

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
October 12th, 2025 Proper 23

CALL TO WORSHIP **

L: Whether we live in an apartment or a house; if we reside in the suburbs or the city:

P: God tells us to pray for the places where we live.

L: Whether we are exiles or prisoners for the gospel; if we are young, old, insider, outcast:

P: God says, 'when you search for me, you will find me.

L: Whether we have been wandering and lost; or if we have lived in the same place all our lives:

P: God says, 'I will gather you from all your places and bring you home.'

HYMN "Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing" #2

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: Despite our foolish and angry words, God continues to speak of mercy to us. Despite our best efforts to be faithless in our living, God remains faithful in keeping the promise to forgive us and restore us to wholeness. Let us confess our sins to God, that God's hope and grace might endure in our brokenness.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION **

God beyond borders, we know that on our way to worship, we may not have noticed the exiles in our neighborhoods. We admit how easy it is for us to wander down the streets of temptation, pausing at the corner of easy choices. We fall silent in the presence of those who speak words of anger and hate. We tolerate a culture that suspects all who are different from us.

Have mercy on us, O God, for surely you take the side of justice. Open our hearts to all the wonders you are performing in our lives. You gift us with those of other cultures, that our lives might be blessed. You send us friends out of places we least expect, that our community might be enriched. You call us to be generous with our

blessings, so others might be graces with the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7 p. 676

New Testament 2 Timothy 2: 8-15 p.1038

Ezekiel 37:1-13 **p. 747**

MESSAGE **Aaron Ometz**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles' Creed)

HYMN “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” #92

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

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "More About Jesus" (vs. 1) #389

**** © Rev. Thom Shuman**

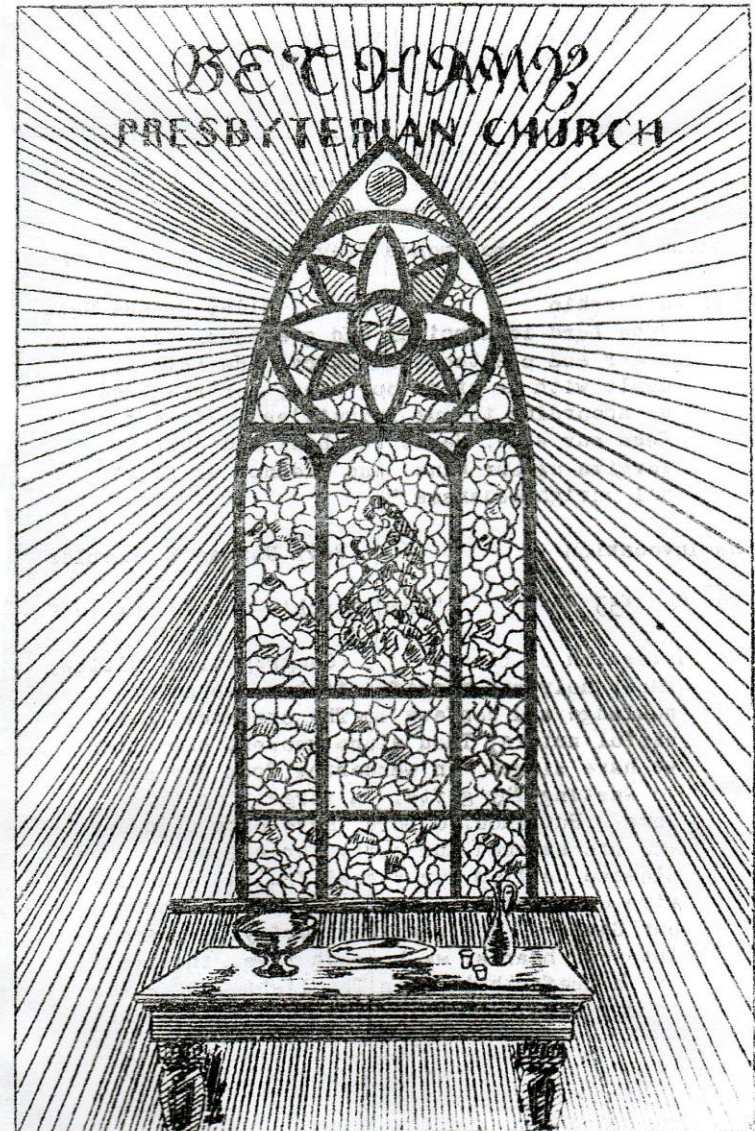
ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

Our openness to receiving blessings also enables us to become a blessing. The late W. L. Stidger used to tell about a favorite teacher. One Thanksgiving, long after he had grown up, Stidger decided to write her a Thanksgiving letter, letting her know how much she had meant to him. He wrote the letter and dropped it in the mail. He didn't hear anything for quite a long time. Apparently the letter had been forwarded several times before reaching the teacher. In her reply, she said:

"My Dear Willie: I am an old lady in my eighties. I am ill and I cannot leave my room. Your letter came like a ray of bright sun, illuminating my dark day and my even darker life. You will be interested to know that, after fifty years of teaching, yours was the first letter of thanks I ever received from a former student. You lifted the clouds for me."

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Legend has it that a man once found the barn where Satan kept the seed to be sown in human hearts. He saw that the seed of discouragement was the most numerous of Satan's seeds, and learned that those seeds would grow almost anywhere. Then he spoke with Satan and learned that there was one place where he could never get them to thrive. "And where is that?" asked the man. Satan replied sadly, "In the heart of a grateful man."



Offering: 10/05
Attendance: 15
Local 640.35
Benev. 44.75
Improv. 37.90
Roof 40.00
Total 769.00

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

Sunday October 19th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Session Meeting

This Morning we welcome Aaron Ometz as our guest speaker for Morning Worship.

Session will meet next Sunday (October 19th) after Morning Worship

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	Jimmy Stormant
Nancy Kahl	All Shut- Ins
Linda Hayes	All in Nursing Homes
Jessie Rager	All First Responders
Bill & Patty Gramling	All Service Men & Women
Mike & Charlotte Jean	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.