



“Adventures In Faith: II. The Adventure of Liberation”

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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 "3rd Movement from Partita on An Early American Folk Hymn"
by Franklin D. Ashdown; cpr 1999 The H.W. Gray Company

WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Dale Anderson

Come, people of God, for the Lord has seen our suffering and heard our cries.
God comes to us in burning bush and quiet whisper, in Spirit and in truth.
The One who called Moses calls us still, to freedom, to service, to life.
Let us worship the God who liberates and leads.

OPENING PRAYER *(Please Stand)*

Dale Anderson

HYMN *(Please Stand)* "Come Great God of All the Ages" **No. 548**
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- 1 Come, great God of all the ages, make your earthly mission known;
speak through every deed and person, let your way and will be shown.
Guide the church to true commitment, give direction now, we ask;
fit us for the work of building, dedicate us to the task.
- 2 Come, Christ, Jesus, flesh and spirit, sure foundation, cornerstone,
help us form the church eternal, may your vision be our own.
Send a message to each follower, lead all people to your way;
urge us to strong faith and action as we build the church today.
- 3 Come, great Spirit, in and with us, tune our ears to hear your call;
through the moving of your presence, let redeeming love recall
ministry in dedication, love embodied in our deeds;
challenge us to do your bidding, see your purpose, fill all needs.
- 4 Come, O come, in celebration, household of the one true God,
in commitment and rejoicing let us go where Christ has trod;
as we act in faith and reverence, let us, Lord, the future see,
place us in the church triumphant, now and for eternity.

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Please be seated)*

Dale Anderson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dale Anderson

**Liberating God, you break chains and open paths we never expected, yet we
confess how quickly we turn back to old fears. You call us to love sincerely, but**

we are guarded with our hearts. You invite us to share in your freedom, but we cling to control. Forgive us, Lord. Set us free once more, that we may follow where you lead, and serve you with glad and generous hearts. Amen. *Silent Confession*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Dale Anderson

Hear the good news: God has heard our cry, seen our need, and come down to deliver us. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, freed, and made new. **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 Brian Janssen

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.**

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN’S SERMON - BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS **Pastor Brian Janssen**

Loving God, We lift up these children and their backpacks. Bless them with curiosity, wonder, and joy in learning.

Go with our children into classrooms and playgrounds, Keep them safe, help them to be kind, And remind them that they are never alone.

Leader: May their backpacks remind them each day That they carry Your love, And that their church family is praying for them.

Bless our children, O Lord. Guide their teachers, friends, and families. And help us all to grow in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Dale Anderson

FIRST READING

Romans 12:9-20

Dale Anderson

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay," says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."

SECOND READING

Exodus 3:1-15

Pastor Brian Janssen

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.' " God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you'

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

**"Adventures In Faith: II."
The Adventure of Liberation**

Pastor Brian Janssen

COMMISSIONING OF ASSOCIATE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Saints of Bethany, do you promise to support this committee with your prayers, your encouragement, and your trust, believing that the Spirit equips the whole church for Christ's service?

We do, with God's help. We will pray for you daily, encourage you in your work, and entrust this process to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who provides all that the church needs.

Will you pray regularly for this committee, asking God to grant them wisdom and unity in their work?

We will. We will lift them before God, asking for clarity of vision, patience with one another, and a spirit of joy in their service.

Will you remain open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, ready to receive with joy the pastor God provides for this congregation?

We will. With open hearts and willing hands, we will welcome the one God calls, seeking together to build up the body of Christ and serve the mission of the gospel.

WE RESPOND

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY **"Sing to the Lord"** **Bethany Choir; Descant: Ruth Doyle**
by Deborah Governor; cpr 2004 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

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 together, 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*)

“Be Still My Soul”

No. 451

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1 Be still, my soul! the Lord is on your side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide; In every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul! your best, your heavenly friend Thru' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2 Be still, my soul! your God will undertake to guide the future as he has the past;
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know His voice
who ruled them while he dwelt below.

3 Be still, my soul! the hour is hastening on when we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys
restored. Be still my soul! when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Brian Janssen

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

The flowers are presented to the Glory of God by Pat Mishizen.

