



Are We There Yet?

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026
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

"Jerusalem, My Happy Home"

by George Shearing; Traditional American melody; cpr 1977 The Sacred Music Press

WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

People of God, we gather in hope and expectation, trusting that Christ still calls and sends his Church into the world.

We come to worship with hearts open to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Today we give thanks for those confirming their faith and taking their place within the life of Christ's Church.

We rejoice that God continues to call disciples in every generation.

Let us worship the One who strengthens the weak, gathers the faithful, and leads us forward in love.

With gratitude and joy, we worship God together.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Larry Ruby

HYMN *(Please Stand)*

"God You Spin the Whirling Planets"

No. 24

1 God You spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain,
mold the mountains fashion blossoms, call forth sunshine wind and rain.

We, created in your image, would a true reflection be of Your justice grace and mercy,
and the truth that makes us free.

2 You have called us to be faithful, in our life and ministry. We respond in grateful
worship, joined in one community. When we blur your gracious image, focus us and
make us whole, healed and strengthened as your people, we move
onward toward your goal.

3 God Your will is still creating, calling us to life made new, now reveal to us fresh vistas
where there's work to dare and do. Keep us clear of all distortion, fashion us with loving
care, thus new creatures in Your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Please be seated)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Larry Ruby

Gracious and merciful God, you have called us to be your people, yet we confess that we often live as though faith were only words and not a way of life. We resist your Spirit's leading, hesitate to trust your future, and fail to love one another as members of one body. We confess our impatience, our fear of change, and our reluctance to follow where you lead. We have too often sought comfort over courage and certainty over discipleship. Renew your Church in mercy and grace. Strengthen those confirming their faith this day, and strengthen all of us to live

with conviction, humility, and hope. Shape us into a community that reflects the love of Jesus Christ in all we say and do. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Larry Ruby

Friends, hear the good news:

The God who calls us is also the God who redeems us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and welcomed again into the life of grace. The Holy Spirit continues to strengthen the Church, drawing us together in faith, hope, and love.

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 SERMON

ANTHEM

"Was it a Morning Like This?"

Soloist: Ruth Doyle

by Jim Croegaert; cpr 1978 & 1986 Meadowgreen Music Co./Heart of the Matter Music

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Larry Ruby

FIRST READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

Pastor Larry Ruby

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

SECOND READING**Acts 1:6-14****Pastor Brian Janssen**

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.**SERMON****Are We There Yet?****Pastor Brian Janssen****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** *(Please Stand)***From the Faith Statements of the Confirmation Class**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, who created me in His own image, who loves me unconditionally, and gives me a safe place where I can unload my burdens and hardships through prayer. I believe God created the world and created every person with purpose.

I know the world is not perfect. There is pain, fear, and brokenness. I believe that Jesus lived a perfect life and that when he died, it was the ultimate sacrifice to save humanity from the devil and sin. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, He made a way for us to have a relationship with God.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who acts as a guide and a source of peace. My faith starts with the trust that I am created by God and that He has a purpose for my life, even if I can't always see it. My faith affects the way I want to live. I believe that the church and its people are a safe place for me to go in times of stress and hardships, and that no matter the scenario they will help me.

I am choosing to make this faith my own. I know I will keep learning, growing, and asking questions, but I want to keep trusting God and following Him. I am committing to continue to seek the truth and serve others in the name of Christ. Amen.

RECEPTION OF CONFIRMATION CLASS INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

WE RESPOND

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

"How Great Thou Art"

Bethany Choir

by Stuart K. Hine; arr. Dan Forrest; cpr 1949 and 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust

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)*

"Here I Am, Lord"

No. 559

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my Word to them. Whom shall I send? [Refrain]

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will send the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? [Refrain]

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 3-2nd 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

Today's ushers are Dale and Susan Anderson and Asher and Brody Stark.

Thank you to the students for committing to this class and putting your heart into the discussions, assignments, and your statements of faith. The love you have for God and for this church is apparent. Thank you to you, the congregation, for your prayers over these young adults while they start their faith journeys!
Sincerely, Abbie, Pastor Brian, and the Discipleship Team

The flowers are presented in honor of and for thanks to the Bethany Choir for sharing their gifts to the Glory of God. We appreciate your gifts, commitment, and dedication to sharing your music to beautify our time of worship!

You are warmly invited to join us on **Sunday, May 31st at 11:00 a.m.**, immediately following worship, for a special congregational gathering at Bethany Presbyterian Church. Together we will hear the final reflections and themes that emerged from the Holy Cow listening sessions, as well as a presentation of the first year of our three-year strategic plan for ministry and mission. This will be an opportunity to celebrate where God is leading us and to continue discerning our shared future together. We hope you will make plans to be part of this important conversation in the life of our church.

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

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

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!

DEACONS SOUTHWOOD BOYS HOME COLLECTION -The Southwood Boys Home residents love blankets and throws and there is always a need for more of them. The boxes for the blanket donations (**new only**) are in the Welcome Center till May 31st. It's a way for Bethany to help support the residents with some additional comfort and love.

BETHANY YOUTH GROUP - BYG Paintball is TODAY! 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 - Next Date Wednesday May 27th at 5:30pm - Men of all ages are invited to this opportunity to bring Proverbs 27:17, iron sharpens iron, into their life! Lite bites, good conversation, and great men. To RSVP or if you have any questions, reach out to Josh Gardner at 412 855 9029.

FLOWER BINGO NIGHT! - Hosted by the **Women's Ministry!** On May 27th 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!



CHURCH BBQ - It's a Red, White & Blue Celebration! Join Us for Food, Fun & Fellowship! On **June 14th at 11:00am** in the Inner Courtyard/Fellowship Hall at the Church we will have **Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Chips and Cookies, Kids Crafts and Cornhole!** Bring your family, and friends for an afternoon of summer fun! We can't wait to see you there!

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!

SAVE THE DATE – For the **All Church Golf Outing** for **Saturday June 27th!** **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 10, 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
Total General Fund Income	\$ 332,684	\$ 332,537	\$ 147
Year to Date Budget	321,650		
+/- Budget	\$ 11,034		



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

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 17

Confirmation Sunday

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

Monday, May 18

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

Tuesday, May 19

7:00PM – Deacons Meeting
7:00PM – ALANON

Wednesday, May 20

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

Thursday, May 21

9:00AM – Quilters
12:00PM - Golden Oldies Luncheon
3:00PM – Adult Ukulele
12:00PM – Rotary
6:30PM – Bloom
7:30PM – AA

Friday, May 22

Saturday, May 23

DIAPER BANK
11:00AM – Knitters

Sunday, May 24

Pentecost Sunday

Summer Worship Hours Begin
8:15AM and 10:00AM – Worship
Ukulele after the second service