



Our Confessional Faith: III. One Universal Church

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026
10:45AM

WWW.BETHANYPRESBY.ORG/SERMONS

To trust in Jesus
To love like Jesus
To grow in Jesus
To bring others to Jesus

WORSHIP THE LORD

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

"Lenten Meditation"

by Richard Blake; cpr 2001 Lorenz Publishing

WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

EXTINGUISHING OF THE LENTEN WREATH

Pastor Brian Janssen

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Ruth Doyle

Beloved in Christ, the God who made heaven and earth is not confined to one people, one place, or one story.

From the heights of heaven to the depths of the sea, from rulers to children, from those near and those far off— all are summoned into praise.

For the Lord who reigns over all is gathering a people from every corner of creation.

Come, let us worship the God whose mercy crosses every boundary and whose glory fills heaven and earth!

Let us worship God!

HYMN *(Please Stand)*

"Rock of Ages"

No. 384

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

2 Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling; naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death, when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Please be seated)*

Ruth Doyle

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ruth Doyle

Merciful God, we confess that we prefer a faith that fits neatly within our own boundaries. We have limited your grace to those who look like us, think like us, and live like us. We have been slow to rejoice when others receive your mercy. We have guarded our comfort more fiercely than your mission. Forgive us for narrowing what you have declared open. Forgive us for calling unworthy what you have called clean. Grant us repentant hearts, humble spirits, and joyful obedience to follow wherever your Spirit leads. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ruth Doyle

Hear the good news: The God who grants repentance is the God who forgives. In Jesus Christ, the dividing walls fall, sins are washed away, and new life is given as a gift. If God has poured out mercy upon us, who can stand against it? In Christ, you are forgiven. Live, therefore, as those set free by sovereign grace. **Praise God! Amen.**

RESPONSE *(Please Stand)*

“Gloria Patri”

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Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Ruth Doyle

Since God has forgiven us in Christ. Let us be at peace with one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all...**and also with you.**
The kids can come forward for the Children’s Sermon as you all take a moment to share the peace of Christ with those around you.

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Debby Hayes

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Ruth Doyle

FIRST READING

Psalm 148

Ruth Doyle

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

SECOND READING

Acts 11:1-18

Pastor Brian Janssen

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

**Our Confessional Faith: III.
One Universal Church**

Pastor Brian Janssen

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

From The Nicene Creed

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

WE RESPOND

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

"Lift Thine Eyes"

**Women's Trio: Kara Julius
Rebecca Stout
Nadina Robusto**

by Felix Mendelssohn; arr. Becki Slagle Mayo; cpr 2011 Choristers Guild

THE RESPONSE *(Please Stand)*

"Doxology"

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Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; Amen.

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(Please Stand)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray this in the name of our Savior, who taught us to pray, saying... Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE ARE SENT

HYMN (*Please Stand*)

"This is My Father's World"

No. 21

1 This is my Father's world, And to my listening ears All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas-- His hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Father's world. O let us not forget that though the wrong is great and strong, God is the ruler yet. He trusts us with his world, to keep it clean and fair- all earth and trees, all skies and seas, all creatures everywhere.

3 This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair; In the rustling grass I hear Him pass; He speaks to me everywhere. This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad? The Lord is King, let heaven ring! God reigns; let earth be glad!

BENEDICTION

CLOSING RESPONSE

"Grace of God"

Bethany Choir

by Jeff Lippencott and R.C. Sproul; cpr 2017 Ligonier Music

POSTLUDE

WELCOME TO BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are delighted to have you in worship with us this morning!

FOR OUR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - A Nursery Room is across the hall from the pulpit side of the Sanctuary. It is equipped with a speaker system from the sanctuary so any parent(s) who wishes to stay with their child(ren) in the nursery can hear the worship service. **A Cry Room** is at the rear of the Sanctuary – entry is through a door in the Narthex near the usher's table. *We encourage you to use these rooms as needed.* **Worship Bags** are available for children to use during the worship service. The bags can be found at the Usher's Desk. **Sound amplification devices** are available to those who might need or want to use them. Our ushers are available to help with any needs that you have during worship.

WORSHIP AND WONDER is during our 10:45am service! Children will leave with Miss Debby after the Children's Sermon. All kids from ages 3-2nd grade are invited! Teen helpers are to see Miss Debby and she can be reached at 412-266-0982.

NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

Today we celebrate the baptism of Waylon James Valerio, son of Hailey Sabin & Jonathan Valerio, who was born August 15, 2025.

Today's ushers are Deb Pyle, Heather Lucas, Brody Stark, and Asher Stark.

The flowers are presented to the Glory of God by Bonnie Miller and family in honor of her mother, Barb Crawford for her birthday.

A special thank you from Gary Phillips who would like to thank everyone for all of their phone calls, cards, support, and prayers during his recovery.

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

USHERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAYS – We are in need of ushers for the 10:45 service. You can volunteer for a specific Sunday of the month. If you would like to consider volunteering, please contact Dale Anderson at dalea591@gmail.com.

VBS – Save the date for VBS 2026 for June 15th – 19th from 9am – 12pm!

MEN'S RETREAT SAVE THE DATE – Mark your calendars for the Men's Retreat at Oglebay Resort for May 8-9th!

BLOOM AND CAFÉ BETHANY – Join us for our next Bloom and Café Bethany event on **Thursday, March 12th at 6:00pm!** There will be a catered dinner followed by a modern worship service for families! We hope to see you there! Sign up for the event on the signup sheets in the Welcome Center!