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 on **October 5, 2025** 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.

BLOOM AND BETHANY CAFE join hands and hearts again this month with a special dinner and worship service combo! Please join us on Thursday, Sept. 18th for a community Barbecue dinner at 6:00 – 6:45pm followed by a Modern Worship service for families from 6:45 – 7:00pm. We look forward to sharing in fellowship and praise with you! Please sign up using the QR code BELOW or on the flier!



BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY - September 21st is **National Back to Church Sunday** and Bethany is participating. Now more than ever we know that our neighbors and communities need a relationship with Jesus Christ. We are encouraging you to invite friends, neighbors, relatives, and even people whom you miss seeing in church to join us on September 21st for Worship. Church leaders will be here to meet, greet, and pray with people as we fill this space with love and joy.

CHURCH PICNIC BAKERS

A special thank you to all of the dessert bakers for the Church Picnic that was held on Sunday, August 17th at Fairview Park. All of the desserts were wonderful, however, there was a tie and we had two first place winners! Marlene Haley- Pineapple Orange Delight and Susan Anderson with her two grandsons Asher and Brody- Peach Pie. One second place winner Lisa Janssen- Key Lime Bars, and one third place winner Abbie Gardner- Lemon Blueberry Cupcakes.

SECRET SISTER LUNCHEON – Sunday, September 21st at noon. If you are part of the 2025 Secret Sister program, you are invited to join us for a casual luncheon gathering. This is not a reveal luncheon, just a time to meet each other, and gather for some fellowship. The Reveal Luncheon will be in December.

NOTE: If you are able to attend the Secret Sister Pot Luck Luncheon on September 21st after the 10:45am service, please contact Pat Mishizen 412-417-3541 or Judy Davidson 412-343-7530 and tell us whether you'll be bringing an appetizer or dessert. There will be sliders, soup, and beverages. Hope to see you there!

HAND CHIMES - Adult Hand Chimes resume this week! We had so much fun ringing in the Spring and Summer and look forward to practicing our Fall repertoire. There's room for more hands to ring- if you're interested please meet us in the back of the choir room on Wednesdays at 12:30 and/or see or message Nadina for more info- music@bethanypresby.org

WORSHIP AND WONDER continues on Sept. 14th at 10:45am! 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES FOR ALL AGES! – Sunday School is starting again and here is a lineup of all the classes for all ages and their teachers:

1. **Adults** - A Study of Second Corinthians - led by Sharon Salvini and Devin Underwood. Located in the front half of fellowship hall, nearest the stairwell.
2. **Adults** - A Study of The New Testament – led by Doug Bovard. Located in the Bethany Room
3. **Adults** - A Study of First & Second Corinthians – led by Mark Rackley. Located in the Chapel.
4. **Women** – A Jesus Shaped Life by Lisa Harper - A Book & Video Study – led by Becky Yanak. Explores the depths of God's character, His love for us, and how our relationship with Him changes through Biblically sound theology.

Located in room 224

5. **Senior High** – Are you a teen, or know a teen, that is living in a world of anxiety, fear, self-doubt, and not feeling like you are enough? Join us as we explore the book *Live Fearless: A Call to Power, Passion, and Purpose* by Sadie Robertson.

Led by Pam Petrow. Located in the Youth Lounge

6. **For Children:** a. Bible Stories & Fun – Babies through age 2 in the Nursery

b. Bible Stories & Fun – Ages 3-5 in room 245

c. Bible in Life by David C. Cook – Elementary & Middle School in rooms 239 and 240

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.

PRESCHOOL BIKE DONATIONS - The preschool is currently in need of [training wheel bikes in good condition!](#) The Church is open from 9-2 during the week so feel free to drop them off!

UKULELE FOR ALL AGES!

