



*“Walking with God:
The Adventure of Generosity
I. The Beauty of Blessing”*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025
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

"In Christ There is No East or West"

arr. Dale Wood; cpr 1989 The Sacred Music Press

WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Laura Dugan

From north and south, from east and west, God gathers us to worship.

We come as one body, united in Christ.

At this table, strangers become neighbors and neighbors become family.

We come to taste and see that the Lord is good.

Let us worship the God who feeds us with grace and welcomes us with love.

Thanks be to God!

OPENING PRAYER *(Please Stand)*

Laura Dugan

HYMN *(Please Stand)*

"O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing"

No. 96

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1 O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

3 Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

4 He breaks the power of cancelled sin, he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Laura Dugan

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Laura Dugan

Merciful God, you call us to live as members of one body, but we confess that we have often turned away from our neighbors. We cling to what is ours and forget that all is a gift from you. We divide where you would make us one, and we hold back where you would have us give freely. Forgive us, O Lord. Reconcile us to you and to one another, that we may walk in the way of Christ, who breaks down every dividing wall. Amen. *Silent Confession*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Laura Dugan

Hear the good news: Christ himself is our peace; in his flesh he has made us one, and through him our sins are forgiven. In Christ, we are reconciled to God and to one another. **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

Laura Dugan

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 (10:45)

Debby Hayes

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Laura Dugan

FIRST READING

Romans 9:1-5

Xuelai Wu Talerico will read first in Chinese

Laura Dugan

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

SECOND READING

Genesis 32:22-31

Pastor Brian Janssen

Elizabeth Onyabe will read in the NUPE language from Northern Nigeria

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed.” Then Jacob asked him,

"Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Walking With God: The Adventure of Generosity
I. The Beauty of Blessing" Pastor Brian Janssen

WE RESPOND

APOSTLES' CREED (*Please Stand*)

Priyanka Sepuri will read in Telugu

Priyanka Sepuri

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell, the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

"Love Has Made Us One"

by Karen Crane; arr. by Doug Nolan; cpr 2020 Hal Leonard; Bethany Choir

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

God of the past, the present, and the ages to come, you set the seasons and cause the sun to rise and fall, numbering our days. The earth is yours, for you have made it. The heavens declare your handiwork; they are crafted according to your design. Streams gush from their sources to refresh us with clear waters; mighty rivers flow on their courses, as you have decreed. The seas ebb and flow and tides are determined; waves dash against the shores of the land you created. You place us amid your ordered universe, O Creator, and unceasingly reveal your providential intention. If we will but dwell in the midst of your mercy, we may be assured of your benevolent protection. So what can befall us to hinder thanksgiving? You wrestled with Jacob and he prevailed.

When he asked you gave him a blessing, and called his name Israel. He called the place Penuel, “for I have seen God face to face and yet my life is preserved.” The covenant that you made with him you have never broken. You sent Jesus Christ as a sign of your love. You did not spare him when he was subjected to scorn. When he died for our sins he made us the victors. When the grave could not hold him we were granted new life. He knows of our plight and how we might suffer. He prays for our well-being so that we can rejoice. Who or what then can separate us from your love? We shall continue to endure persecution. In faithfulness to Christ, we persevere in our struggle against injustice and greed. Yet even when distress or peril confronts us, we are upheld by his redeeming grace. For all you have been, are, and will continue to be, we give you thanks as we abide in your love, in the name of Christ Jesus.

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 - People may now come forward.

Communion servers will serve from the front of the church and each row will be invited to come forward to receive the bread and cup. For those who are unable to come forward, communion will be still be offered to you at your seat after the standing participants are done.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WE ARE SENT

HYMN (*Please Stand*)

"Christ For the World We Sing"

No. 561

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1 Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring with loving zeal: the poor and them that mourn, the faint and overborne, sin-sick and sorrow-worn, for Christ doth heal.

2 Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring with fervent prayer: the wayward and the lost, by restless passions tossed, redeemed at countless cost from dark despair.

3 Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring with one accord: with us the work to share, with us reproach to dare, with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.

4 Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring with joyful song: the newborn souls whose days, reclaimed from error's ways, inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Brian Janssen

CLOSING RESPONSE

"God Be With You"

by Rankin and Tomer; Public Domain

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

The flowers are presented to the Glory of God by Lee and Darlene Restich.

