

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
Morning Worship May 18th 2025
5th Sunday of Easter

CALL TO WORSHIP **

L: Praise God, all people! Praise the Lord, all creation!

P: whales doing back flips in the air, squid and octopi dancing on the ocean floor; giant redwoods stretching to the sky, tomato vines cuddling around a stake.

L: Mountains blocking the sunrise, moles tunneling through our front lawns; 5-year-olds sitting in a story-time circle, grandparents singing 'their song.'

P: Redbuds decorating our backyard, grass growing faster than our children; seals getting a suntan on the rocks, teenagers knotted together at church.

L: Praise the Lord, all creation!

P: Praise God, all people!

HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #92

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

We show others who we are by the lives we lead, the words we speak, the actions we undertake. Let us confess how we have not been God's little children, when we fail to love as we have been loved.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Who are we to get in your way, Holy God? We put people into neat, little boxes, but you rip them open, so folks can dance in your joy. We imprison others with our unmet expectations, and you set them free with a Word. We build walls around those we don't know, and you tear them down, so they can run wild in the kingdom.

Who are we to get in your way, Saving Power, especially in the way of your forgiveness offered to all! Give us your vision that sees everyone as equal - forgiven, graced, loved - even as we seek to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

L: We know who God is by the love shown to us in Christ Jesus.

P: We will show others who we are - and Whose we are - by the loved poured out by our lives.

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**

You bless us in so many ways and with so many gifts, Loving God. As we praise you, may we offer our gifts so those who have so little may be fed, clothed, healed, restored, and graced. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Lesson	Acts 11:1-18	p.958
Second Lesson	Revelation 21:1-6	p.1085
Gospel Lesson	John 13:31-35	p.938

Message "I Love You Charlie Brown" - Ray Sheets

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES' CREED

HYMN "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" #374

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: "Jesus Calls Us" #375

BENEDICTION/SENDING**

L: Let us go now to praise God with our hearts.

P: To see the imagination of God in every moment of creation, in every person we meet in the days to come.

L: Let us go now to praise Jesus with our lives.

P: To bring justice to those who are oppressed, to bring hope to those who live in despair and worry.

L: Let us go now to praise the Spirit with our lips.

P: To speak peace into all the broken places of our communities, to whisper grace to all those forgotten by the world.

Congregational Response

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

#286

** © Rev. Thom Shuman

Organists: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

*Do not save your loving speeches For your friends till they are dead;
Do not write them on their tombstones, Speak them rather now
instead.*

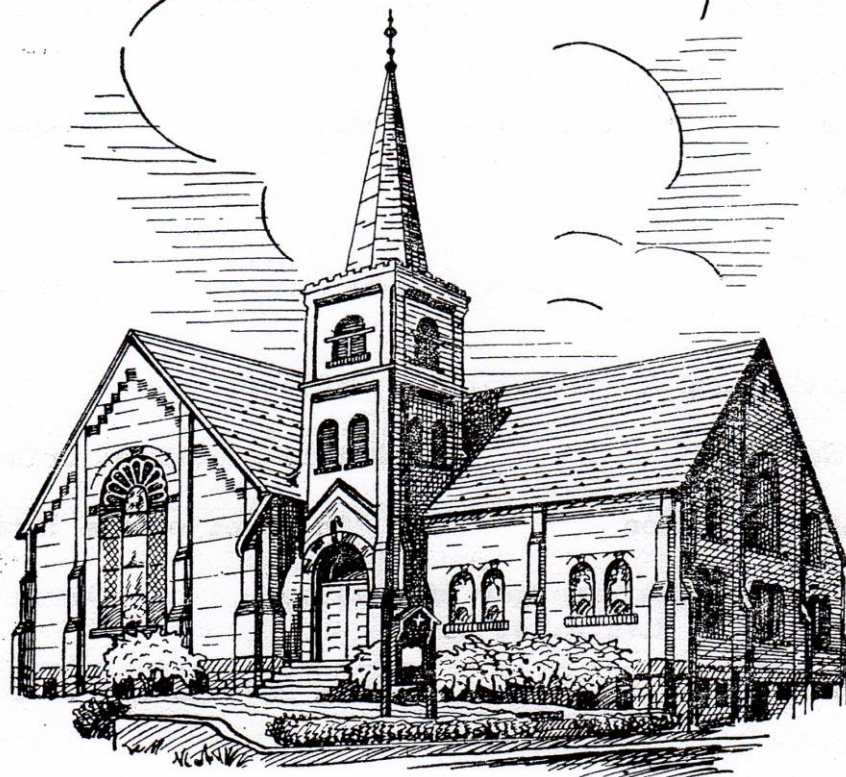
.....Anna Cummins

* * * * *

*We can risk loving as passionately as God loves. For we know that
the love God makes possible is no scarce resource that must be
hoarded so that it can be distributed in dribs and drabs—a little
here and a little there.*

*Love is not a rare commodity; rather, the more we love with the
intense particularity of God's love, the more we discover that we
have the capacity to love.Stanley Hauerwas*

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



814-539-9194

www.bethanyjohnstown.com

Offering: 05/11
Attendance: 13
Local 497.00
Benev. 34.00
Improv. 29.00
Total 560.00

Sunday May 18th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday May 25th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Session Meeting

Orders are now being accepted for Pentecost Geraniums. The cost is \$4 each and the deadline for orders is next Sunday (May 25th). See the order form in your bulletin for more information.

Session will meet next Sunday (May 25th) after Morning Worship.

Join Us on Sunday June 8th as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. Those attending are encouraged to wear red and to donate red foods to benefit the West End Food Pantry. A luncheon will also be held after the service. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish to share, with the meat being provided. If you plan on attending, please sign up on the back bulletin board.

Church Directories are available on the back table. Be sure to pick one up today. If you know of someone who needs a copy mailed or emailed to them, let Ed Sheets know.

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 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	Dave & Karen Vivis
Jeanne Lehman	Joshua Holbay Family
Marie Whorl	Dominic Serratore
Bev Holbay	Loretta Davidson
Mark Todero	Irene Barefoot Bischof
Carl Newfield	Rodney Gramling
Beverly Rager	Randy Maurer
Mikey Ferante	Jim Kuntz
Jill Sheets	Taylor Short
Frank Cassat	John Norris
Nancy Kahl	Nancy Gibson
Linda Hayes	Tammy & Louie Noss
Matt Molnar	All Shut- Ins
Bobbie Johnson	All in Nursing Homes
Will Karalfa	All First Responders
Nancy Thomas	All Service Men & Women
Barry Ross	All Healthcare Professionals

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.

Pentecost Geraniums

Orders are now being accepted for Pentecost Geraniums. The cost is \$4 each and orders are due by **Sunday May 25th**. Orders and payment can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Orders can also be placed using the form on the church website.

NEW: Virtual Geraniums are also available for \$4 each. A perfect option for those out of town or who don't want the real geranium. These will be placed on a special page on the website and proceeds will benefit the church.

NOTE: All regular geranium orders will include a virtual one as well.

Name:

Regular Geraniums (Pick Up On Pentecost Sunday & Virtual)

of Regular Geraniums _____ @ \$4 each = _____

Virtual Geranium (Virtual Only)

of Virtual Geraniums _____ @ \$4 Each = _____

In Memory Of:

In Honor Of:

-Given By: