



Who is in Control?

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 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

"Total Praise"

by Richard Smallwood; cpr 1996 Bridge Building Music, Inc. (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)

WELCOME

Pastor Larry Ruby

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Pastor Brian Janssen

The Advocate promised to us by God has come.

Come, Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of truth has come, prepared to guide us in all ways.

Come, Holy Spirit.

The Spirit is here, ready to abide in us and we in him.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

Come, Holy Spirit.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Brian Janssen

HYMN *(Please Stand)*

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

No. 132

1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart, free it from sin, through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are, and make me love you as I ought to love.

2 I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies; but take the dimness of my soul away.

3 Did you not bid us love you, God and King, love you with all our heart and strength
and mind? I see your cross— there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek you and O let me find!

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Please be seated)*

Pastor Brian Janssen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Brian Janssen

We confess, O God that we have asked for a more tangible awareness of your Spirit. You have heard our request and responded, giving us exactly what we have longed to experience. But when your Spirit arrives in our life, we become afraid. We are not quite ready to let go — not quite prepared to give you the reins over our lives or our church. We confess that we would rather maintain our illusion of control, believing that we know what is best.

Forgive us, God. Forgive us for failing to let go and to let your Spirit lead. Forgive us for not allowing ourselves to be carried by the Spirit to the places you are calling us to go. Forgive us, God. Free us for the joyful obedience that is possible when your Spirit is guiding our tongues, our hands, our hearts, our minds and our feet. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Brian Janssen

Jesus knows our every weakness and loves us still. Awaken to the promise of Christ's amazing grace. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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.**

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

Pastor Brian Janssen

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Brian Janssen

FIRST READING

Joel 2:28-29

Pastor Brian Janssen

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:15-20

Pastor Larry Ruby

Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Who is in Control?

Pastor Larry Ruby

MINUTE FOR MISSION

WE RESPOND

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**THE OFFERTORY "When They Ring the Golden Bells," Duet: Rebecca Stout
and Janice Bailly**

Written by Dion De Marbelle; cpr. 1887; Arranged by Natalie Merchant; Copyright 1998 Indian Love Bride Music (ASCAP)

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*) "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" No. 507

1 A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right
Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he; Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

4 That Word above all earthly powers no thanks to them abideth; the Spirit and the gifts
are ours through him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Total Praise"

by Richard Smallwood; cpr 1996 Bridge Building Music, Inc. (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)

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 Julia Stewart, Deb Pyle, Sue Nagy, Carol Cowser & Doreen Grove.

The flowers are presented to the Glory of God by Tom and Carole Aspinall in memory of Tom's parents, Harry and Ruth Aspinall.

We are pleased to have Elizabeth (Liz) Wasel with us today. Liz is from Sojourner House, and she oversees Community Outreach. Sojourner House is one of the missions that Bethany supports, and it offers compassionate, faith-based recovery services to women and children in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh. Please welcome Liz to Bethany.

****The Deacons Meeting** has been moved to July 14th at 7:00pm for event planning.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Debby Hayes and family, on the passing of Debby's beloved brother, Joseph Edwin Burke, who joined the Church Triumphant on June 30, 2026.

Special thanks to our Music Associate, Caleb Auldridge, for leading us in worship today and sharing his talents; and we extend a warm welcome to Janice Baily and share our thanks to Janice and Rebecca Stout for their beautiful anthem this morning!

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

T-SHIRTS! – We have lots of Bethany T-Shirts left! Your choice of white, grey, and black are available in many various sizes. See Edgar Shaffer or Laura Dugan if you would like one!

MUSIC MINISTRY CELEBRATES BRIDGEVILLE'S 125TH! - Join us in the celebration of Bridgeville's 125th as we make a joyful noise to the Lord at the Main Stage! We will hold a communal prayer at the end of our music time- come sing and pray with us!
July 21 - Main Stage: 5pm: Ukulele and Chime Choir; 6pm: Bloom
July 23- Main Stage: 6pm: Bloom

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.

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

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 beginning Tuesday, July 14th from 6:30 to 7:30PM!** 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.

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!

DEBBY HAYES PLAY AND PRAY – Great news! From **June 28th through July 26th** all children can leave after the Children's Sermon and go to the Worship and Wonder room for **Play and Pray!**

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 will be provided for donations starting July 5th.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS NEEDED - The Bethany Men's Huddle Group is assisting a homeless man as he prepares to move into his first apartment. Household goods of all types are needed - furniture, cookware, dishes, utensils, pillows, linens, towels, etc. If you have any items that you are able to donate, please contact Jim Myers at jamyers97@verizon.net or at 412-328-0306. **Place items in Room 120** behind Fellowship Hall.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - On Thursday, **July 23rd** from 9:30am-noon, we have the opportunity to send a group of volunteers to the Washington City Mission in Washington, PA. Our volunteers will work in the warehouse sorting items (clothes, shoes, houseware, etc.). If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Karen Talerico by phone or send a text to 412-913-3789. Please note that our group cannot exceed 10 volunteers.

POPSICLE POP-UP! – TODAY we will have a Popsicle Pop Up at **11am in the Welcome Center!** Join us for a sweet time and a sweet treat for the summer!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY BOOK CLUB - It's book o'clock! Come join the Women's Ministry Book Club **July 22nd at 7pm** in Sunday School Classroom 224. The book we will be discussing is Max Lucado's *Miracle at the Higher Grounds Cafe*. Hope to see you there!