Our New Interim Associate Pastor

We will be welcoming Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby as our Interim Associate Pastor beginning October 16th. Although he retired in July of 2016 after 41 years of pastoral ministry, he much prefers serving the Lord in active ministry. Since he retired, he has served several other churches in Pittsburgh Presbytery as well as serving on Presbytery Staff during the pandemic. Prior to that he served 14 years as Senior Pastor of Hiland Presbyterian Church in the North Hills.

His wife of 53 years, Linda, is also a retired Pastor. Since they came back to Pittsburgh in 2002, she has served 6 churches, most recently Whitehall Presbyterian Church. They have four grown children and nine grandchildren and we will become a great-grandparents in April! Our family is scattered around the world in London, Baltimore, Tampa, and Woodstock, New York.

Larry has served as Senior Pastor, Solo Pastor, Associate Pastor, and Interim Pastor in his long ministry and brings a wealth of experience. He sees his mission at Bethany to provide whatever support is needed to prepare for your next Associate Pastor, support Pastor Brian and your great ministry team and encourage the members of Bethany to use their spiritual gifts to bring glory to God, build up the Body of Christ and be witnesses to God's love, grace and mercy to the community and the world.

STEWARDSHIP CONCERT - Join us for a Stewardship Concert to celebrate the Generosity of God expressed through the life of Bethany Church. Reception with light bites and live music in the Welcome Center begins at 5:30pm followed by the concert from 6:00-7:00pm.

What a blessing and honor it is to celebrate Communion Worldwide!

The music used during the distribution of Communion are two cultural Communion hymns. "The Bread of Life for All Is Broken", by Yin-Lan Su, cpr. 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, is a Chinese hymn that is in Hymns of Universal Praise as one of the fifty indigenous hymns in this hymnal from 1936 that was used by many denominations.

"Come, Let Us Eat" is a Loma hymn from Liberia, written by Billema Kwillia in the 1960s, and learned to "read her own Loma language through a church literacy program" This hymn is also found in the Communion section of our hymnal.

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

HOLY COW! IT'S A CAT!

Over the summer many of you participated in our Holy Cow Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) and the results are in. The Session of the church has been hard at work the last month digesting the report and we will be sharing the results with the congregation **today** immediately following **10:45am worship in the Great Room**. We will have some lite bites and a time of conversation. The leadership of the church would like to thank all of you for participating in the CAT survey as we continue to discern and learn how the Lord will use Bethany Church to be a witness to the gospel in the 21st century.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD COLLECTION - The Bethany Mission Team will participate in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Collection for children ages 2 to 14 around the world. Boxes are available on the table in the Welcome Center and must be returned by Sunday November 2nd. Boxes can be filled for girls and boys ages 2 to 4, 5 to 9 or 10 to 14 and information and gift suggestions are attached to each box. Last year we collected 83 boxes and with all of your help, we hope to top that number this year. Returned boxes should be closed with a rubber band and include a \$10 check to Bethany Presbyterian Church to aid with the shipping costs.

New Sunday School Class with Pastor Brian – Begins October 19

Join Pastor Brian for a new Sunday school class beginning Sunday, October 19, from 9:30–10:30 AM in the Library. We'll be studying [We Who Wrestle With God](#) by Jordan Peterson. On the first day, we'll share an overview of the book and take time to get to know one another. No book purchase is needed before our first meeting. If you can't make the first class no worries. We will make sure to get you caught up. To help us prepare and order enough books, please register online using the QR code below.



CANTATA CALL! - We are very excited to share our Cantata on Dec 14, 2025.

Everything is coming together with the guest musicians and all the music arrived; it is time to prepare! (Brand new Cantata to us this year!). Cantata Choir practice will start on Oct 8, 2025, from 7- 7:45pm, and each Wednesday following (exception the week of Thanksgiving). Any instrumentalists that would like to share their gifts are welcome! Please see Nadina or email music@bethanypresby.org for more details.

BETHANY YOUTH GROUP UPCOMING EVENTS

October 5th we have a Group Night 5:00pm - 6:30pm that will be our last in the “Into the Wild,” Bible Study Series. Fit with a game that includes plungers, boats, and scooters. Confused? Come to BYG on the 5th to find out what this game will be.

Saturday October 11th will be our outing for this month! We will be going to Half Crown Hill Orchard in McDonald, and then heading down the road to North Star Restaurant’s Halloween Pop-Up event. Cost is dependent on how many apples your child wants to bring and food. We recommend \$25 to cover the cost for apples and dinner at North Star.

