



Six Kitchen Tables: IV. Crossing the Threshold

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 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

"House of God Forever"

Guitar Bria Hayes

by Jon Foreman; © 2008 Rubadub Rubishing Publishing (Based on Psalm23)

WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Edgar Shaffer

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

The One who made us has not left us to fend for ourselves.

He goes ahead of us, and he walks beside us, and we lack nothing that matters.

He speaks a word, and sickness loosens its grip.

His authority is not borrowed. What he commands is done.

We bring no credentials this morning, no record that would earn his attention.

Yet he has come to us, and he has called us his own.

Come to the table he sets, even in the presence of all that frightens us.

We come to worship the Shepherd who is not afraid of the dark.

Let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER *(Please Stand)*

Edgar Shaffer

HYMN *(Please Stand)*

"All Hail the Power of Jesus Name!"

No. 106

- 1** All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!
- 2** Ye chosen seed of Israel's race; ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all;
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
- 3** Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all;
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!
- 4** O, that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all;
we'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Please be seated)*

Edgar Shaffer

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Edgar Shaffer

Merciful God, we confess that we have trusted our own authority more than yours. We measure ourselves against other people and decide we have earned a hearing; we look at our own failures and decide we are past helping. Either way, we take matters into our own hands rather than taking you at your word. We have wandered off the paths you set before us. We have walked through frightening places as though we walked them alone. We have wanted your gifts more than we have wanted you. Forgive us. Speak the word that heals what we cannot reach. Turn us back, and lead us home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Edgar Shaffer

Hear the good news. The death of Jesus Christ was for us, and his rising from the grave is our life. The word he speaks over you this morning is not a verdict of condemnation but a pronouncement of pardon — and what he says is simply so. There is no distance left for you to close, and no worthiness left for you to establish. Friends, believe 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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Edgar Shaffer

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

Edgar Shaffer

FIRST READING**Psalm 23****Edgar Shaffer**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

SECOND READING**Luke 7: 1-10****Pastor Brian Janssen**

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me, and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and, turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON**Six Kitchen Tables: IV.
Crossing the Threshold****Pastor Brian Janssen****WE RESPOND****THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS****THE OFFERTORY****"Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above" Bethany Choir**

arr. by Mark Edwards; cpr 2025 Lorenz Publishing;

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)*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Brian Janssen

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 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 with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul

- 3** My sin -O, 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 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 trumpet shall resound and the Lord shall descend; "Even so"- it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul

BENEDICTION

CLOSING RESPONSE "God Be With You Til We Meet Again" Bethany Choir
by William G. Tomer and Jeremiah E. Rankin

POSTLUDE

TO BETHANY FROM PASTOR LARRY

Pastor Larry and Linda Ruby want to say thank you for the wonderful send off, beautiful roses and your generous gifts and encouraging cards and letters. The last year has certainly been one of the most blessed of our journey in ministry together. Please know that we will always remember and cherish our time with all of you. Bethany will always remain in our prayers and we especially pray for Pastor Justin and his family as they begin their journey with you.

Be blessed!

Pastor Larry

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 Steve Smith, Cathy Smith, Karen Talerico and Carol Cowser.

The flowers this morning are presented to the Glory of God by Claudia Ziegler in memory of her beloved husband, Donald.

Special thanks to Brian Hayes for sharing his musical gifts with us in worship this morning.

Pastor Brian will be on vacation next week; therefore Reverend Louise Rogers will be our guest minister next Sunday, September 27th. Reverend Jason Freyer from Westminster Church will be covering any pastoral emergencies. Please call the church office if needed.

Starting Monday, October 5th, Pastor Brian will return to his schedule of Monday as his Sabbath Day and working Tuesday-Friday. Pastor Justin will be working Monday-Thursday with Friday as his Sabbath Day. This ensures that there is a pastor available at Bethany every day of the week, while also ensuring each pastor has a Sabbath Day for rest, joy, delight and God's abundance is embraced.

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE 10:45 SERVICE

Please note that we have the following Opportunities for children during the 10:45 Service:

Worship and Wonder for Children ages 3 to 2nd grade where children learn more about worshipping God. They are starting the year with the story of the Good Shepherd and then continuing stories of Creation and the Old Testament.

