Bethany
Presbyterian Church

The Work God Gives Us

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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 **"This is My Father's World"**
arr. Jason D. Payne; cpr 2013 Lorenz Publishing Co.

WELCOME **Pastor Brian Janssen**

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)* **Pastor Justin Miller**

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God, until he has mercy upon us.
Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
Our soul has had more than its fill
of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

OPENING PRAYER *(Please Stand)* **Pastor Justin Miller**

HYMN *(Please Stand)* **"Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies"** **No. 91**

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise, triumph over shades of night:
Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart appear!

2 Dark and cheerless is the dawn till your glories shine on me;
joyless is the day's return till your mercy's beams I see:
as they inward light impart, cheer my eyes, and warm my heart.

3 Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief:
more and more yourself display, shining to the perfect day!

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Please be seated)* **Pastor Justin Miller**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION **Pastor Justin Miller**

Gracious God, you have entrusted us with more than we often recognize, yet we do not always use your gifts faithfully. We hesitate when opportunities to serve arise and sometimes settle for what is comfortable rather than what is faithful. We compare what we have been given with the gifts of others, forgetting that each of us are called by you into participation. Forgive us, Lord. Strengthen our faith when the way forward is uncertain and help us use our gifts with generosity, courage, and purpose. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON **Pastor Justin Miller**

Hear the good news: God's love is steadfast, and God's grace is greater than our failures. We are not defined by the times we have fallen short, nor are we left to face the future on our own. Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and strengthened to live as children of the light. Trusting in God's mercy, believe the good news:
We are free to live with faith, hope, and love. 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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE **Pastor Justin Miller**

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 Justin Miller**

FIRST READING **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** **Pastor Justin Miller**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

SECOND READING **Matthew 25:14-30** **Pastor Brian Janssen**

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and slothful slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have

invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON **The Work God Gives Us** **Pastor Brian Janssen**

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR MISSION: SOUND TEAM

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY **10:45-** **"For the Beauty of the Earth"** **Bethany Choir**
arr. John Ferguson; Ed. Anton Armstrong and John Ferguson
cpr 2021 Augsburg Fortress

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)*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER **Pastor Justin Miller**
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)* **" To God Be the Glory "** **No. 66**

1 To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the son,
And give him the glory, great things he hath done.

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

3 Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

BENEDICTION

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.

NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

Today's ushers are Laura Dugan, Connie Segeleon, Heather and Karen Lucas.

The flowers this morning are presented by Heidi and Kyli Martin to the Glory of God and In Memory of Heidi's father, Doug Howard.

A Special Thanks to Gary Phillips for all his work planning and organizing the Annual Friendsgiving Lunch which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. In addition, Gary would also like to thank all of the volunteers who helped with the preparations including cooking, potato peeling, room set-up and clean-up and of course to all the Bethany members who contributed their favorite side dishes and desserts.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY - UPDATE YOUR INFO – If any of your information has changed, please fill out one of the Update Cards located in the Welcome Center as we are preparing for a **new Church Directory**. Place completed card in the basket in the Welcome Center or in the offering plate by **November 29th, 2026.**



PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE 10:45 SERVICE
Please note that we have the following Opportunities for children during the 10:45 Service:

Worship and Wonder for Children ages 3 to 2nd grade where children learn more about worshipping God. They are starting the year with the story of the Good Shepherd and then continuing stories of Creation and the Old Testament.

Faith and Friends for children in 3rd through 5th grade where children will explore lessons from the Bible in Life Curriculum through interactive learning, meaningful discussion and hands-on-activities. The Scripture lesson is the same as Sunday School; however, the lesson content and activities are different.