October 19th we will have a Group Night 5:00pm - 6:30pm that will be focused on “Strange Stories from Scripture,” to get you into the season of Halloween (while also getting the hope of Jesus!). No Halloween youth group would be fit without playing a game of Sardines in the dark.

UPWARD SPORTS - Registration for the 2026 season is now open on the website at bethanypresby.org/upward.

TRUNK OR TREAT - We will be hosting a Trunk or Treat Event here at Bethany Presbyterian Church on Saturday, October 25th from 6:00PM-8:00PM. We would love for you to participate. If you would like to decorate your car and give out candy or be here to greet people in the community who bring their kids to this special event, there are numerous ways to help. You can register using the QR code, or email Katelyn Gilmore at gilmorekate.013@gmail.com. Katelyn is here to answer any questions you might have. It will be a great evening of fellowship.



UKULELE FOR ALL AGES! - Lesson age breakdown as follows:

October 5th & October 12th - **K-4th- Class** (After Church)

Adult Class starting September 18th and will continue on Thursdays at 10:00am.

COLLEGE OUTREACH PROGRAM - We are launching a College Outreach Program for Bethany members currently enrolled in college or trade schools and we need your help! Through this program, an individual or family will contact a student during the school year, sending cards and well wishes. There is no need to conceal the identities of the outreach family or individual, and students are not obligated to respond. We aim to help our college age members continue to feel included in our church life. If you are interested in participating, please contact Heather Lucas at membershipchair@bethanypresby.org.

THE CHOSEN VIDEO CLASS - We are excited to extend an invitation to everyone for The Chosen Season 5 video class. Whether you have joined us in the past or are new to these gatherings, we would love to have you with us. Our sessions will take place in the choir room on Sunday evenings at 7:00 PM, starting September 21st and they promise to be a great opportunity to connect, discuss, and enjoy this fantastic series together. If you have any questions or need further details, please feel free to reach out to Edgar Shaffer or Pam Petrow.

BLOOM - Want to try something new? Bloom will have some fun this week trying out guitars made out of cigar boxes- made by our guest, Chuck O'Brad! Join us and have fun trying them out! We will be there rocking out these boxes for 6:30 PM In the Chapel and Welcome Center :)



ROTARY CHILI COOKOFF – Join us for lots of fun at the Rotary Chili Cookoff at Fairview Park on Sunday, October 19th and Bethany is again entering a Chili! The event runs from 12pm to 4pm. We also need volunteers to help work the booth from 12-4pm at Fairview Park at the Rotary Pavilion. Tickets are \$10 or you can donate any amount. Contact Bill Paviol at 412-722-3102 for any questions!

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

CHURCH FINANCES AS OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Thank you for your continued support.

	2025 YTD (\$)	2024 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 378,265	\$ 378,671	\$ (406)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	269,560	251,375	18,185
Investment Income **	11,148	32,618	(21,470)
Total General Fund Income	\$ 658,972	\$ 662,664	\$ (3,692)
Year to Date Budget	679,138		
+/- Budget	\$ (20,166)		

*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.

“Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns.”

Jesus instructs us in Luke 12:42-43 that being a good steward of the Lord’s abundance is a privilege and a responsibility. Let us live faithfully and be ready for the Master’s return.

OCTOBER SPECIAL OFFERING - Men’s and Women’s Ministries

The special offering envelope for October supports the Men’s and Women’s Ministries of Bethany.

Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering by noting that your donation is for the Men’s and Women’s Ministries on your check or a pew envelope.

Thank you for your contribution to the Men’s and Women’s Ministries at Bethany.



QR Code
for online
giving

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, October 5

World Communion Sunday

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship – **YOUTH Ukulele after 10:45 service**

9:30AM - Sunday School

5:00PM - BYG Group Night

Monday, October 6

6:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout

6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group

Tuesday, October 7

7:00PM – ALANON

Wednesday, October 8

11:30AM – Knitters

12:30PM – Hand Chimes

6:30PM - Troop 2 Scouts

7:00PM - Choir Practice – Cantata Practice starts

Thursday, October 9

9:00AM – Quilters

9:00AM – Morning MomCo.

10:00AM – **ADULT** Ukulele

12:00PM – Rotary

6:30PM – Bloom

7:00PM – Evening MomCo.

7:00PM - Dart Ball

7:30PM - AA

Friday, October 10

Saturday, October 11

11:00AM - Knitters

Sunday, October 12

Heritage Sunday

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship – **YOUTH Ukulele after 10:45 service**

9:30AM - Sunday School

5:00PM - BYG Group Night