



America at 250

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026
10:00AM

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

Introit: "Battle Hymn of the Republic" Hand Bell Tree: Nadina Robusto

by Julia Ward Howe

PRELUDE: "My Country, 'Tis of Thee"

arr. Humphrey Turner; Tune: America from "Thesaurus Musicus" c. 1745; cpr 1992 Lorenz Publishing Co.

WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

From east and west, north and south,

God gathers a people from every nation and language.

We come to worship the Lord, whose kingdom has no end.

We give thanks for the blessings we have received—
for freedom, for neighbors, for places we call home.

Yet our hope is not in princes or powers, but in the living God.

The Lord calls us to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

**We come to worship the One who gives every good gift
and calls us to faithful service.**

Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Larry Ruby

HYMN *(Please Stand)*

"America, the Beautiful"

No. 727

1 O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain; for purple mountain
majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

2 O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern, impassioned stress A thoroughfare for
freedom beat Across the wilderness! America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!

3 O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country
loved, and mercy more than life! America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

4 O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears! America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Please be seated)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Larry Ruby

Merciful God, You created every person in your image and call every nation to seek justice, practice mercy, and walk humbly before you. We confess that we have often loved our own comfort more than our neighbors, our own opinions more than your wisdom, and our own security more than your kingdom. Renew within us grateful hearts for the blessings we enjoy, compassionate hearts toward those who suffer, and courageous hearts to seek peace, justice, and reconciliation wherever you have placed us. Teach us to be faithful citizens of both our communities and, above all, your eternal kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Larry Ruby

Hear the good news: God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven—not because of our achievements, our heritage, or our nationality, but because of God's abundant grace. Having been reconciled to God, let us now become ambassadors of Christ's peace in the world. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.** Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE *(Please Stand)*

“Gloria Patri”

Public Domain | Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

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

Pastor Brian Janssen

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Larry Ruby

FIRST READING

Psalm 146

Pastor Larry Ruby

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

SECOND READING

I Peter 2:9-17

Pastor Brian Janssen

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honorably among the gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge. For the Lord's sake be subject to every human authority, whether to the emperor as supreme or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

America at 250

Pastor Brian Janssen

WE RESPOND

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

"Near the Cross"

**Vocalists: Jacquelyn Nixon
and Carrie Emerson**

Words by Fanny Crosby; Music by William Doane

THE RESPONSE *(Please Stand)* **"Doxology"**

Bethany CCLI License 1761225 | Bethany Livestream License 20229965

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*)

"Battle Hymn Of the Republic"

No. 730

1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord: He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword; His truth is marching on.

Refrain: Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

2 I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps; They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps; I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps; His day is marching on. [Refrain]

3 He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat; He is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment-seat: Oh! be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet! Our God is marching on. [Refrain]

4 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me: As he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free, while God is marching on. [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 Dale Anderson, Tom & Carole Aspinall and Dolly McCrea.

***The Deacons Meeting has been moved to July 14th at 7:00pm for event planning.*

Thank you to all that gave or attempted to donate blood last Sunday. The Bethany Blood drive resulted in 18 of 20 blood donations. We met our goal! Vitalant claims our Blood Drive could potentially impact 54 lives. Giving the gift of blood is truly a reason to be proud. Thank you!

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

T-SHIRTS! – We have lots of Bethany T-Shirts left! Your choice of white, grey, and black are available in many various sizes. See Edgar Shaffer or Laura Dugan if you would like one!

BYG - Milkshake Monday at Milkshake Factory at 6pm on Monday July 6th!

MUSIC MINISTRY CELEBRATES BRIDGEVILLE'S 125TH! - Join us in the celebration of Bridgeville's 125th as we make a joyful noise to the Lord at the Main Stage! We will hold a communal prayer at the end of our music time- come sing and pray with us!
July 21 - Main Stage: 5pm: Ukulele and Chime Choir; 6pm: Bloom
July 23- Main Stage: 6pm: Bloom

PART-TIME POSITION - We are looking for a Part-Time Custodian! Interested applicants can email their resume to finance@bethanypresby.org. See our website for more details.

USHERS NEEDED – Ushers are needed for the summer months. If you are available, call or text Dale Anderson at 724-699-5631.

MINUTE FOR MISSION - On **July 12th**, we will have a speaker from Sojourner House join us. Sojourner House is a mission that Bethany supports. It is in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh and provides recovery services for mothers and their families. The speaker will share with us services that they provide as well as possible opportunities to be a volunteer.

NEW BIBLE STUDY - What if Bible study felt less like a lecture and more like a conversation? Join us for Notes in the Margin, a welcoming, discussion-based Bible study where we explore Scripture, ask questions, and grow in faith together. Whether you're new to faith, returning after time away, or looking to deepen your walk with God, you're invited. **Bi-weekly meetings beginning Tuesday, July 14th from 6:30 to 7:30PM!** Bring your Bible, your questions, and an open heart. No expertise required!

JOIN THE BETHANY AUDIO & VIDEO TEAM - Have you ever wondered how we operate our soundboard or record our services with video cameras? Volunteers are needed to support each service here at Bethany and we would love to have you join our audio & video tech team! This important ministry is another way to offer your God given talents to support the services and mission here at Bethany. No experience is necessary, we can teach you everything! Talk to any one of us after a service or Call or text Mike Segeleon at 412-389-0985 or email msegeleon@msn.com.

