



Long Walks and Short Sprints

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 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

"Nearer My God, to Thee"

by Lowell Mason; arr. Richard Elliott; cpr 2014 Lorenz Publishing

WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

Christ is risen, and yet he meets us still—
in our doubts, in our fears, in our unfinished faith.

**We come, not because we have it all together,
but because Christ calls us by name.**

The risen Lord stands among us and says, "Peace be with you."

Let us worship the living Christ, who restores and renews us.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Larry Ruby

HYMN *(Please Stand)*

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

No. 72

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father; There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; As thou hast been,
thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness, Great is thy faithfulness, Morning by morning new
mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hast provided; Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me.

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon, and stars in their courses
above Join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
[Refrain]

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to
guide; Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine with ten
thousand beside. [Refrain]

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Please be seated)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Larry Ruby

Merciful God, we confess that we are slow to believe and quick to turn away. You
call us to follow, yet we cling to what is familiar and safe. You offer us new life,
yet we return to old patterns of sin and fear. Forgive us, we pray. Restore us by
your grace, and renew us by your Spirit, that we may live as witnesses to the
resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen. *Silent Confession*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Larry Ruby

Hear the good news: The risen Christ comes to us again and again— not to condemn, but to restore. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and sent into the world in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

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

Pastor Larry Ruby

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

Pastor Larry Ruby

FIRST READING

1 Peter 1:17-23

Pastor Larry Ruby

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person’s work, live in fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

SECOND READING

Luke 24:13-35

Pastor Brian Janssen

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to

death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Long Walks and Short Sprints

Pastor Brian Janssen

WE RESPOND

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me" Soloist: Caleb Auldridge

Traditional African-American Spiritual; arr. Eric Bibb; Eric Bibb Roadworks; cpr Bug Music

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*)

“Blessed Assurance”

No. 426

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Hymn tune by William Croft; arr. Roger C. Wilson; cpr 1962 and 1966 Lorenz Publishing

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

A warm welcome and many thanks to our guest organist, Rebecca Gard.
We thank you for sharing your incredible gifts with us!

Today's ushers are Laura Dugan, Pat Mishizen, Karen Talerico, and Carol Cowser.

The flowers are presented to the Glory of God by Karen Talerico in memory of John's mother, Betty Talerico.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Tom Jones and family, on the passing of Tom's beloved wife, Ruth Jones, who passed away on April 8, 2026. They shared nearly 76 years of marriage together. The sympathy of the congregation is also extended to the family of Valeria Lorenzi, who joined the Church Triumphant on April 13, 2026. Al and Val Lorenzi were very active members of our church and were loved by Bethany.

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

VBS REGISTRATION – Hooray! VBS registration is now open for children age 4 up to those who will enter 6th grade in the fall. Older children & adults can register as volunteers through the link on our website. Please register by signing up in the Welcome Center, reaching out to Celina Farabaugh at 724-554-6370, or by clicking the link on our website! We can't wait!

YOUTH SUNDAY is NEXT Sunday! Bethany Youth Group is so excited to take over both Sunday morning services! We invite everyone to join us downstairs on Youth Sunday, April 26th after the 10:45am service for a Fellowship Luncheon of Salad, Soup, and Sandwiches! Be on the lookout for Constant Contact emails with links to the songs we will be singing!

BETHANY YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES for May are now available in the Welcome Center! Make sure to grab one as well as a Youth Authorization form if planning to attend the Paintball outing on May 17th!

WILD AT HEART MEN’S FIRES - Inspired by the book Wild at Heart by John Eldredge, Josh Gardner is hosting a biweekly men’s fire every other Wednesday night starting at 5:30pm. An opportunity for men to come together, share their stories, have a good laugh, and bring Proverbs 27:17 (Iron sharpens Iron) into their lives on a regular basis. The upcoming dates are April 29th, May 13th, and May 27th. If you have any questions contact Josh at 412 855 9029.

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!

GOLDEN OLDIES – Bethany Golden Oldies are taking a trip July 30th to Ohio to see a “Tribute to Johnny Cash”. We would love to have you come with us! Please contact Carole Aspinall at 412-833-8114.

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE
CHURCH FINANCES AS OF APRIL 12, 2026

Thank you for your continued support.

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 160,420	\$ 165,197	\$(4,777)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	109,270	106,274	2,996
Investment Income **	3,830	3,268	563
Total General Fund Income	\$ 273,520	\$ 274,739	\$(1,219)
Year to Date Budget	268,893		
+/- Budget	\$ 4,627		



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.

April Special Offerings – Bethany Education Fund and Children / Youth Ministry Programs - The special offering envelopes for April support the Bethany Education Fund and Children / Youth Ministry Programs. The Bethany Education Fund provides scholarships to Bethany high school seniors pursuing post-secondary education or training, and the Children / Youth Ministry Programs collection supports events provided for the children and youth of Bethany and the community. You can still donate to these special offerings either by selecting "Bethany Education Fund" or "Children /

Youth Programs" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for the Bethany Education Fund or Children / Youth Programs on your check or a pew envelope. Thank you for your contribution to these valuable scholarship and discipleship programs for the youth of Bethany!

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, April 19

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship
9:30AM – Sunday School
5:00PM - BYG Group Night
Ukulele practice after the second service

Monday, April 20

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

Tuesday, April 21

7:00PM – Deacons Meeting
7:00PM – ALANON

Wednesday, April 22

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

Thursday, April 23

9:00AM – Quilters
9:00AM – Morning MomCo
10:00AM – Adult Ukulele
12:00PM – Rotary
6:30PM – Bloom
7:30PM – AA

Friday, April 24

Saturday, April 25

DIAPER BANK
11:00AM - Knitters

Sunday, April 26

YOUTH SUNDAY

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship
9:30AM – Sunday School
12:00PM - Fellowship Luncheon