

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SERVICES & MEETINGS

Bible Study – Wednesday – 10:00 to 11:30 AM
Intercessory Prayer Gathering – Wednesday – 11:45 AM
Intercessory Prayer Gathering – Wednesday – 6:15 PM
Craft Night - Wednesday – 7:00 PM
Sunday Morning Worship Service – May 3 – 9:00 AM
Sunday School Session – May 3 – following worship



WORSHIP STATISTICS

4/19/2026 – EASTER SUNDAY

In Person Attendance – 34
Virtual Attendance (YouTube Views) – 21

BERKS CAMERATA CONCERT

In Person Attendance – 65
Virtual Attendance (YouTube Views) – 130



THANK YOU TO THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Greeter: Tanya Lang & Penny Rhodes

Acolyte: Jameson Kleibscheidel

Lector: Madison Warmkessel

Ushers: Linda & Rick Foulke

Cantor: Ruthann Lutz



Pastor: Rev. Robert B. Peiffer, Ph.D.

Cell Phone: 570-778-1245

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Newsletter Coordinator: Jon Bond

Email: bondart@ptd.net

Organist/Choir Director/Chime Choir Director –

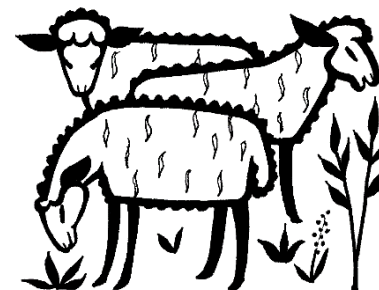
LeAnne Zettlemyer

Email: zett113@ptd.net

4th Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

9:00 AM



*Thank you for worshipping with us. Our songs of praise were
more meaningful because your voice joined with ours!
Please, come again!*

Good Morning.

We would like to welcome you to New Bethel to worship with our church family. Visitors know that it is our privilege to have you with us this morning. Please come back again soon. Upon exiting the church, take a moment to sign our Guest Register at the front doors.

SILENT MEDITATION PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER NOTES: In your conversation with GOD this morning, give thanks to Him for the many blessings He has given us and ask His blessings for those more unfortunate than we are.

"Believe in more than you can see, for it is faith that brings miracles to light."



ORDER OF WORSHIP



THE PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(^ = PLEASE STAND, AS YOU ARE ABLE)

Worship Reminder: Congregational responses are to be read slowly and expressively. Thank you.

^OPENING HYMN – No. 77

"Praise To the Lord, the Almighty"

^CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort
me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my
life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

^PRAISE HYMNS

"Hosanna"

I see the King of Glory coming on the clouds with fire;
the whole earth shakes, the whole earth shakes.

I see His love and mercy washing over all our sin;
the people sing, the people sing.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

I see a generation rising up to take their place
with selfless faith, selfless faith.

I see a near revival stirring as we pray and sing
we're on our knees, we're on our knees.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Heal my heart and make it clean, open up my eyes to the things unseen.

Show me how to love like You have loved me.

Break my heart for what breaks Yours,
ev'rything I am for Your Kingdom's cause,
as I walk from earth into eternity.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

"Graves Into Gardens"

I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me.

Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough.

Then You came along and put me back together,
And ev'ry desire is now satisfied, here in Your love.

Oh, there's nothing better than You.

There's nothing better than You,
Lord there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

Now I'm not afraid to show You my weakness,
My failures and flaws Lord, You've seen them all, and You still call me
friend.

Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley.

And there's not a place Your mercy and grace won't find me again.

Oh, there's nothing better than You.

There's nothing better than You,

Lord there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

You turn mourning to dancing, You give beauty for ashes.

You turn shame into glory, You're the only God who can.

You turn graves into gardens,

You turn bones into armies,

You turn seas into highways,

You're the only God who can.

Oh, there's nothing better than You.

There's nothing better than You,

Lord there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

Oh, there's nothing better than You.

There's nothing better than You,

Lord there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

You turn graves into gardens,

You turn bones into armies,

You turn seas into highways,

You're the only One who can.

You're the only One who can.

You're the only One who can.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

PASTOR: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us,

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

PASTOR: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

Amen.

TODAY'S LESSONS:

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

RESPONSE: "Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, Oh God"

Shepherd me, O God,

Beyond my wants,

Beyond my fears,

From death into life.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

¹⁹It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin,

and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

^GLORIA PATRI:

"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.

^ GOSPEL: JOHN 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

[Jesus said:] ¹"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.

²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

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^THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASSING OUR FAITH ON TO OUR CHILDREN

SERMON

Rev. Robert Peiffer

"At Home In God"

^HYMN – No. 519

"It Is Well With My Soul"

PASSING OF PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC

MORNING OFFERING

We share our Tithes and Gifts

^PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

^THE DOXOLOGY:

"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."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

All: 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

^BENEDICTION:

May the strength of God pilot us; May the wisdom of God instruct us; May the hand of God protect us; May the word of God direct us. Be always ours this day and forevermore. Amen.

