



“Growing in Unity”

10:45AM
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

WWW.BETHANYPRESBY.ORG/SERMONS

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

Verse 2

We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land

Verse 3

We will work with each other
We will work side by side
We will work with each other
We will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity
And save each man's pride

Verse 4

All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus
His only Son
And all praise to the Spirit
Who makes us one

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Brian Janssen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Brian Janssen

O God, whose will it is that all your children should be one in Christ; we pray for the unity of your Church. Forgive our pride and our lack of faith. Forgive our narrowmindedness and our lack of patience. Forgive us for the sin that continues to cause division--especially discrimination, judgementalism, and arrogance. Help us to be open to new ideas, new people, and new ways of understanding why and how you call us to serve others. We pray this with gratitude for your mercy, grace, and love, known in and through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We are blessed to be a blessing. We are enabled to show kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. We are called to show God's love in the world. This is all because of Christ, who saved us from sin! Let us, therefore, proclaim the good news: **those who are in Christ are a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new life has come. 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

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. Confirmation Students invited to come forward to the front pew.

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Brian Janssen

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Brian Janssen

FIRST READING

Psalm 133

Pastor Brian Janssen

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:1-16

Pastor Ellen Dawson

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it is said, “When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people.”

(When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of

ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Growing in Unity”

Pastor Ellen Dawson

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**A Compiled Statement of Faith
from the Bethany Confirmation Class of 2024**

I believe that God is our Father and Creator, and that Jesus is His Son. I believe God speaks through the Bible, by allowing me to see the real story of Him, and by the words spoken by Jesus. Being a Christian is a relationship with God. It lets me know someone loves me unconditionally and forgives me no matter what.

Jesus is my friend. I believe that Jesus died for me and forgave me of my sins. Jesus is someone I can talk to about anything and someone who died for my sins so that I can have eternal life. Having faith in Jesus is important because He will be there with forgiveness to change my life and our world for the better.

I believe in the Holy Spirit...a presence that I can now see and feel in my everyday life. I believe that not only is the Holy Spirit *God With Us*, but it is also a feeling of hope, courage, love and peace. Having faith brings peace to our lives. I believe prayer brings me closer to God because of how calming it is. Without prayer, I can assure my life would be different, and my relationship with God would not be nearly as strong.

I believe that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person: "The old life is gone, a new life has begun." I believe that in God, everyone works together, because I see how God works in others' lives and opens our eyes toward Him. I believe the church shows love, hope, diversity, justice, and compassion to the world by sharing the word of Christ. It is not just a building where we come to praise God, but it is a community, a home filled with a family who celebrate my highs with me but are also right there with me at my lows too. I believe it is good to participate in church and give back because doing kind things with kind people brings us joy.

WE RESPOND

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS: CONFIRMATION CLASS

Hannah Farabaugh, Jenna Foltz, Ray Gilmore, Myla Grady,
Gianna Ramous, and Blake Vollmer

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**THE OFFERTORY "From the Day You Were Born" by Russell Nagy
Bethany Choir**

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THE RESPONSE (*Please Stand*) "Doxology"

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

COMMUNION

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Holy God, we praise You. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We
bless You for creating the whole world, for Your promises to Your people Israel, and for
Jesus Christ in whom Your fulness dwells. Born of Mary, He shares our life.

People: Eating with sinners, He welcomes us.

Leader: Guiding His children, He leads us.

People: Visiting the sick, He heals us.

Leader: Dying on the cross, He saves us.

People: Risen from the dead, He gives new life.

Leader: Therefore, we praise You, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of Your name.

SANCTUS *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. 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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Each person is asked to **hold the bread until all have received it**. We will then partake of it together, signifying our unity as the Body of Christ. Each person is asked to **drink the juice as soon as he or she receives it**, signifying the personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WE ARE SENT

HYMN *(Please Stand)* **“My Heart Is Filled With Thankfulness”**

Songwriters: Keith Getty / Stuart Townend | Lyrics © Thank You Music Ltd.
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My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace
And gave me life again;
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness
And clothed me in His light
And wrote His law of righteousness
With pow'r upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength
And causes fears to fly;
Whose ev'ry promise is enough
For ev'ry step I take,
Sustaining me with arms of love
And crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To him who reigns above,
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace,
Whose ev'ry thought is love.
For ev'ry day I have on earth
Is given by the King;
So I will give my life, my all,
To love and follow him.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Ellen Dawson

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, under the guidance of Nursery Director, Melina Robinson, 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.

