

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
September 14th, 2025

CALL TO WORSHIP **

L: The foolish say, 'there is no God.'

P: We come, trusting in Jesus, the face, the voice, the presence of the God who loves us.

L: The scoffers of our age ask, 'why do you seek after God?'

P: We come, in this time, because God's grace has spilled over in our lives.

L: The hopeless around us think, 'no one cares about me.'

P: We come, in this time, to this place, because Jesus has found us and brought us home.

HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy #262

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: Which of us has not hurt someone this week? Which of us has not spoken (or thought) ill of a sister or brother in Christ? Which of us has failed to do good when given the chance? Which of us? All of us and each of us! But Christ came to save people just like us, so I invite you to join me as we offer our prayers to God, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION **

ALL: Although we believe we are experts at faithfulness, Holy God, we must confess we are unskilled workers at doing good. Too often, we turn a deaf ear to the cries of people we have judged to be fools. We easily scoff at those we believe have nothing to teach us or share with us.

How foolish, Searching God, how foolish we are! Forgive us, and restore us to your goodness. Then, send us forth to search for all who sit in the shadowed corners of our world, yearning for someone to come and find them, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, came to find us.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: Our actions sometimes show we do not know God. Our words and lives show we do not understand God's hopes for us. But with utmost patience, God sets aside our foolishness, and fills us with mercy.

P: Mingled with faith and love, grace is poured into our sin-parched souls, giving us new life, restoring us as God's children.

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

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Old Testament | Jeremiah 4:11-22,22-28 | p.651 |
| New Testament | 1 Timothy 1: 12-17 | p.1034 |
| Gospel | Luke 15: 1-10 | p.908 |

MESSAGE

Victoria Thwing

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our lord. Amen

HYMN "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" #462

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

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: We have been found by our God,

P: so now we will go to search for those forgotten by the world.

L: We have been welcomed by Jesus,

P: so now we will go to embrace the ones people look down their noses at.

L: We have been gathered as a community by the Spirit,

P: so now we will go to be a family to the people who long to draw near to hope.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Lord Let Us Now Depart in Peace"
#609

