at the Camp. Call the camp at (814) 629-9834 or visit www.pinesprings.org for more information.

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 & Pete	David Hayduk
Lois Henry	Linda Hayes
Dawna Sheets	Nancy Thomas
Jeanne Lehman	Rich Horner
Marie Whorl	Kim Redvay
Bev Holbay	Dave & Karen Vivis
Wendy Manges	Chuck Schmidt
Mark Todero	Linda Orlidge
Carl Newfield	Samuel Holbay
Bobbie Johnson	All Shut- Ins
Beverly Rager	All in Nursing Homes
Mikey Ferante	All First Responders
The Family of Sheri Pavic	All Service Men & Women
Jessie Rager	All Healthcare Professionals
Jill Sheets	

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!