



New Beginnings: VI. Living in the GAP

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 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

"How Fair and How Pleasant Art Thou"

by Marcel Dupre; cpr 1920 Marcel Dupre

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.

Come before the Lord with your whole heart.

Bring your joys and your questions, your gratitude and your burdens.

For God is not afraid of our wrestling, nor does God turn away from those who seek blessing through the night.

We come to worship the God who meets us in struggle and transforms us by grace.

Come, let us lift our hearts before the Lord.

We come to worship the faithful God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

OPENING PRAYER *(Please Stand)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

HYMN *(Please Stand)*

" To God Be the Glory"

No. 66

1 To God be the glory, great things he hath done; so loved he the world that hee gave us His Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory, great things he hath done.

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God; the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. [Refrain]

3 Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Larry Ruby

PRAYER OF CONFESSION**Pastor Larry Ruby**

Merciful God, we confess that we often seek your blessings without surrendering ourselves to your will. We cling to old fears, old habits, and old identities rather than trusting the new life you offer. We have failed to love our neighbors with compassion, to pray for those who have wandered from you, and to bear faithfully the calling you have given us. Too often we rely on our own strength instead of resting in your grace. Forgive us, renew us, and reshape us by your Spirit. Give us courage to face the truth about ourselves, perseverance to remain faithful in every struggle, and confidence that your mercy is greater than our sin.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Silent Confession***ASSURANCE OF PARDON****Pastor Larry Ruby**

The good news of the gospel is this: God does not abandon those who seek him. In Jesus Christ, God has entered our struggle, borne our sin, and opened the way to new life. Those who place their trust in him are forgiven, restored, and made new.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

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.

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****Debby Hayes****PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION****Pastor Larry Ruby****FIRST READING****Romans 9:1-5****Pastor Larry Ruby**

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**

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 Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

**New Beginnings: VI.
Living in the Gap**

Pastor Brian Janssen**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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.

WE RESPOND**THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS****THE OFFERTORY**

"What Are They Doing in Heaven Today"
Joe Oyler -Mountain Dulcimer
by Charles Albert Tindley

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

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*)

“ Take My Life and Let It Be”

No. 466

- 1** Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love, at the impulse of my love.
- 2** Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee; take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King, always, only, for my King.
- 3** Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee; take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold, not a mite would I withhold.
- 4** Take my love, my God, I pour at thy feet its treasured store, take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee .

BENEDICTION

CLOSING RESPONSE

"Thank You, Lord"

Joe Oyler- Mountain Dulcimer

Lyrics by Larry Sparks and Music by
Neal Brackett; cpr 1976 Jaymore 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.

NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

Today's ushers are Tom and Carole Aspinall, Dolly McCrea and Pat Mishizen

The flowers today are presented by Bonnie and Jim Miller for Robin Miller's Birthday.
Happy Birthday Robin!

A very special thanks to Joe Oyler for sharing his musical gifts with us today in worship. We are blessed by the joy your mountain dulcimer music brings to our worship!

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

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

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

MUSIC MINISTRY SUMMER NEWS! – Although the Choral Courtyard and Bell Tree Hour are over for the summer, there is still a Sacred Music Sampling for Strings scheduled for **Tuesday, August 4th**. We would love to have you come and join us.

PART-TIME POSITION - We are looking for a Part-Time Custodian! Interested applicants can email their resume to finance@bethanypresby.org. See our website for more details.

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!

USHERS NEEDED – Ushers are need for some dates in August and the fall months. If you are available, call or text Dale Anderson at 724-699-5631.

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.

DEBBY HAYES PLAY AND PRAY- **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.

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!** Bring your Bible, your questions, and an open heart. No expertise required!

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.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENT- A Safety Seminar for all ages will be held on **August 15th** from **2-4pm in Fellowship Hall**. Teenagers and up are 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.

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 at 5529 Black Street, Pittsburgh. If you are interested please call or text Karen Talerico at 412-913-3789.

CHURCH PICNIC- Our annual Church Picnic will be at the Rotary Pavilion at Fairview Park on August 9th starting with our **10am Worship Service** and followed by the picnic, crafts and games. The picnic will be catered; however we invite all of our **Bethany Bakers** to bring your favorite dessert! Please call or text Ron Knapp at 412-526-5943 or sign up in the Welcome Center if you plan to bring a dessert.

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

CHURCH FINANCES AS OF JULY 26, 2026

Thank you for your continued support.

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 316,094	\$ 309,488	\$ 6,607
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	222,415	216,423	5,992
Investment Income **	8,395	8,124	270
Total General Fund Income	\$ 546,904	\$ 534,035	\$12,869
Year to Date Budget	535,374		
+/- Budget	\$ 11,530		

*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

“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.

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 2 Communion Sunday

8:15AM and 10:00AM – Worship

Monday, August 3

4:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout

6:00PM – BYG Milkshake Monday

6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group

Tuesday, August 4

11:00AM -Sacred Music Sampling - Strings

7:00PM – ALANON

Wednesday, August 5

10:00AM – Fellowship of Prayer

1:30AM – Knitters

Thursday, August 6

9:00AM – Quilters

12:00PM – Rotary

7:30PM – AA

Friday, August 7

6:00PM BYG Froyo Friday

Saturday, August 8

Sunday, August 9

CHURCH PICNIC AT FAIRVIEW PARK FOR SECOND SERVICE

8:15AM and 10:00AM – Worship

Church Picnic!

Come enjoy our Church Picnic! We will have our 10:00am church service on Sunday, August 9th at the picnic area at Fairview Park at the Rotary Pavilion followed by crafts and games! It will be catered but we invite all Bethany Bakers to bring a dessert if they want! Contact Ron Knapp at 412-526-5942 if you plan to bring a dessert!