PASTORAL CONCERNS

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Tom Casciola, Gary and Nicole Casciola, and the Casciola family on the passing of Sandra Casciola on April 26, 2024.

NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the 2024 Confirmation Mentors:

Melanie Bedner, Niki Ciaramella, Judy Davidson,
Bob Julius, Heather Lucas, and Meagan Smith.

We appreciate the time you dedicated to the program. Thank you to the Congregation for your prayers, and to the students for committing to this class and completing your requirements. *Sincerely, Pastor Ellen and the Discipleship Team*

NEXT SUNDAY WILL BE NAMETAG SUNDAY. A reminder to please bring your nametag with you if you had taken it home after our last Nametag Sunday.

HANGING BASKET SALE - Flower Baskets will be available on SUNDAY, MAY 12th for \$25.00 per basket. ALL proceeds from this sale will go to one of Bethany's Mission Partners: *LIVING IN LIBERTY*. Living in Liberty restores dignity, freedom and a new life to victims of commercial sexual exploitation by creating a safe, secure, loving and nurturing community where healing occurs and new life begins.

UPDATE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - Does our Church database have YOUR family membership record correct? Here is your chance to update YOUR record for our annual Guide Book & Directory (if you haven't already done so). It is time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in YOUR family over the past year. Have you changed your phone number? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Are all of your children still at home and are they all included in your membership record? Do you want your record published? If you have not already informed the Church Office about changes to your record, please let us know now so that the information in the Guide Book & Directory is correct. Thank you for your help!

GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY -We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for the church. This book will contain everything pertinent to our church: the various ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions and events plus a complete directory of all members. This book is being provided and direct-mailed to each family at no cost to our church, and it is again being subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the Church Office. Recent survey results by Guide Book Publishing show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize a Guide Book & Directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. It “will pay” to advertise in our new Guide Book & Directory.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS - The Bethany Discipleship Team encourages our members to register their kids for Summer Camps that will enrich their child's faith. You may apply for funds to assist with the cost. Application forms can be found in the Welcome Center, or on-line on our website. The current scholarship is a total of \$250 per child, per calendar year. **SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Parent or Legal Guardian* is a member of Bethany Presbyterian Church.
- *Exception: If the child went through the Confirmation Program and joined the church even if their parent is not a member.
- Age Limit: Entering 3rd Grade up to Young Adult, age 23.
 - Child/Youth/Young Adult must be active in the programs of the church.
- “Active” means that the child/youth/young adult attends at least 12 times during the year, including Sunday Worship, Sunday School, BYG, or other church events.
- Presbyterian or Christian Camp approved by the Discipleship team.

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

MULCHING DAY – Saturday, May 11. Please join us on Saturday morning, May 11th from 8am to 12pm to pull weeds and mulch the flower beds around the church.

VBS – Registration is open on our website for VBS! Go on an undersea adventure with us to “SCUBA VBS - Diving Into Friendship with God”! For children age 4 through entering 5th grade, June 17-21 from 9am - noon. Youth & adult volunteers are needed! Please contact Celina Farabaugh, if you have any questions or to sign up as a volunteer, at cfarabaugh19@gmail.com or 724-554-6370.

DEAR BETHANY GOLFERS - Please consider joining us and bringing some friends to our annual Bethany Golf outing being held at Ft Cherry Golf Course on Saturday June 22nd. Our event is open to all golfers and uses a golfer friendly ‘Scramble’ format. Start thinking about who you would want to golf with and ‘**SAVE THE DATE for SAT JUNE 22nd 8:30am** – cost will be \$87-90 and includes your round of golf and luncheon afterwards!

BYG: UPCOMING EVENTS FOR BETHANY YOUTH GROUP.

