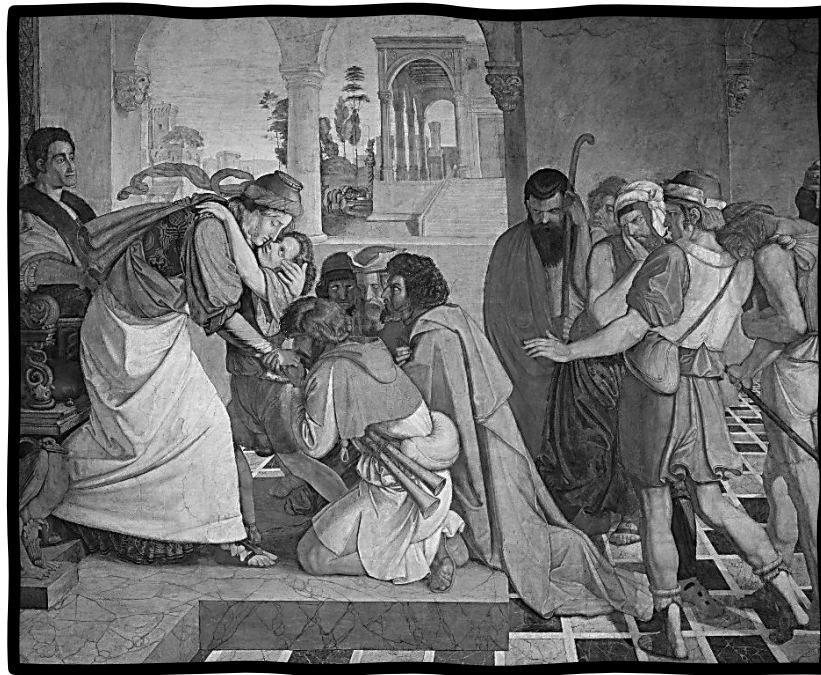


BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

... a welcoming community.



“Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers”

Peter von Cornelius (1816)

WEEKLY CALENDAR: August 16th – August 23rd

(Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

- **Sunday, August 16th**
 - 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
 - 11:00 a.m. – Worship (S)
 - 12:15 p.m. – Session Meeting
- **Monday, August 17th**
 - 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. – Tai Chi (FH)
 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon – Bethel Arts Ministry
 - 7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts Meeting (FH)
- **Tuesday, August 18th**
 - 11:00 a.m. – Fiber Arts
 - 12:00 Noon - 5:30 p.m. – Vocal Lessons (S)
 - 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Girl Scouts
- **Wednesday, August 19th**
 - 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. – Tai Chi (FH)
 - 5:45 p.m. – No Choir Practice
 - 7:00 p.m. – No Bell Practice
- **Thursday, August 20th**
 - 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – Tai Chi (FH)
- **Friday, August 21st**
- **Saturday, August 22nd**
 - 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. – Kingston Farmers' Market
 - 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. – Tai Chi (FH)
- **Sunday, August 23rd**
 - 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
 - 11:00 a.m. – Worship (S)

Childcare for infants and pre-school children is offered from 9:30 a.m. until noon in the nursery. The Quiet Room is available during worship.

OUR PRAYER LIST:

Please pray for: Family of Jack Maedel (*wife Kris, friend of Amy Coen*); Carrie (*cancer surgery recovery, cousin of Linda Brown*); Jim Hines; Chuck Sungy and family (*heart woes, uncle of Joe Coen*); John (*Susan Holton's father*); Jodie Brigman (*cousin of Bonnie Phillips*); Cindy Mullen; Lee Russell (*bladder cancer, Diane's son*); Elaine Kell (*friend of Susan Garner*); Sharon Martin (*Elaine Steele's sister-in-law*); Remember the humanitarian crisis in Sudan, the heat wave in Europe, the wildfires in America's west, the recent earthquakes in Japan, Columbia, Venezuela, and the struggles for fresh water globally; Prayers for our teachers, parents, and students as a new school year begins; thanksgiving for a great grandson coming in February to Gary Lemasters.