BLOOM WITH A TWIST, WITH A TWIST! - For the whole season of Lent, Bloom with a Twist is back for the **19th, and 26th of March!** But this year, we added another "twist" to make it a little more fun :). We extend our welcome to ALL artists- you can come and paint the projects we have here, or bring your own craft, crochet project, or coloring app on your phone and JOIN US in the Welcome Center at 6:30pm to share in a time of fellowship, music, and worship through music. We hope to see you there!

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION – Preschool registration for the 2026/2027 school year is now open on our website! Contact Danielle Gioia at Gioia.preschool@gmail.com with any questions! We are so excited for the coming year!

SECRET SISTER LUNCHEON – A Secret Sister luncheon will be held **TODAY at 12pm** after the second service **in the Welcome Center**. All of the Secret Sisters are invited to a casual luncheon gathering to meet and greet each other and enjoy some fellowship with other sisters of faith. Be sure to remember to send greeting cards and/or a small gift to your Secret Sister. Just keep your identity a secret. =) Contact Pat Mishizen at 412-417-3541 or Judy Davidson at 412-343-7530 with any questions. Can't wait to see you there!

MISSION TEAM LUNCHEON - Feeling like you don't fit in? Well, when it comes to mission work, you are part of a bigger picture! And we need you in that picture! **Join us on March 15th for the Mission Team Luncheon at 12pm in the Fellowship Hall!** Perhaps, you want to contribute to mission work...but you have never done anything like this. Maybe you are uncomfortable or unsure about what you can do, or maybe you feel you cannot give the time necessary for mission work. Guess what? All of us who have done mission work had the same feelings and concerns – and we may have answers for you. Ask us! When it comes to church mission work, team-work is a common thread – you don't go alone. You find an interest; see if there is a fit; learn from your church team members; and - a precious benefit - deepen your relationship with team members as you work.

BLOOD DRIVE – Our first Blood Drive of the year will be held Sunday, **March 15th from 8am to 1:30pm during both services in Great Room**. We love to host this event. Sign ups are needed for scheduling purposes so sign up by calling 1-877-258-4825 or by visiting the website at www.vitalant.org. Thank you so much!

WOMEN'S RETREAT – Be sure to fill out the insert in the bulletin for our Women's Retreat on the number of days you would prefer and place it in the offering plate.

HELP WANTED AT THE WELCOME DESK - Our Bethany Church Receptionist Desk is looking for PART TIME volunteers (male or female) to fill in for our regulars whenever they are unable to be at the desk. Help is needed Monday – Friday:

Morning - 9:00AM to 11:30AM & Afternoon - 11:30AM to 2:00PM

The Receptionist duties involve answering the telephone and greeting anyone whom may come in the door. Your free time at the desk can be spent reading, crocheting, knitting, watching a movie on your laptop etc. Occasionally we are asked to do a few desk duties to help out our church secretary. Whenever one of our regulars is not able to be at the desk, a notification is sent to Barb Crawford. If a request is made for help, a response to Barb is always preferred with either a YES or NO — no reason ever needed! Thank you!

DIAPER BANK – The Diaper Bank is looking for volunteer help! Every 4th Saturday of every month from 9am to 12pm volunteers give out these vital products to anyone in need of assistance in the community. This service provides in need families with diapers and wipes from newborns to toddlers. Contact Barb Crawford with any interest or questions at 412-977-4035 or contact the church. Thank you!

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE
CHURCH FINANCES AS OF MARCH 1, 2026

Thank you for your continued support.

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 91,798	\$ 106,953	\$(15,155)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	70,245	68,319	1,926
Investment Income **	1,405	1,206	199
Total General Fund Income	\$ 163,448	\$ 176,478	\$(13,030)
Year to Date Budget	158,955		
+/- Budget	\$ 4,493		



QR Code
for online
giving

*For purposes of this report, any prepaid pledges have been spread over 52 weeks.

** Investment income is updated monthly upon receipt of investment statements.

A friendly reminder from the Stewardship team, please write the amount of your giving on the outside of the envelope when turning in your offering. This helps make the job of those counting much easier.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms”. 1 Peter 4:10 calls us to action to share with others our God given talents and blessings. Let us receive His grace and strength so that we may glorify Him and serve generously.

March Special Offering – One Great Hour of Sharing

The special offering envelope for March supports the PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing Collection. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for One Great Hour of Sharing on your check or a pew envelope.

Thank you for your contribution to One Great Hour of Sharing!

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, March 8

3rd Sunday of Lent

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship
9:30AM - Sunday School
Youth and Adult Ukulele Practice after the second service
12:00PM - Secret Sisters Luncheon
1:00PM – Troop 2 Council
5:00PM - BYG Group Night

Monday, March 9

4:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout
6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group

Tuesday, March 10

6:45PM - Session Team Meetings
7:00PM – ALANON

Wednesday, March 11

11:30AM – Knitters
12:30PM - Hand Chimes
6:30PM - Troop 2 Scouts
7:00PM – Choir Practice

Thursday, March 12

9:00AM – Morning Momco
9:00AM – Quilters
12:00PM – Rotary
6:00PM – Bloom and Café Bethany
7:00PM – Evening Momco
7:00PM - Dartball
7:30PM – AA

Friday, March 13

Saturday, March 14

11:00AM - Knitters

Sunday, March 15

4th Sunday of Lent

BLOOD DRIVE

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship
9:30AM - Sunday School
Youth and Adult Ukulele Practice after the second service
12:00PM – Mission Team Luncheon
4:30PM - BYG Outing