Faith and Friends for children in 3rd through 5th grade where children will explore lessons from the Bible in Life Curriculum through interactive learning, meaningful discussion and hands-on-activities. The Scripture lesson is the same as Sunday School; however the lesson content and activities are different.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION – Preschool registration for the 2026/2027 school year is still open on our website! Contact Danielle Gioia at Gioia.preschool@gmail.com with any questions! We are so excited for the coming year!

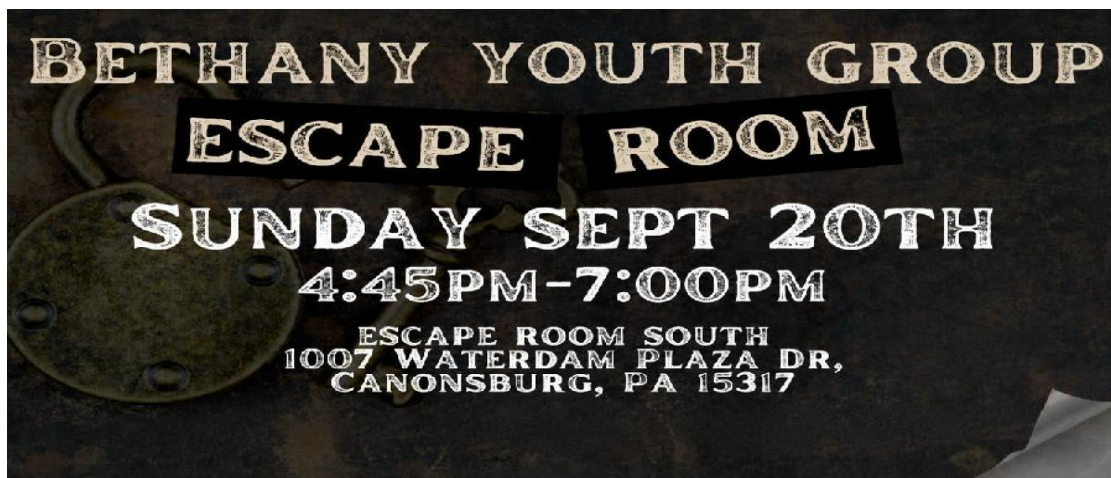
FLOWERS – We still have dates open if you would like to have flowers for the altar as December 6th and 13th are still available. Please contact the Church Office to reserve a date.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COLLECTION – This year our Sunday School Collection will go to our mission partner, Feed My Starving Children

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CRAFT AND LUNCH- **Today after the 10:45 Service** in Fellowship Hall for anyone 10 and up. We will have lunch and will be making a chunky finger knit pumpkin (see the model in the Welcome Center)

UKULELE PRACTICE – Ukulele practice for both Adults and Youth starts **today** in the Sanctuary after the 10:45 service.

BETHANY YOUTH GROUP ESCAPE ROOM- The BYG is going to the Escape Room South this evening and if you signed up, the **Carpool will meet at the church at 4:45pm or you can meet the group at the Escape Room South location at 5:00pm.** There are two different rooms, with one at 5:20pm and the other at 5:40pm.



ADDITIONAL CHOIR REHEARSAL- Thought about trying out the choir, but can't make an evening rehearsal? Please join us at **10:00AM on Tuesdays** for our newest addition! We will meet in the Choir Room to work on warm-ups with our Music Associate, Caleb Aldridge, and then "lock in" on the weekly anthem with Music Director, Nadina Robusto. Hope to see you there! **Our first new additional rehearsal starts this Tuesday, September 22nd.**

NOTES IN THE MARGIN BIBLE STUDY- Join us in the Bethany Parking Lot for **Notes in the Margin**, a welcoming, discussion-based Bible study where we explore Scripture, ask questions, and grow in faith together. The meetings are **Bi-weekly on Tuesdays, from 6:30PM to 7:30PM and the next meeting is this Tuesday, September 22nd.** Bring your Bible, your questions, and an open heart. No expertise required!

CIDER POP-UP- The Membership Team is holding a **Cider Pop-Up after both services on Sunday, September 27th.** There will be both hot and cold Apple Cider and other Fall Treats including Apple and Pumpkin Pie and Pumpkin Rolls.

UPWARD SPORTS - Registration for the 2027 season will open on **October 1st** on the Bethany Website at bethanypresby.org. Click the Upward Sports Page button at the bottom of the Website Home Page for all information.