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

ADULT CHIMES AND HANDBELL TREE -We will be meeting next **Wednesday, November 18th at 12:30pm**. We will be off the following week for Thanksgiving. If you are interested in learning to ring, ding, hit, or hammer a joyful noise in worship - please message Nadina for more information about joining us this season at music@bethanypresby.org

CITY MISSION DONATIONS- The City Mission, one of Bethany's Mission Partners, has installed a new **Blue** donation collection bin located on the side of the church next to the **red shed in front of the extended parking area. They advised that they would be making collections every Monday.**

ROTARY COMMUNITY PROJECT– The Rotary of Bridgeville-South Fayette is initiating a Community Service Program for Bridgeville and South Fayette families (limited scope). The Rotary will assess every request; however as they have a limited number of members and limited skills, they would welcome any individuals who would be able to help. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Bill Paviol at 412-722-3102. Please keep the Rotary and this Project in your prayers.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – is being held **November 22, 2026** immediately following the 10:45am worship service. Please plan to attend this important meeting at which we will elect Elders, Deacons and Auditors, and approve the 2027 Terms of Call for the Rev. Dr. Brian Janssen and the Terms of Call for the Rev. Justin Miller.

ADVENT WREATH SERVICE READINGS - It is hard to believe; however, the first Sunday of Advent is on **Sunday, November 29th.** To help celebrate this Season, we have placed a small Booklet with Home Advent Service Readings on the table in the Welcome Center that you and/or your family can use to celebrate with an Advent Wreath at home. Please take one and enjoy this special time together.

BETHANY DEACONS BACKPACK DRIVE - The Bethany Deacons are hosting another backpack drive to gift to the Southwood Boy's home. These bags will be gifted to every new admission throughout the 2027 year. **We will be collecting donations until November 29th.** You will be supporting the purchasing of the backpack and the essential items we provided them with: socks, towels, toothbrush, shampoo, a Bible and more! All items are purchased and put together by the Deacons. Cash or checks made out to Bethany Presbyterian Church with **"backpack"** in the memo are accepted. You can drop an envelope with cash or a check in the collection bag on the poster in the Welcome Center, place it in the offering collection plate or give to Edgar Shaffer.

ANGELS FOR THE SOUTHWOOD BOYS - Angel Gift Tags for the Southwood Boys Home will be available starting next **Sunday, November 22nd**. You can pick up an Angel Gift Tag before, after and between the worship services from the Deacons who will be at a table in the Welcome Center. Many of the Boys have never received a Christmas Gift so we hope to help them have a very Merry Christmas. A bin will be located in the Welcome Center for Gift Collection and they should be returned unwrapped (can be in gift bags) by **Sunday, December, 13th**.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS – Please see that insert in this bulletin to place your order for Christmas Poinsettias, which will remain on display in the Sanctuary until the Christmas Eve services. Your order form and money can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Make check payable to Bethany Presbyterian Church with "poinsettia" in the memo line. The cost is $9.00/ea and they are available in Red, White, and Pink. **Deadline for orders is Sunday, November 29th**. Additional forms are at the end of the pews and also on the table in the Welcome Center.



BETHANY NATIVITY "LIGHT UP " NIGHT- On **Thursday, December 3rd at 6:30pm**, BLOOM will hold a **"LIGHT UP"** Night at the Bethany Nativity located on the front lawn of the Church. Please join us for some spiritual words and caroling at the nativity with our Bloom Musicians and Singers. We also invite you to bring your favorite Christmas Cookies or Dessert for some socializing with hot drinks and additional music after the caroling.

SECRET SISTER NEWS - The Secret Sister Reveal Luncheon for the 2026 Secret Sisters will be held on **Sunday, December 6th at 12:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend to discover who your Secret Sister was this year. Contact Judy Davidson at 412-343-7530 or Pat Mishizen at 412-417-3541 if you have any questions.

