



# *Hedging Your Bets*

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026  
10:45AM

[WWW.BETHANYPRESBY.ORG/SERMONS](http://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** "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" Bethany Adult Chime Choir  
and Ukulele Choir

by Bradbury and Thrupp; cpr 2001 Choristers Guild

**WELCOME** Pastor Brian Janssen

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Please Stand*) Pastor Larry Ruby

God who made the world and everything in it, you are not far from any one of us.

**We gather to seek you, and to discover that you have already found us.**

In you we live and move and have our being, and in you we find life that endures.

**We come with hearts open to your presence, ready to worship the One who gives us breath.**

Let us worship God.

**OPENING PRAYER** Pastor Larry Ruby

**HYMN** (*Please Stand*) "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" No. 48

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name  
we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds, which are fountains of  
goodness and love.

3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, and wither and perish but naught  
changeth thee.

4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light, thine angels adore thee, all veiling their  
sight; all praise we would render, O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth  
thee.

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (*Please be seated*) Pastor Larry Ruby

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Pastor Larry Ruby

Merciful God, we confess that we have not always sought you, nor trusted the nearness of your presence. We have relied on our own understanding, fashioned our lives around lesser things, and failed to honor you with our whole hearts. We have ignored your call to turn and live, choosing instead what is comfortable or familiar. Forgive us, we pray. Turn us again toward you, renew our hearts, and lead us in the way of life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Silent Confession*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

Hear the good news: The God who calls us to turn also draws near to forgive. In Jesus Christ, we are met with grace, restored to life, and set free to begin again. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **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**

**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 ANTHEM**

### **"You Are My Sunshine"**

by Jimmie Davis and Charles Mitchell; cpr 1940 Peermusic /APRS

### **"Jesus Loves Me" Sunday School Youth Singers and Ukulele Choir**

by Warner and Bradbury; Public Domain

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

## **FIRST READING**

### **1 Peter 3:13-22**

**Pastor Larry Ruby**

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## SECOND READING

Acts 17:22-31

Pastor Brian Janssen

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.' "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

**Hedging Your Bets**

Pastor Brian Janssen

## APNC UPDATE

## WE RESPOND

## THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### THE OFFERTORY

**"How Beautiful"**

**Soloist: Susan Anderson  
Bethany Choir**

by Jeff Lippencott; cpr 2002 Belden Street Music Publishing/ASCAP

### 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*)

**"Built on the Rock"**

**No. 546**

**1** Built on the Rock the Church does stand, even when steeples are falling; Christ builds his church in every land; bells still are chiming and calling; calling the young and old to rest, calling the souls of those distressed, longing for rest everlasting.

**2** Not in a temple made with hands, God the Almighty is dwelling, high in the heavens his temple stands, all earthly temples excelling; yet he who dwells in Heaven above chooses to live with us in love, making our bodies his temple.

**3** We are God's house of living stones, built for His own habitation; He fills our hearts, his humble thrones, granting us life and salvation. Were two or three to seek God's face, he in their midst would show his grace, blessings upon them bestowing.

**4** Through all the passing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are ringing, many come to hear God's word where he this promise is bringing:  
"I know mine own, mine own know me, You, not the world, my face shall see:  
My peace I leave with you. Amen."

## BENEDICTION

**CLOSING RESPONSE**

**"Give Me Oil in My Lamp"**

**Bethany Choir**

(excerpt) Music by Sevinson & Williams; Arr. Joseph M. Martin; cpr 2000 Studio P/R(BMI); by Don Besig and Nancy Price; cpr 1988 Harold Flammer Music

## 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 3-2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

Today's ushers are Deb Pyle, Heather Lucas, Carol Cowser, Pat Mishizen, and Julia Stewart.

The flowers are presented to the Glory of God by Alice Eiszler in memory of Stella Serniak.

Bethany is having a hanging basket sale TODAY! All of the proceeds from the basket sale will be going to SOJOURNER HOUSE which offers faith-based recovery and housing services to women and their children. It is \$25 for each basket. Checks are preferred, cash is welcome but NO credit cards will be accepted.

Thank you so much for your generosity.

*The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Thelma Cimarolli who joined the Church Triumphant on May 5, 2026.*

## **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!

**BLOOM AND CAFÉ BETHANY** – Join us for our next Bloom and Café Bethany event on **Thursday, May 14th at 6:00pm!** There will be a catered dinner followed by a **modern worship service for families at 7:00 pm!** We hope to see you there! Please sign up for the event on the sign-up sheets in the Welcome Center!

**DEACONS SOUTHWOOD BOYS HOME COLLECTION** -The Deacons recently learned that the Southwood Boys Home residents love blankets and throws and there is always a need for more of them. If you would like to help them with these items, there will be a basket and/or bin located in the Welcome Center to collect these blankets or throws (new only). It's another way Bethany can help support the residents with some additional comfort and love.

**BETHANY YOUTH GROUP** - BYG Paintball is NEXT WEEK May 17th! It's at Pittsburgh Paintball Park and will cost \$35/person. Carpool will meet at Bethany at 4pm; if driving separately plan to meet us at PPP at 4:30pm.

**BYG FAMILY COOKOUT** will be Sunday May 31st! BYG and their families are invited to come for a cookout 5pm-7pm to celebrate a great year together, enjoy some fellowship and games, and discuss plans for this summer and upcoming fall (including Laurelville Mud Weekend!)

**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. It's 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.

**FLOWER BINGO NIGHT!** - Hosted by the **Women's Ministry!** On May 27<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm in the Welcome Center, please join us for a fun and colorful evening of **Bingo, fellowship, and flowers!** **Here's How it works:**



Bring a **potted plant** (valued at \$5 or less)



Bring a **snack to share**



**GRAND PRIZE:**



A stunning **hanging basket from Bedner's Farm and Greenhouse**



Come enjoy a night full of laughter, community, and blooming fun!



**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION** – Preschool registration for the 2026/2027 school year is now open on our website! Contact Danielle Gioia at [Gioia.preschool@gmail.com](mailto:Gioia.preschool@gmail.com) with any questions! We are so excited for the coming year!

**SAVE THE DATE** – For the **All Church Golf Outing** for **Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup>!** **All are welcome!** Men, Women and children (father-son, father-daughter, grandfather-grandkids mother-child) Contact Bill Paviol with any questions at 412-722-3102.

## CHURCH FINANCES AS OF MAY 3, 2026

*Thank you for your continued support.*

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 194,140	\$ 197,807	\$(3,667)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	132,685	129,047	3,638
Investment Income **	5,860	5,683	176
<b>Total General Fund Income</b>	<b>\$ 332,684</b>	<b>\$ 332,537</b>	<b>\$ 147</b>
Year to Date Budget	321,650		
<b>+/- Budget</b>	<b>\$ 11,034</b>		



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.*

### **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 10**

#### **Mother’s Day**

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship  
9:30AM – Sunday School

### **Monday, May 11**

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

### **Tuesday, May 12**

6:45AM – Session Team Meetings  
7:00PM – ALANON

### **Wednesday, May 13**

11:30AM – Knitters  
6:30PM - Troop 2 Scouts

### **Thursday, May 14**

9:00AM – Quilters  
9:00AM – Morning Momco  
3:00PM – Adult Ukulele  
12:00PM – Rotary  
6:00PM – Bloom and Café Bethany  
7:00PM – Evening Momco  
7:30PM – AA

### **Friday, May 15**

### **Saturday, May 16**

FOOD BANK

### **Sunday, May 17**

#### **Confirmation Sunday**

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship  
9:30AM – Sunday School  
4:00PM - BYG Paintball  
Ukulele after the second service