All 6th - 12th grade students are welcome (and encouraged) to attend Bethany Youth Group

May 5th -TODAY- 5:00pm-6:30pm - BYG Group Night! Join us for all the festive Cinco De Mayo dips and chips: Queso, Guacamole, Salsa - oh my! We will snack on these delicious dips while we talk about some of Jesus' Parables (and maybe even acting some of them out).

May 19th - 5:00pm-6:30pm - BYG Group Night! Join us for a "mini pizza" night where we will have Pizza Rolls, Pizza Bagels, and other fun Pizza flavored snacks! Our topic for tonight is all about Anxiety, and how we can go to God with all of our worries and anxieties!

BYG will NOT be meeting on Mother's Day (5/12) or Memorial Day Weekend (5/26)

Stay tuned for information for our June events!! Students & Parents, if you haven't already, you can join our Remind for text updates about BYG! Text the message @byg2024 to the phone number 81010 - If you have any issues just contact Abbie.

CREATION VBS – May 16th at 10AM - It's time to get the crafters together and make some awesome decor for SCUBA - this year's Vacation Bible School theme! Join Celina and Meagan as they host Creation VBS every 1st and 3rd Thursday from 10- 12PM in the Youth Lounge. Thursday, May 16th will be a **take-home session** for extra-large dolphins, whales, turtles and other mega-sized sea creatures! If you are interested in taking home something to cut out please email Meagan at Marketing@bethanypresby.com. We welcome you to join us in creating the creation!

DANIEL at Sight and Sound Theater, September 4th and 5th. If you are interested in being a part of a trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in September to see the new production of "Daniel", please contact Carole Aspinall at 412-833-8114. This is a trip being led by our Golden Oldies, but all church members are welcome.

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

DONATIONS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Thank you so much to all who have donated items! *We have received enough cardboard rolls. We are no longer in need of them.* We are in need of:

- Crepe Paper Streamers in shades of green
- Typewriter/Trace paper, various colors

PRAYERS FOR OUR MISSIONS – The Fellowship of Prayer is targeting prayers each month for missions we support. For the month of May, please join us in praying for the Malawi Chiradzulu Church of Central Africa Partnership (CCAP) with the Pittsburgh Presbytery and the Blantyre Synod in Malawi; and for the Sojourner House, which provides faith-based, compassionate residential recovery services in Pittsburgh.

SARRIS CANDY –The Sarris Candy sales proceeds for May are going to Campus Life.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

A listing of our Sunday School Classes can be found on the screens in the Welcome Center. The last day of Sunday School will be Sunday, May 19th.

WORSHIP AND WONDER – Children 4 years old through 2nd grade are welcome to follow the Worship and Wonder Teachers to the classroom (rm 234) after the Children’s sermon each week during our 10:45AM service.

CHURCH FINANCES AS OF APRIL 30, 2024:

	2024 YTD (\$)	2023 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 177,180	185,365	\$ (8,185)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	110,000	76,668	33,332
Investment Income **	15,457	7,215	8,242
Total General Fund Income	\$ 302,637	\$269,248	\$ 33,389
Year to Date Budget	305,789		
+/- Budget	\$ (3,152)		

*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.

MAY SPECIAL OFFERING – Youth Mission Fund The special offering envelope for May supports future Youth Mission Trips. Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to these special offerings either by selecting “Youth Mission Trip” in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for the Youth Mission Fund on your check or a pew envelope. Thank you for your prayers and support for the youth of Bethany!

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, May 5

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

8:15AM & 10:45AM - Worship with
Communion

9:30AM – Sunday School

5PM - BYG

Monday, May 6

6:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout

7:00PM – Mission Team Meeting

Tuesday, May 7

6:30PM - Men’s Huddle

7:00PM - ALANON

Wednesday, May 8

11:30AM - Knitters

7:00PM - Choir

7:00PM - Scouts

Thursday, May 9

9:00AM – Morning MOPS

9:00AM – Quilters

12:00PM - Rotary

6:30PM – Bloom Service

7:00PM – Evening MOPS

7:30PM - AA

Friday, May 10

Saturday, May 11 -MULCHING DAY

11:30AM – Knitters

Sunday, May 12 -MOTHER’S DAY

8:15AM and 10:45AM - Worship

9:30AM – Sunday School

6:00PM – MOPS Steering Committee