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!

DEBBY HAYES PLAY AND PRAY – Great news! From **June 28th through July 26th** all children can leave after the Children's Sermon and go to the Worship and Wonder room for **Play and Pray!**

HARVEST STREET MISSION COLLECTION - The Mission Team will be collecting donated clothing items **in the Welcome Center** during **July and August** for Harvest Street Mission. Harvest Street Mission is a small non-profit that started organizing and providing for folks who live on the streets, in shelters or in low income housing with a focus on the North Side of Pittsburgh. The Mission is in need of "new" men's underwear, size Large and X-large. They are also needing men's/women's summer shirts (t-shirts/not undershirts) and other summer clothing that one would want to donate. These items can be used. A box will be provided for donations starting July 5th.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS NEEDED - The Bethany Men's Huddle Group is assisting a homeless man as he prepares to move into his first apartment. Household goods of all types are needed - furniture, cookware, dishes, utensils, pillows, linens, towels, etc. If you have any items that you are able to donate, please contact Jim Myers at jamyers97@verizon.net or at 412-328-0306. **Place items in Room 120** behind Fellowship Hall.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - On Thursday, **July 23rd** from 9:30am-noon, we have the opportunity to send a group of volunteers to the Washington City Mission in Washington, PA. Our volunteers will work in the warehouse sorting items (clothes, shoes, houseware, etc.). If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Karen Talerico by phone or send a text to 412-913-3789. Please note that our group cannot exceed 10 volunteers.

POPSICLE POP-UP! – On **July 12th** we will have a Popsicle Pop Up at **11am in the Welcome Center!** Join us for a sweet time and a sweet treat for the summer!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY BOOK CLUB - It's book o'clock! Come join the Women's Ministry Book Club on **7/22 at 7pm** in Sunday School Classroom 224. The book we will be discussing is Max Lucado's *Miracle at the Higher Grounds Cafe*. Hope to see you there!

CHURCH PICNIC – Our annual Church Picnic will be August 9th for our 10am service!

GOLDEN OLDIES TRIP – The Golden Oldies are going to see **JOSHUA** at the Sight and Sound Theater **September 9th and 10th** so mark your calendars! On the trip they will experience Turkey Hill Ice Cream and Lab as well as the Dutch Apple Dinner and Show of “Pretty Woman”. Call Carole Aspinall at 412-833-8114 for details or questions.

BRIDGEVILLE BIRTHDAY - This year the BCA will help host a nine-day celebration from Saturday **July 18th to Sunday July 26.**

- **July 18th** 5k race 8:15 am at Bridgeville Fire Department 5pm Roaring 20s dinner dance (costumes encouraged)
- **July 19th** 12:30pm Parade from Bethany Church to Commercial Street The ecumenical services at Triangle Park 2:00 to 5:00 pm
- **July 20th** Live entertainment - artisan tent - contests- food court - food trucks - Black Smith demonstration - Commercial Street from 5 pm to 10 pm
- **July 21st** Live entertainment - artisan tent - contests- food court - food trucks - Black Smith demonstration Commercial Street from 5 pm to 10 pm
- **July 22nd** Live entertainment - artisan tent - contests - food court - food trucks - Commercial Street- 125 minutes of free ice cream cones at the Dari Delite starting at 4:30 and the carnival from 5 pm to 10 pm
- **July 23rd** Live entertainment - artisan tent - contests - food court - food trucks - Commercial Street - carnival from 5 pm to 10 pm
- **July 24th** Live entertainment - artisan tent - contests - food court - food trucks- Commercial Street - carnival from 5 pm to 10 pm Comedy Show doors open at 6 pm.
- **July 25th** Co-ed Softball tournament starts at 8 am at Chartiers Park - from 5 pm to 10 pm Live entertainment - artisan tent - contests - food court - food trucks - Commercial Street - carnival
- **July 26th** Softball tournament starts at 10 pm at Chartiers Park.

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE CHURCH FINANCES AS OF JUNE 28, 2026

Thank you for your continued support.

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 274,363	\$ 269,620	\$ 4,743
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	191,195	186,059	5,136
Investment Income **	7,099	6,875	223
Total General Fund Income	\$ 472,656	\$ 462,554	\$10,102
Year to Date Budget	465,313		
+/- Budget	\$ 7,343		

*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.

June Special Offering - Vacation Bible School

The special offering envelope for June supports Vacation Bible School. Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting "Vacation Bible School" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for VBS on your check or a pew envelope. Thank you for your contribution to this great program for the youth of Bethany and the community!



QR Code
for online
giving

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, July 5

8:15AM and 10:00AM – Worship

Monday, July 6

4:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout

6:00PM - BYG Milkshake Monday at Milkshake Factory

6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group

Tuesday, July 7

9:30AM – Choral Courtyard

11:00AM - Sacred Music Sampling – Sound Room

7:00PM – ALANON

Wednesday, July 8

9:00AM - Bell Tree Hour

9:30AM – Fellowship of Prayer

11:30AM – Knitters

Thursday, July 9

9:00AM – Quilters

10:00AM - Creatives in the Chapel

12:00PM – Rotary

3:00PM - Adult Ukulele

6:30PM – Bloom at the Gazebo

7:30PM – AA

Friday, July 10

Saturday, July 11

Sunday, July 12

8:15AM and 10:00AM – Worship

11:00AM – Popsicle Pop-Up