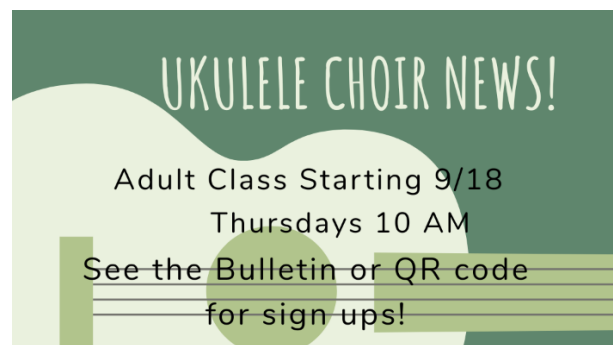
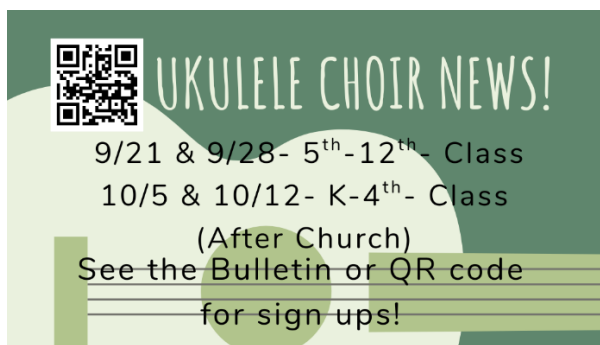
Nadina is offering Ukulele lessons for all ages! Sign up below! The QR Code takes you straight to Nadina's email. The QR Code works for all ages!

Lesson age breakdown as follows:

September 21st & September 28th - **5th-12th- Class** (After Church)

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

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



MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE CHURCH FINANCES AS OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Thank you for your continued support.

	2025 YTD (\$)	2024 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 360,515	\$ 360,614	\$ (99)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	254,378	237,625	16,753
Investment Income **	11,148	32,618	(21,470)
Total General Fund Income	\$ 626,040	\$ 630,857	\$ (4,817)
Year to Date Budget	644,627		
+/- Budget	\$ (18,586)		

*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

We are embarking on an exciting new chapter for Bethany's education wing! This is both an opportunity and a responsibility: to create a welcoming and inspiring environment for our children, teens, and families to learn, grow and thrive in their faith journey. Renovations include new carpeting, paint, furniture, sign-in station and decorations. If you feel called, we are asking for your heartfelt donations to help us support this important work. All gifts, great or small, are appreciated and will be used faithfully for this specific project. To donate, please contact the church office or you can make a note on your check/donation identifying it as Education Wing Renovation Donation. We thank every donor for their ongoing support and faith. With your help, our education wing will continue to be a light for learning and love in our church and our community for years to come.

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING - Children / Youth Ministry Revitalization Program

The special offering envelope for September supports the renovation of the Children and Youth ministry classrooms and programs revitalization. Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting "Elementary Programs" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for Children / Youth Revitalization Programs on your check or a pew envelope. Thank you for your contribution to the programs for the children and youth of Bethany and our community.



BETHANY PRESCHOOL

ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN

FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

*Our experienced teachers and
engaging curriculum offer
children the opportunity
to learn and grow in a safe,
nurturing environment.*

**Don't forget to sign up for Preschool for the
upcoming school year! We are so excited for the
new year to start!**

SPOTS ARE STILL OPEN!

The preschool is currently in need of training wheel bikes in good condition!
The Church is open from 9-2 during the week so feel free to drop them off!

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, September 14 **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship

9:30AM - Sunday School

5:00PM - BYG Group Night

Monday, September 15
6:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout
6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group
7:00PM - Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, September 16
7:00PM – ALANON

Wednesday, September 17
11:30AM – Knitters
12:30PM – Hand Chimes
6:30PM - Troop 2 Scouts
7:00PM - Choir Practice

Thursday, September 18
9:00AM – Quilters
10:00AM – Ukulele
12:00PM – Golden Oldies Luncheon
6:00PM – Bloom and Café Bethany
7:00PM - Dart Ball
7:30PM - AA

Friday, September 19

Saturday, September 20
FOOD BANK

Sunday, September 21
8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship
9:30AM - Sunday School
12:00PM – Secret Sisters Lunch
4:00PM - BYG Escape Room