THE INTERSECTION – A BIBLE STUDY FOR PARENTS – Join us for an Informational Gathering on **Sunday, December 6th,** between the 8:15 and 10:45 worship services in the Library. Parenting brings plenty of questions, joys, challenges, and opportunities for growth, including in our own faith. Join Pastor Justin for an informal gathering to learn more about a Bible study for parents at Bethany. We are tentatively planning to start this Bible study at the beginning of next year as a new Sunday school class. This gathering is an opportunity to connect with other parents, share what you might hope to gain from a Bible study, and help shape its direction. Whether you're looking to deepen your own faith, explore Scripture alongside others in a similar season of life, or reflect on what it means to nurture faith in your children, we'd love to hear from you. No commitment is necessary at this stage, just come share your thoughts and help us imagine what this group could become!

LAURELVILLE MUD WEEKEND - is quickly approaching! All 6th - 12th grade students are invited to come to LMW **December 11th - 13th**. There are information packets on the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center. It is a great weekend of fun, high-energy worship, messages, discussions, and of course the MUD! Cost is $150 ($30 deposit to save your spot, then $120 remaining balance to be paid by December 1st.)

FLOWERS – Please see the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center for 2027 for sanctuary flowers. The cost is $40 per vase. Please be sure to put “Flowers” in the memo line on your check made out to Bethany Presbyterian Church, which can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the Church Office. The Church Office will give you a call the week prior to the date you sign up for to confirm the flower and color you prefer along with any dedication information you would like to appear in the bulletin.

URBAN IMPACT EVENT- Urban Impact is one of Bethany’s Mission Partners and on Friday, **December 4th and Saturday, December 5th** they will hold their 17th annual production of **Light the Night**, a FREE Christmas celebration at Christ Church at Grove Farm, 249 Duff Road in Sewickley, Pa. If you would be interested in attending, this event is free for the whole family to enjoy, but they kindly ask for you to register on their website to help them plan ahead. Due to a set number of seats, space is limited. Registered attendees will get priority access into the show. Walk-ins are welcome, however, we cannot guarantee seating in the sanctuary and may need to direct non-registered attendees to the overflow room. The show features students from the Urban Impact Foundation Performing Arts Academy telling the story of Christ’s birth and the hope that faith in Jesus Christ can bring to humankind. See how this story of hope, wonder, and redemption still transforms lives today.

CHURCH FINANCES AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2026

Thank you for your continued support.

	2026 YTD ($)	2025 YTD ($)	+/- ($)
Contributions*	$ 493,139	$ 454,096	$39,043
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	331,685	308,765	22,920
Investment Income **	13,321	13,609	(288)
Total General Fund Income	$ 838,145	$ 776,470	$61,675
Year to Date Budget	795,251		
+/- Budget	$ 42,894		

*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.

QR Code for online giving

November Special Offering - Membership Support Fund

The special offering envelope for November supports the Membership Support Fund. This fund benefits Bethany members in need of assistance. Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting "Membership Support" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for the Membership Support Fund on your check or a pew envelope.

Thank you for your contribution to Bethany members in need through the Membership Support Fund!

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, November 15
8:15AM – Worship
9:00AM – Troop 2 Pancake Breakfast
9:30AM - Sunday School
10:45AM – Worship
Adult and Youth Ukulele Practice after 10:45 Service
12:00PM – Intercessory Prayer
5:00PM – Bethany Youth Group Friendsgiving

Monday, November 16
4:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout
6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group

Tuesday, November 17
10:00AM – Additional Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM – Deacons Meeting
7:00PM – Session Meeting
7:00PM – ALANON

Wednesday, November 18
9:30AM - Staff Bell Choir
11:30AM – Knitters
6:45PM – Cantata / Choir Practice

Thursday, November 19
9:00AM – Quilters
12:00PM – Golden Oldies Luncheon
6:30PM - Bloom
7:00PM - Dartball
7:30PM – AA

Friday, November 20

Saturday, November 21
9:00AM – Food Bank

Sunday, November 22
8:15AM – Worship
9:30AM - Sunday School
10:45AM – Worship
12:00PM - Congregational Meeting
Adult and Youth Ukulele Practice after 10:45 Service
5:00PM – BYG Group Night