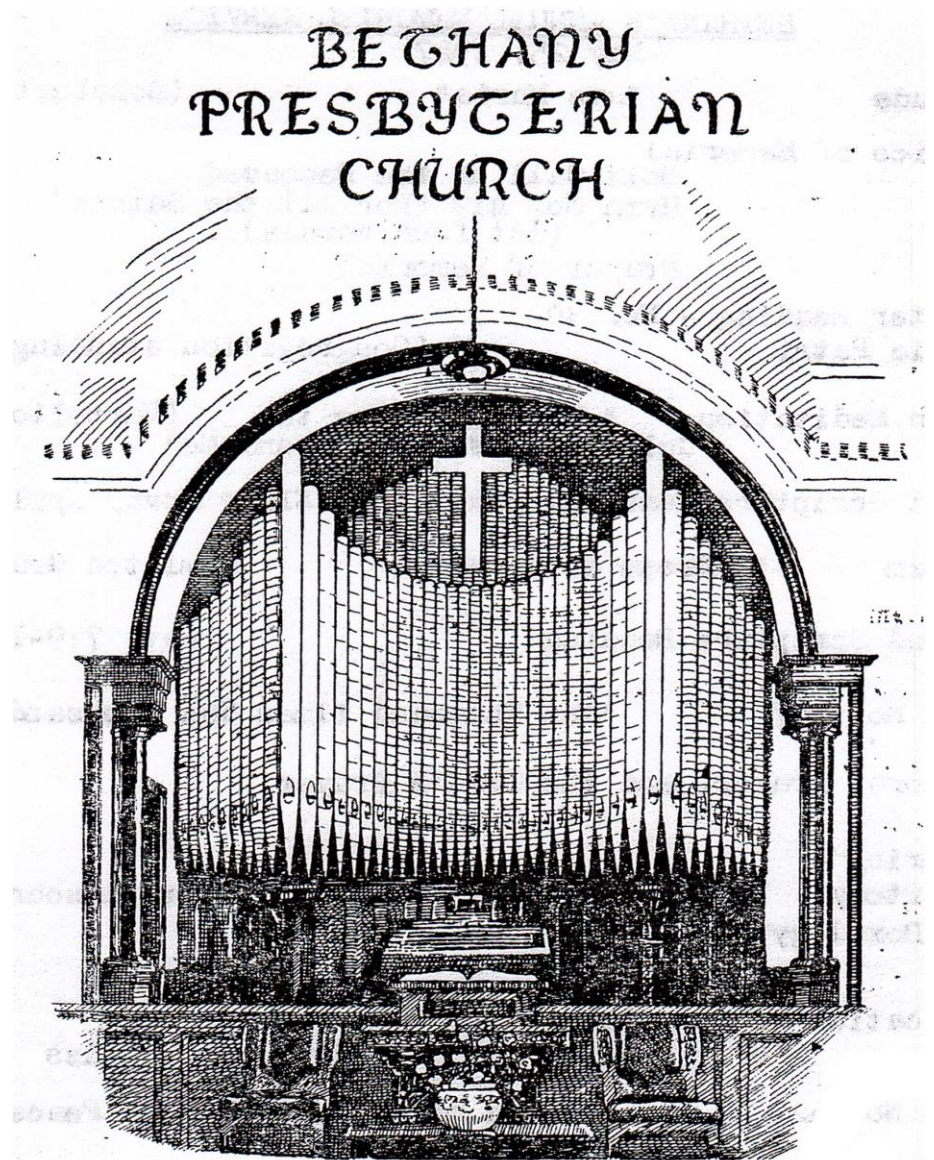
****©Rev. Thom Shuman**

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

**"A Warm Smile Is The Universal Language Of Kindness" –
William Arthur Ward**

"Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It's not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything." – Muhammad Ali

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." – Fred Rogers



814-539-9194

www.bethanyjohnstown.com

Offering: 09/07
Attendance: 16
Local 324.00
Benev. 22.00
Improv. 19.00
Total 365.00

Sunday September 14th
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday September 21st
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.



This Morning we welcome Victoria Thwing as our guest speaker for Morning Worship.

The Flowers and Bulletins Today are to celebrate the 100th Birthday of Irene Barefoot Bischof. Irene was born, raised, and married here at Bethany, then left town with her husband who joined the Navy and retired from the Navy at 65 years old. She resides in a nursing home in Dayton, Ohio near her oldest son. The flowers and bulletins are given by her sister Linda and brother-in-law Carl Thomas.

Pine Springs Camp will hold their Women in the Woods Retreat on October 3rd and 4th. More information can be found by visiting <https://www.pinesprings.org/women-in-the-woods>.

World Communion Sunday will be held on Sunday October 5th during Morning Worship. All are invited to attend and celebrate this special service.

Sign Ups for 2025 Lay Leaders are still being accepted. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up on the back bulletin board.

Orders are still being taken for 2025 Flower and Bulletin Sponsorships. Order forms and more information can be found on the back bulletin board and can be placed in the offering plate. Orders can also be placed on the church website.

| Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers... | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Dawna Sheets | Bobbie Johnson |
| Jeanne Lehman | Barry Ross |
| Marie Whorl | Dave & Karen Vivis |
| Bev Holbay | Joshua Holbay Family |
| Mark Todero | Dominic Serratore |
| Carl Newfield | Tammy & Louie Noss |
| Beverly Rager | Jim Kuntz |
| Frank Cassat | All Shut- Ins |
| Nancy Kahl | All in Nursing Homes |
| Linda Hayes | All First Responders |
| Jessie Rager | All Service Men & Women |
| Bill & Patty Gramling | All Healthcare Professionals |
| Mike & Charlotte Jean | |

To Place Announcements Or Concerns List Names in the bulletin please email bethanyjtown@hotmail.com.

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

Donations of non-perishable foods and cleaning products for the West End Food Pantry can be placed in the bins by the Blaine St. entrance. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you for your support.