WORLD WIDE COMMUNION-HERITAGE SUNDAY- **October 4th** is Worldwide Communion Sunday and it is also **Heritage Sunday** when we honor our Octogenarians and 50+ year members. There will be a cake and fruit reception after each service for these special members. It will also be Pastor Justin Miller's first day as our Associate Pastor. Please plan on attending to join in the worship service and celebration.

EVENING MOMco- The evening MOMco. Group is going pumpkins! On **October 8th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm** the Youth Lounge, the moms will be making this adorable and easy pumpkin craft, enjoying pumpkin desserts and learning how to adjust to the many seasons of change that moms experience. All moms are welcome, even if you have never come to a MOMco. Meeting. It is a great opportunity to refresh, rejuvenate and have good company.



CANTATA CALL!- we are very excited to share our Cantata on **December 13, 2026**. Everything is coming together with the guest musicians and all of the music is here- it is time to prepare! (Brand new Cantata to us this year, featuring excerpts from Vivaldi's "Gloria" and Tschaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite"!). **Cantata Choir practice will start on October 7, 2026 from 6:45pm – 7:30pm**, and each Wednesday following (exception the week of Thanksgiving). Any instrumentalists that would like to share their gifts are welcome! Please see Nadina or email music@bethanypresby.org for more details.

BLOOM AND CAFÉ BETHANY- our Next Bloom and Café Bethany event will be on **Thursday, October 8th at 6:00pm!** There will be a catered dinner followed by a **Modern Service for families at 7:00pm**. As this will be Pastor Justin's first Bloom Modern Worship Service and he will be providing the message, we would love to see you there welcoming and supporting him. Please sign up on the signup sheet in the Welcome Center.



CITY MISSION DONATIONS- The City Mission, one of Bethany's Mission Partners, has stalled a new **Blue** donation collection bin located on the side of the church next to the red shed in front of the extended parking area. They advised that they would be making collections every Monday.

ROTARY COMMUNITY PROJECT– The Rotary of Bridgeville-South Fayette is initiating a Community Service Program for Bridgeville and South Fayette families (limited scope). The Rotary will assess every request; however as they have a limited number of members and limited skills, they would welcome any individuals who would be able to help. If you would like to volunteer, please contact [Bill Paviol at 412-722-3102](mailto:Bill.Paviol@rotary.org). Please keep the Rotary and this Project in your prayers.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN- FMSC would like to thank all of the volunteers from our Bethany Congregation that participated in packing meals for starving children around the world on Saturday, September 12th. We had a great turnout from Bethany and hope to increase our number of volunteers next year.

CHURCH FINANCES AS OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Thank you for your continued support.

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 398,905	\$ 374,626	\$24,279
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	269,215	261,969	7,246
Investment Income **	10,888	11,148	(260)
Total General Fund Income	\$ 679,008	\$ 647,743	\$31,265
Year to Date Budget	655,329		
+/- Budget	\$ 23,679		

*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

September Special Offering – Children/Youth Ministry Programs

The Special offering envelope for September supports the Children and Youth Ministry programs.

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 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.

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, September 20

8:15AM - Worship
9:30AM - Sunday School
10:45AM – Worship
Adult and Youth Ukulele Practice – after 10:45 Service
12:00PM- Women's Ministry Craft and Luncheon
12:00PM- Intercessory Prayer Group Meeting
4:45PM – Bethany Youth Group Escape Room

Monday, September 21

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

Tuesday, September 22

10:00am – Additional Choir Rehearsal
6:30PM– Notes in the Margin Bible Study
7:00PM – Session Meeting
7:00PM – ALANON

Wednesday, September 23

11:30AM – Knitters
7:00PM – Choir Practice

Thursday, September 24

9:00AM – Quilters
12:00PM – Rotary
6:30PM – Bloom in Sanctuary
7:00PM - Dartball
7:30PM – AA

Friday, September 25

Saturday, September 26

9:00AM- Supplemental Diaper Bank
11:00AM - Knitters

Sunday, September 27

8:15AM - Worship
9:30AM - Sunday School
10:45AM – Worship
Cider Pop-Up After Both Services
Adult and Youth Ukulele Practice after 10:45 Service