



BETHEL CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
4135 Norrisville Road
White Hall, MD 21161
Office Phone: 410-692-5282
Website: www.bethel-md.org

Contact Rev. Todd Smith via his cell: 410-805-8604
or email: pastor@bethel-md.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Office is CLOSED on Fridays.

Staff

Pastor/Moderator: The Rev. Todd D. Smith
Music Director/Organist: Kirsten Fitzsimmons
Children's Youth & Family Program Coordinator: Chrissie Galliher
Office Manager: Lisa Robbins
Church Treasurer: Dan Miller

the ninth sunday after

pentecost



July 25, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Our worship begins with the organ voluntary.

*Please silence all electronics and be prayerfully attentive to the quiet presence of God.
+ indicates standing; congregational readings/responses are shown in **bold print**.*

Gathering and Welcome

Rev. Todd Smith

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Voluntary

Kirsten Fitzsimmons

Call to Worship

Ruth Walker

Leader: What does the Holy One require of us?

People: To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

+ Hymn #361

How Firm a Foundation

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son, who taught us to pray,

(Silent prayer of confession)

Church Leadership

Elders (Session) – Meet 3rd Thursday each month

Class of 2021

Robert Dennison
Kirk Jones
Carol Morrow

Class of 2022

Marsha Brooks
Gary Lowe
Carmie Messenger

Class of 2023

Ruth Walker
Polly Winskowski

Deacons – Meet 1st Monday each month

Class of 2021

Marylin Bradford
Sue Hinkley
Sandy Louderback
Barbara Thomson

Class of 2022

Janet Henderson
Terri Schwarz
MaryLee Swift

Class of 2023

Laurie Falkner
Gail Lowe
Lynda McRee

Trustees – Meet 1st Tuesday each month

Class of 2021

Jan Berlage
Eric Clayton
Dave Hinkley
Don Scott

Class of 2022

Sam Fielder
Bob Horn
Steve Kauffman
Chuck Saneman

Class of 2023

John Cairnes
Brian Calary
Bruce Mattheiss
Craig Messenger

The 2021 Per Capita fee per congregation member is \$36.06.

Please be sure to submit your portion by the end of the year.

Thank you!

IMPORTANT NOTE: Nancy Alexander has volunteered to fill the term the nominating committee wasn't able to fill last year. It's been approved by the Session but we need to hold a short congregational meeting on August 15, 2021 to have Nancy approved and installed. The meeting will take place right after the church service on August 15th.

This Week's Sermon:

What do we expect from the church, and what do we expect from God? We rely on the promise that God is faithful to us and that his spirit-led community we call the church will be there to aid us in our lives as we seek to grow, mentally, physically, and spiritually. That God and his church will be there to celebrate with us in times of joy, hurt with us in times of sorrow, pray for and comfort us in times of sickness, and support us in times of need. Is it wrong to expect as much? I think not. Jesus Christ has covenanted with us that we will never be left desolate, but through the Holy Spirit his presence will forever be with us.

However, what should we expect from ourselves as we seek to grow spiritually? What do we contribute to God's kingdom here on earth? In what way do we seek spiritual sustenance as we seek to follow God? In other words, what are we seeking as we travel down this twisty and turny road called faith? Are we just seeking earthly comfort and companionship or is there more to discipleship than that?

In today's scripture, Jesus is talking about receiving the true bread of heaven. We receive the true bread from heaven when we act out of our faith. Our hearts are transformed, our minds are renewed and our souls are sustained. Through this spiritual sustenance, our lives are reshaped to look upon all others through the love of God and leading of the Holy Spirit that resides within.

As the church, we gather together to share this life-giving bread with the world around us.

Bethel Joys & Concerns for this Week:

Happy Birthday to MaryLee Swift, Jacob Wiley, Kirsten DiBastiani, and Patrick Campbell.

Happy Anniversary to Tom & MaryLee Swift and Dennis & Jean Kirkwood.

Please keep the following in your prayers this week:

Shirlee Nystrom

Charlotte Scott, sister-in-law of Dan Scott

Barb Kirschner, mother of Dave Kirschner

Ed Calary

Max Montfort, friend of Tom & MaryLee Swift

Dorianne Griffey

Janet Kauffman

Nancy & Nelson Berigtold

George Reeves

Kelly Jarrett Reeves, daughter-in-law of the Reeves

John Louderback

Brendan Lins, grandson of Ron & Andi Holmes

Henry Kraft, grandson of Gail & David Thomas

Frank Clement, friend of Sam & Marsha Brooks

John Dorn, friend of John & Rita Cairnes

Beverly Schmidt

Joe Bradford

George Cowman

Betty Rogers

Howard Eisner

Announcements

This Week at Bethel:

Sunday, July 25th – Bible Study – 6 pm on Zoom

Tuesday, July 27th – Bridge Game – 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, July 31st – Bethel Women's Group gathering – 6 pm at the fire pit

If you would like to list your event in this space, please email me by Monday to be included in that week's Sunday bulletin. Thanks! lisa@bethel-md.org.

Mission Committee: Mason-Dixon Community Services is preparing for their Back-To-School distribution August 20. They will be serving at least 100 children in our area. Along with school supplies, they would like to give each child a \$25 gift card for new shoes. Our shoe tree is up in the back of the church. Please consider giving to this cause. Checks may be made out to Bethel - noted for the Mason Dixon Shoe Fund. We would like to help as many children as possible.

Website Update: Please note that there is now a separate "Donate" tab on the website header that you can use if you'd like to make a donation electronically. It should allow you to donate via Paypal or with a credit or debit card. Please let the church office know if you have questions or would like to add or edit anything on the website.

Save the dates:

Sunday, August 22 at 11 am -- The Bethel Women's "Painting on Canvas" event.

Saturday, August 28th – Bethel Flea Market



Piano Flowers are in honor of Tom & MaryLee Swift's anniversary and MaryLee's birthday on July 27!

Upcoming Guest Musicians at Bethel

- August 1st – Chad Rogers, Bass (grandson of Jack and Betty Rogers)
- August 15th – Cara Fleck Plewinski, Harp
- August 29th – Caroline Haar, Soprano



BETHEL'S WOMEN'S GROUP
TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE ALL WOMEN OF BETHEL CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY

GATHER AT THE FIRE PIT

July 31, 2021 at 6pm

Come join women of all ages for a time of fun, food, fellowship, and song as we gather at the fire pit beside the brick house. We will cook hotdogs over the fire and marshmallows for S'mores!

Bring a friend and a chair!

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE OR SIGN THE SHEET AT THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY BY JULY 25TH
410-692-5282
CHURCHOFFICE@BETHEL-MD.ORG