Our long-term, ongoing-list: Gerald & Sandra Augustus (*brother-in-law & sister of Brenda Bunch*); Don and Una Coffman (*Sycamore Trace*); Rickey Gallaher (*Adam Gallaher's father*); Linda and Howard Gerth; Pat Hale (*The Groves in Oak Ridge*); Steve Jacks; Nancy Landers; Vernon Law; Jeanette McElhinney; Jill McMaster; Anneke Oonk; Earl Price (*Becky Price's husband*); Jennifer Vandever; Randy Vickers; Laura Walker

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Hands Of Mercy Food Pantry Collection

For the month of **August**, we will be collecting **Cereal & Oatmeal** to support the Hands of Mercy (H.O.M.E.) food pantry. (All non-perishable food items are always gratefully accepted!)

FOR ON-LINE DONATIONS TO BETHEL: THANK YOU!



SCAN TO DONATE

BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

The Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 16th, 2026

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

The Call to Worship (Psalm 135)

One: Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD;

**All: give praise, O servants of the LORD, you that stand in the house
of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God.**

One: Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;

All: sing to God's name, for the LORD is gracious.

* Hymn # 396

"Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"

***1. Brethren, we have met to worship
and adore the Lord our God.***

***Will you pray with all your power
while we try to preach the word?***

***All is vain unless the Spirit
of the holy One comes down.***

***Brethren, pray, and holy manna
will be showered all around.***

***2. Sisters, will you come and help us?
Moses' sister aided him.***

***Will you help the trembling mourners
who are struggling hard with sin?***

***Tell them all about the Savior.
Tell them that he will be found.***

***Sisters, pray, and holy manna
will be showered all around.***

*3. Is there here a trembling jailer,
seeking grace and filled with fears?
Is there here a weeping Mary
pouring forth a flood of tears?
Brethren, join your cries to help them;
sisters, let your prayers abound!
Pray, O pray, that holy manna
will be scattered all around.*

*4. Let us love our God supremely;
let us love each other, too.
Let us love and pray for sinners
till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven;
at his table we'll sit down.
Christ will gird himself and serve us
with sweet manna all around.*

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of compassion, have mercy upon us. You have given us statutes to guide our lives, but we follow our own desires. We know of your laws, yet we try to justify our own way. You desire obedience, but we practice rebellion. You offer blessing, while we curse family, friends and neighbors. Make us mindful of how we corrupt and disorder your good intentions. Set us aright in accord with your design for all humankind. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

* Congregational Response #551 "Lord, Have Mercy"

*Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.*

* Assurance of Pardon

* Congregational Response # 10 *“Sing Glory to the Name of God”*

May God forever be our peace; may hymns of glory never cease:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let all the faithful people come; sing praise to God, the Three-in-One:

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Children’s Moment

Special Music

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Readings

Psalm 133	<i>(The Blessedness of Unity)</i>	<i>Old Testament, p. 543</i>
Matthew 18:21-22	<i>(Forgiveness)</i>	<i>New Testament, p. 19</i>
Genesis 45:1-15	<i>(Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers)</i>	<i>Old Testament, p. 40</i>

Sermon

“More Ancient Monsters”

Rev. Beth McCrary

*Affirmation of Faith -- from *“A Brief Statement of Faith”*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. Amen.

*1. “Forgive our sins as we forgive,”
you taught us, Lord to pray,
but you alone can grant us
grace to live the words we say.*

*2. How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart that
broods on wrongs and will not
let old bitterness depart?*

*3. In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you!*

*4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease.
Then, by your mercy reconciled,
our lives will spread your peace.*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Offering
Offertory

* The Doxology – Hymn # 606 – *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn # 749 *“Come! Live in the Light!”*

*1. Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.*

*2. Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and violence will be no more.
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.*

***3. Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love.
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.***

* Charge and Benediction

* Response # 79 *"Light Dawns on a Weary World"* (Refrain only)

***"The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs'
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.***

* Postlude

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MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

Text: George Atkins, 1819, alt.

Music: Columbian Harmony, 1825; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011

Music Harm. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak, 2011

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text / Music: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

“Sing Glory to the Name of God”, v. 4

Text: David Gambrell, 2009

Music: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, alt; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

“Forgive Ours Sins as We Forgive”

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1969, 1983, alt.

Music: Supplement to Kentucky Harmony, 1820; harm. Margaret W. Mealy, 1985

Text © 1969, 1983 Rosamond E. Herklots

Music Harm. © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Come! Live in the Light!

Text and Music: David Haas, 1988

Text and Music © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc.

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

Text: Mary Louise Beinflw, 2001

Music: William P. Rowan, 2000

Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music © 2000 William P. Rowan (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

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“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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