CHURCH PICNIC – Our annual Church Picnic will be **August 9th for our 10am service** at the picnic area at Fairview Park at the Rotary Pavilion followed by crafts and games!

BRIDGEVILLE BIRTHDAY - This year the BCA will help host a nine-day celebration from Saturday **July 18th to Sunday July 26.**

- **July 18th** 5k race 8:15 am at Bridgeville Fire Department 5pm Roaring 20s dinner dance (costumes encouraged)
- **July 19th** 12:30pm Parade from Bethany Church to Commercial Street The ecumenical services at Triangle Park 2:00 to 5:00 pm
- **July 20th** Live entertainment - artisan tent - contests- food court - food trucks - Black Smith demonstration - Commercial Street from 5 pm to 10 pm
- **July 21st** Live entertainment - artisan tent - contests- food court - food trucks - Black Smith demonstration Commercial Street from 5 pm to 10 pm
- **July 22nd** Live entertainment - artisan tent - contests - food court - food trucks - Commercial Street- 125 minutes of free ice cream cones at the Dari Delite starting at 4:30 and the carnival from 5 pm to 10 pm
- **July 23rd** Live entertainment - artisan tent - contests - food court - food trucks - Commercial Street - carnival from 5 pm to 10 pm
- **July 24th** Live entertainment - artisan tent - contests - food court - food trucks- Commercial Street - carnival from 5 pm to 10 pm Comedy Show doors open at 6 pm.
- **July 25th** Co-ed Softball tournament starts at 8 am at Chartiers Park - from 5 pm to 10 pm Live entertainment – artisan tent - contests - food court - food trucks - Commercial Street - carnival
- **July 26th** Softball tournament starts at 10 pm at Chartiers Park.

Dear Bethany Church, this week Bridgeville is going to celebrate its 125th year! Bethany Church has been serving the Bridgeville area since 1814. We have been a significant part of Bridgeville's history! Next Sunday, July 19th, right after church at 11:00, there will be a celebration parade from Bethany Church to the Bridgeville fire station. Everyone that is able, is invited to walk with the Bethany vehicles in the parade. We will meet in the Rite Aid parking lot. Wear some comfortable walking shoes, your Bethany shirt or a

red, white or blue shirt and bring a small USA flag to waive! Let's show that Bethany Church continues to be a vital part of the Bridgeville community!

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

CHURCH FINANCES AS OF JULY 5, 2026

Thank you for your continued support.

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 282,863	\$ 283,439	\$ (576)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	199,000	193,650	5,350
Investment Income **	8,395	8,124	270
Total General Fund Income	\$ 490,257	\$ 485,213	\$ 5,044
Year to Date Budget	482,828		
+/- Budget	\$ 7,429		

*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.

July Special Offering - Vacation Bible School

The special offering envelope for July supports Vacation Bible School. Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting "Vacation Bible School" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for VBS on your check or a pew envelope. Thank you for your contribution to this great program for the youth of Bethany and the community!



QR Code
for online
giving

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, July 12

8:15AM and 10:00AM – Worship
11:00AM – Popsicle Pop-Up

Monday, July 13

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

Tuesday, July 14

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

Wednesday, July 15

11:30AM – Knitters

Thursday, July 16

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

Friday, July 17

Saturday, July 18

FOOD BANK

Sunday, July 19

8:15AM and 10:00AM – Worship



Tom Jones and Gregory Price May 24, 2014

Thomas Jones

This morning at Bethany we are helping Tom Jones celebrate his 100th birthday and honoring him for his World War 2 military service. In the 1940's and 1950's the Weise family was a big part of what was going on in Bridgeville and at Bethany. Of the seven Weise households in Bridgeville, five of them worshiped at Bethany and two worshiped at the former Bridgeville Methodist Church. Tom was a member of one of the families, being the son of Walter and Clara Weise Jones. Walter sang in the bass section of Bethany's choir which was directed by his cousin, Alma Weise, who was the church's organist and choir director for many years. Clara was a children's Sunday School Teacher at Bethany as was her sister, Elnora Weise Rankin.

Tom graduated from Bridgeville High School in May 1944, enlisted in the US Navy in early August 1944, and, after his training, served on the USS Rankin which was commissioned in February 1945. Note that his ship and his aunt shared the same name. By June of 1945 the USS Rankin, an "attack cargo ship", was involved in the invasion of the Japanese held island of Okinawa, Japan's last stronghold. Tom's ship was attacked by a Japanese kamikaze plane which fortunately overshot the Rankin's deck and crashed in the ocean. The Rankin's crew rescued the Japanese pilot and placed him under 24-hour guard to protect him from a potential revengeful crew member. Eventually, the prisoner was turned over to the authorities in Manila, Philippines. After Okinawa fell to the US our military was preparing for an invasion of the Japanese mainland. Fortunately, the Japanese surrendered before that happened, saving thousands of lives, perhaps Tom's!

In 2014 the Bridgeville Area Historical Society had a three month long military display commemorating our veterans, in particular the 117 from the Bridgeville and South Fayette Area who lost their lives while serving our country in the military. The attached photograph, which was taken at an open house held on May 24, 2014, shows Bethany's Gregory Price wearing Tom's WW2 uniform shaking hands with Tom.

Happy 100th birthday Tom, and thank you for serving our country.