

**Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
February 1st, 2026 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 **Tara Ometz**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "The Apostles' Creed" (back cover of hymnal)

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

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.**

** © Rev. Thom Shuman

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

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.

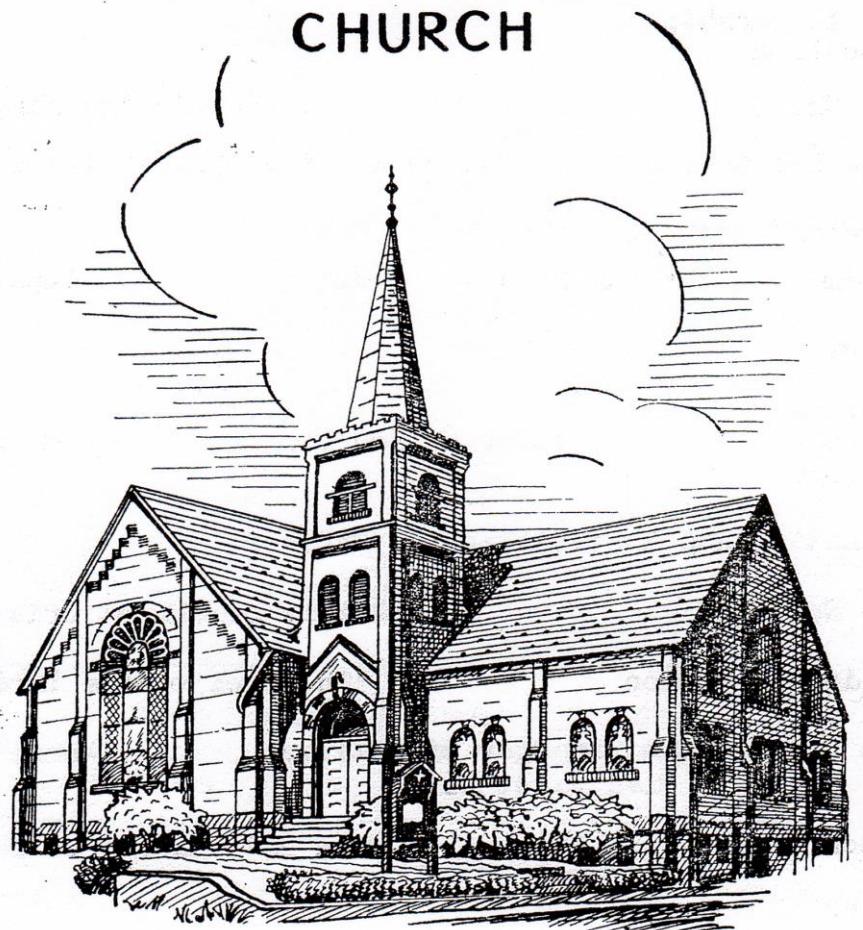
When that fact becomes our fact, and when we become convinced that Jesus Christ has the authority to support his promises, then the word "blessed" not only invites us to find the right path but also to welcome the path we find.

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: 1/18
Attendance: 14
Local 217.00
Benev. 15.25
Improv. 12.75
Roof 40.00
First Fruits 20.00
Initial <u>45.00</u>
Total 350.00

Sunday February 1st
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday February 8th
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Souper Bowl of Caring

The Suggested Per Capita (First Fruits) for 2026 is \$55 per member. Please use the special envelope provided in your box. Per Capita helps to pay for the important programs and staff at the Presbytery, Synod, and PCUSA levels.

Mark Your Calendars! The annual Redstone Presbytery Enrichment Day will be held this Saturday (February 7th) at Westmont Presbyterian Church. Information is available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

The Souper Bowl of Caring will be held next Sunday February 8th. Come help support the West End Food Pantry by bringing non-perishable food items or monetary donations. We will have soup and sandwiches available after Worship. Feel free to bring other snacks to share.

Session will meet on Sunday February 15th after Morning Worship.

The West End Food Pantry is in need of non-perishable food items to help keep their shelves stocked. Donations can be placed in the boxes by the Blaine St. entrance. Monetary Donations can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you for your support.

Ed Sheets is collecting small shipping boxes. If you have any you no longer need, you can place them on the table in the back of the chapel. Thanks in advance for your assistance.



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	Jim Kuntz
Beverly Rager	Jimmy Stormant
Frank Cassat	Bruce Torrence
Nancy Kahl	Randy Maurer
Glenn Campbell	Cheryl Browning
Linda Hayes	All Shut- Ins
Jessie Rager	All in Nursing Homes
Bill & Patty Gramling	All First Responders
Mike & Charlene Jean	All Service Men & Women
Eileen Rozich	All Healthcare Professionals
Pete Barclay	

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!

Sign Ups for 2026 Lay Leaders are being accepted. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up on the back bulletin board.

Orders are now being taken for 2026 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.