



Humanity's Greatest Project

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 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

"Der Dichter Spricht" Classical Guitar: Ben Schaible
by Robert Schumann

WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please Stand*)

Pastor Larry Ruby

In the beginning, God spoke, and life came into being.

The world around us bears witness to the wisdom and beauty of God.

We gather as those shaped by the Creator's hand.

We come to worship with gratitude, wonder, and humility.

The heavens proclaim God's majesty and the earth reflects God's care.

Yet God also calls us by name and entrusts us with holy purpose.

Come, let us worship the One who gives life and breath to all things.

Let us worship God with joy and thanksgiving.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Larry Ruby

HYMN (*Please Stand*)

"I Sing the Almighty Power of God"

No. 31

1 I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day; the moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey.

2 I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food; he formed the creatures with his word and then pronounced them good. Lord, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye, if I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the sky!

3 There's not a plant or flower below but makes your glories known, and clouds arise and tempests blow by order from your throne; while all that borrows life from you is ever in your care, and everywhere that we can be, you, God, are present there.

CALL TO CONFESSION (*Please be seated*)

Pastor Larry Ruby

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Larry Ruby

Merciful God, You created the world in wisdom and declared it good, yet we confess that we have not honored your creation or one another as we should. We have lived carelessly with the gifts you provide. We have treated people as burdens instead of bearers of your image. We have chosen pride over humility, consumption over gratitude, and self-interest over love. Forgive us, O God. Restore in us a right spirit and renew our sense of wonder before you. Teach us to live as faithful stewards of the life you have given and to reflect your grace in the way we treat one another. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Larry Ruby

Friends, hear the good news: the God who formed us from the dust does not abandon the work of his hands. In Jesus Christ, we are met with mercy, renewed by grace, and drawn again into the fullness of life God intends for us. Therefore, 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. 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

Pastor Brian Janssen

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Larry Ruby

FIRST READING

Psalm 8

Pastor Larry Ruby

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SECOND READING

Genesis 1:26-2:4

Pastor Brian Janssen

Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green

plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Humanity's Greatest Project

Pastor Brian Janssen

WE RESPOND

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

"Lagrima"

Classical Guitar: Ben Schaible

by Francisco Tarrega

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*) **"God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"** **No. 644**

1 God, who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place, flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space, we, your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you. Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.

2 Proudly rise our modern cities, stately buildings row on row; yet their windows, blank, unfeeling, stare on canyoned streets below, where the lonely drift unnoticed in the city's ebb and flow, lost to purpose and to meaning, scarcely caring where they go.

3 We have conquered worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race; known the ecstasy of winging through uncharted realms of space; probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power, facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.

4 As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew, children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you. May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor well begun. Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

BENEDICTION

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 has concluded for the school year and will resume in the fall.

NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

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

The flowers are presented to the Glory of God by Alice Eiszler in memory of her husband Jeffery Eiszler.

Beginning June 1 and continuing through Labor Day, Pastor Brian's weekly Sabbath day will move from Monday to Friday. This adjustment is being made so that his weekly time of rest may better coincide with his wife Lisa's summer work schedule, which includes half-day Fridays. As part of this change, Pastor Brian will be in the church office on Mondays throughout the summer. Thank you for your continued support in honoring healthy rhythms of Sabbath and renewal in ministry life.

A special and warm welcome to our guest musician, Ben Schaible. Thank you for sharing your beautiful music with us in worship this morning!

The Mission Team thanks everyone who purchased Hanging Baskets! We were able to make a nice donation to Sojourner House. Blessings to everyone.

You are warmly invited to join us TODAY, 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

MUSIC MINISTRY SUMMER NEWS! - Although our regularly scheduled groups will take a well-deserved break for the summer months, music ministry will still offer some really wonderful ways for you to share in fellowship, hymns/choral works, modern Christian music, and also enhance your music skills :). Check the newsletter for more

details about Sacred Music Sampling, Bell Tree Hour, and Creatives in the Chapel that will all start after VBS. **Starting in June**, though, we will offer **Choral Courtyard at 9:30 on Tuesdays**- No experience necessary to attend- we meet in the courtyard and sing hymns, learn a little about singing parts, and offer a sneak peek at some of the music the choir will sing in the Fall! Our **Music Associate, Caleb Auldridge**, will offer some 1:1 and small group sessions this summer to encourage our musicians to share their gifts in worship! Have you wanted to have a way to jam at Bloom or thought you'd like to give choir a try? These coaching sessions are offered this summer through music ministry- for YOU! Connect with him to schedule to practice your voice, guitar, bass, or ukulele so you can join us in worship with your gifts! We'd love to have you jam with us at Bloom or offer your music in a time of worship this summer or upcoming regular season! Contact Nadina or Caleb for more info music@bethanypresby.org or musicassociate@bethanypresby.org

BETHANY CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE – Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for **Sunday, June 28, 2026, from 8:30am-1:30pm. OUR BLOOD DRIVE GOAL IS 18 DONORS!!!** If you can, would you please help this happen? Schedule your appointment ASAP to select a donation time that is best for you. Posters are at each door entrance with information or call 1-877-25VITAL to schedule your appointment; and vitalant.org provides a lot of information about donations and the urgent need. Thank you!

USHERS NEEDED – Ushers are need for the summer 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 sound board 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.

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 today, May 31st. It's a way for Bethany to help support the residents with some additional comfort and love.

BYG FAMILY COOKOUT will be **TODAY, 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!)

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 and a BALLOON ARTIST!** 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.

MISSION NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

WV MISSIONS TRIP - Mark your calendars, the 2026 Summersville, WV trip mission work week (WVMAW) will be from Sunday June 28th through Friday July 3rd. Anyone 12 and older are welcome! This is a great mission for youth who are out of school for the summer. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Doug Bovard at dbovard@verizon.net 412-979-9324, Connie Segeleon at conniesege@gmail.com 412-855-6829, or Mike Segeleon at msegeleon@msn.com 412-389-0985.

CHURCH FINANCES AS OF MAY 24, 2026

Thank you for your continued support.

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 227,365	\$ 222,302	\$ 5,063
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	156,100	151,820	4,280
Investment Income **	5,860	5,683	176
Total General Fund Income	\$ 389,324	\$ 379,805	\$ 9,520
Year to Date Budget	372,462		
+/- Budget	\$ 16,862		

*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.

June Special Offering - Vacation Bible School

The special offering envelope for June 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, May 31

11:00AM - Congregational Meeting

8:15AM and 10:00AM – Worship

5:00PM - BYG Cookout

Monday, June 1

4:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout

6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group

Tuesday, June 2

5:00PM – ALANON Anniversary Dinner

Wednesday, June 3

10:00AM – Fellowship of Prayer

11:30AM – Knitters

6:30PM - Troop 2 Scouts

Thursday, June 4

9:00AM – Quilters

12:00PM – Rotary

3:00PM – Adult Ukulele

6:30PM – Bloom

7:30PM – AA

Friday, June 5

Saturday, June 6

Sunday, June 7

COMMUNION SUNDAY

8:15AM and 10:00AM – Worship