



New Beginnings VII. The Plans We Make

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 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

PRELUDE

"Amazing Grace"

WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

Please stand if you are able and join in the call to worship.

In every generation, God has called out to wandering hearts.

We have wandered, and still God calls us home.

When the road ahead is unclear, and the way forward feels uncertain,

The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

Come, let us worship the God who does not abandon the forgotten,

who turns even our hardest chapters toward hope.

Let us worship the Lord with open hearts.

We come, ready to hear and be heard. Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Larry Ruby

HYMN *(Please Stand)*

"Come Thou Font of Every Blessing"

No. 68

- 1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise his name- I'm fixed upon it, name of God's redeeming love.
- 2 Here I raise to thee an altar; hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood.
- 3 O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that goodness like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Please be seated)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not always trusted your presence in our lives. We have let jealousy and rivalry take root among us. We have turned away from those who suffer, choosing comfort over compassion. We have failed to call on your name in our need, and failed to listen when others called on ours. Forgive us, we pray. Soften our hardened hearts, and turn us back toward your grace. Amen.

Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear this good news: nothing we have done separates us from the love of God. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved — and that promise is for you, and for me, this day and always. 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

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 Larry Ruby

FIRST READING

Romans 10:5-15

Pastor Larry Ruby

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss? (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), because¹ if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the

name of the Lord shall be saved.” But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!

SECOND READING

Genesis 37:1-4,12--28

Pastor Brian Janssen

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. These are the descendants of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” He answered, “Here I am.” So he said to him, “Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me.” So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, “What are you seeking?” “I am seeking my brothers,” he said; “tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.” The man said, “They have gone away, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.” But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe that he wore, and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

**New Beginnings VII.
The Plans We Make**

Pastor Brian Janssen

WE RESPOND

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

"I Shall Not Be Moved"
Caleb Auldridge and Bloom Musicians
By POPS Staples

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)*

"When Peace Like a River"

No. 428

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like
sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to
say, "It is well, it is well with my soul"

Refrain

It is well, (It is well) with my soul; (with my soul)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

- 2** Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control: that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.

Refrain

It is well, (It is well) with my soul; (with my soul)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

- 3** My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! my sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

It is well, (It is well) with my soul; (with my soul)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

- 4** And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend; even so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well, (It is well) with my soul; (with my soul)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

“ Amazing Grace”

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 Sarah Paviol, Alec Heiskell, Heather Lucas and Karen Lucas

Creatives in the Chapel invites you to check out the displays in the Chapel if you haven't yet. We have exhibits from Tim Anderson and Sharon Salvini, as well as some of Joe Oyler's literature on display through Sunday, August 16th. What an awesome time of fellowship we have had this summer with Tim, Sharon, Joe and Bonnie Herdershot.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Michael Swanson and family on the passing of Pat Swanson, a beloved member of Bethany, who joined the Church Triumphant on August 4, 2026.

The sympathy of the congregation is also extended to Bill Paviol and family on the passing of Bill's beloved brother, John Paviol, who joined the Church Triumphant on August 5, 2026.

Please keep Michael and Bill and their families in your prayers.

Special thanks to our Music Associate, Caleb Auldrige and our Bloom Musicians for leading us in worship today and sharing their talents.

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

DEBBY HAYES PLAY AND PRAY – has been extended through and including Sunday, September 6, 2026. All children can leave after the Children's Sermon and go to the Worship and Wonder Room.

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!

T-SHIRTS! – We still have some Bethany T-Shirts left in various for \$7. If you would like one, please see Edgar Shaffer or Laura Dugan.

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 on Tuesdays, from 6:30 to 7:30PM and the next meeting is Tuesday, August 11th.** 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.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENT - Safety Seminar for all ages will be held on **August 15th** from **2-4pm in Fellowship Hall**. Teenagers and up are all invited. This is a seminar only, not a self-defense class. It will cover situational awareness and de-escalation, physical and personal safety, parking lot safety, etc. Light appetizers will be served.

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 for donations will be in the Welcome Center.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - Bethany has a volunteer opportunity for anyone 12 years and older with Sojourner House on **Saturday, August 15th from 9:30-noon.** The volunteer opportunity will take place at their Green Space/play yard. We will be weeding, mulching and possibly painting. The location is 5529 Black Street, Pittsburgh. If interested in this opportunity please (call or text) Karen Talerico at 412-913-3789 .

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH – The second Annual **Back to School Bash** will be **Sunday, August 30th 5pm -7pm**. It will be open-house style this year so feel free to come and go as needed. We will have a tie-dye station, food, music from our Bloom Musicians and a **MINI GOLF COURSE IN OUR YARD!** It will be a great time or all ages- we hope to see you there. You can RSVP in the Welcome Center to let us know your shirt size.

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

CHURCH FINANCES AS OF AUGUST 2, 2026

Thank you for your continued support.

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 323,482	\$ 320,056	\$3,427
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	230,220	224,014	6,206
Investment Income **	8,395	9,952	(1,557)
Total General Fund Income	\$ 562,097	\$ 554,021	\$ 8,076
Year to Date Budget	552,647		
+/- Budget	\$ 9,450		

*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

August Special Offering – Disaster Relief Fund

The special offering envelope for August supports “Disaster Relief Fund” administered through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program.

Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting "Disaster Relief Fund" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for the Disaster Relief Fund on your check or a pew envelope.

Thank you for your contribution to the Disaster Relief Fund.

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, August 9

8:15AM – Worship

10:00AM Worship and Church Picnic at Fairview Park

Monday, August 10

4:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout

6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group

Tuesday, August 11

6:30PM – Notes in the Margin Bible Study

6:45PM – Session Team Meetings

7:00PM – ALANON

Wednesday, August 12

11:30AM – Knitters

Thursday, August 13

9:00AM – Quilters

6:30PM – Bloom in the Courtyard

7:30PM – AA

Friday, August 14

Saturday, August 15

FOOD BANK

Sunday, August 16

One Service at 10:00AM

Followed by Congregational Meeting



Dear Bethany Family,

It is with excitement and joy that we get to share that the APNC has identified the candidate we believe God is calling to be our next Called and Installed Associate Pastor. This has come after much prayer and discernment and we are excited for you to meet them. To that end we will be hosting them on Sunday, August 16th and **we will have one service at 10:00AM**. This worship service will be immediately followed by a **Congregational meeting for the purpose of electing the Candidate to serve as our next Associate Pastor. You must be present to vote**. Please join us for this very special day in the life of Bethany Church!

Blessings,

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

**WE LOOK FORWARD to SEEING YOU AT 10:00AM on SUNDAY
AUGUST 16TH**