^CLOSING HYMN – No. 522

"Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us"

^WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

^POSTLUDE



**DURING THE WEEK PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS
THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS:

Dick Albright, Michael Aulenbach, Carla Bartholomew, Sandra Bauscher, Tina Billig, Pastor Dave Blitch, Brenda Derr, Darryl Dieter, Jay Drey, Trista Fulmer-Smith, Sharon (Henry) Griffiths, Tim Haring, Felicity Herring, Tiffany Hoch, Casey Hoffman, Ernie Kanas, Bethany Keck, Emily Keck, Zoie Keck, Blair Keim, Cindy Keiser, Deb Kenney, Davis Knauer, Emma Laigaie, Judy Lenhart, Peggy Light, George Megerle, Mary Beth Mogus, Andy Miller, Diane Miller, Bonnie Moll, Heather Munsey, Lloyd Pettit, Steve Schwoyer, Kevin Smith, Margaret Snyder, Melanie Wessner, Cassie Wolfe, Joanne Zawada-Paskoff, Reuben Zettlemyer and Ben Ziehmer.

THOSE WHO ARE SHUT INS:

Forrest Graff, Pat Graff, Lillie Henninger, Myrna Kamp, Michael Kirkhoff, Nancy Kleinsmith, Sandy Long, Lester Lutz, Christie Ryan, Delano and Sandra Schucker.

THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY:

Cooper Dunn, Amanda Kertsmar and Trista Fulmer-Smith.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are presented by Peter and LeAnne Zettlemyer in celebration of Asher's birthday. Happy Birthday, Asher and may you have many more!!

CARD SHOWER: May 4 is Margaret Rose Snyder's 71st birthday. If you would like to send her a card her address is: Margaret Rose Snyder, 705 Hawk Mountain Rd., Kempton, PA 19529.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GATHERINGS: In response to the requests of some and the encouragements of many, the Pastor will begin to host weekly gatherings for intercessory prayer: Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m. (following Bible Study) and 6:15 p.m. (preceding Craft Night).

Somewhat informal in nature, these 45-minute gatherings will utilize *A Brief Introduction to Intercessory Prayer (in the Spirit of Martin Luther and the Other Reformers)*. The gatherings will assist in the maintenance of the parish prayer lists (printed weekly in the bulletin); they also will aid in the preparation of the *Prayers of the People* (offered weekly during the Sunday Service).

BERKS CAMERATA: Thanks so much for attending last Sunday's concert by *Berks Camerata*. It was a very good day! So far, more than \$2,950 has been raised toward improvements to the Schoolhouse. (Donations still may be made toward improvements. Checks should be made payable to New Bethel Church, Inc; the memo can be earmarked *Berks Camerata*.)

GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST: As we have done the past few years we will have red geraniums in the sanctuary on Pentecost. So if you would like to purchase red geraniums for Pentecost, the sign-up sheet is now down on the bulletin board. The cost is \$4.00 per plant and the deadline to sign up is May 10.

BETHELFEEST 6: This year Bethelfest 6 will be held on Friday, June 5, from 5-9pm. Dave Kline and his musical guests will perform a variety of folk, gospel and bluegrass music. Please consider volunteering to make our annual event a success. Contact Jon Bond or Steve Brendlinger. Sell refreshments, donate baked goods, set up and tear down tables and awnings, sell and collect tickets, place posters and yard signs, grill hot dogs and burgers...you name it-we'll take it! All profits benefit our local mission and those in need. A portion of last year's profit was given to the Walnuttown Fire Company to help the families of the firefighters who were tragically killed this past month.

SAVE THE DATE!!

JUNE 30 – Vince's Cheesesteaks will be at the Kempton Fire Co. on Tuesday June 30 from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. For every sandwich sold, \$1.00 will be donated back to New Bethel to support our Local Mission Fund. This is a take-out only event. Buy sandwiches and support this worthy cause!!

CHIME CHOIR REHEARSALS: We are continuing our rehearsals for the Chime Choir with chimes again going to Thursday nights starting in May. Rehearsal will begin at 6:30 PM. **Please note there is no rehearsal this week.** Come and join the fun and help us praise the Lord through music! Anyone interested is welcome.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY BY & FOR LAY PEOPLE: Our Bible Study sessions are every Wednesday morning at the same time – 10:00 to 11:30 AM. Coffee and snacks are available. Anyone is welcome to join even if you have not attended any in the past.

2026 FLOWER CHART: The 2026 Flower Chart is now hanging down on the bulletin board with many dates available for you to place flowers on the altar. Pick your dates today!

TINY DEVOTIONAL LIBRARY: Looking for a new devotional? Take a moment and check out our tiny devotional library in the corner of the vestibule by the chair lift. There are many choices for you to use to enhance your devotional time.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS: We are always looking for people to serve as worship assistants. So if you are looking for a way to offer your time the Worship Committee is looking for more worship assistants – greeters, ushers, lectors and communion assistants. The time involved is minimal and time is something that anyone can donate! If you are interested, contact Ruthann.

CRAFT NIGHT: Join the crafters Wednesday evenings as we gather to craft and enjoy fellowship time in the comfort of the Sunday School area. Craft Nights are held 2 hours, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. It doesn't matter what the craft is, come and enjoy! Even if you do not have a craft that you are working on you are invited to join us for the fellowship.

WEIS GIFT CARDS: Since we have been offering Weis Gift Cards we have raised an average of \$500 a year for our local mission Community Outreach. So if you are looking for a gift card for a gift? Why not purchase a Weis gift card Everyone has to shop for food and by purchasing a gift card you can benefit our Community Outreach. That's two pluses in one! Our Weis program benefits New Bethel's Community Outreach, so every card sold is a gift twice over! Please see Vicki or Shirley Wessner after church or contact Vicki at 484-357-6371 or wessner@verizon.net to purchase a card. The cards may be used in the Kutztown, Hamburg or Fogelsville Weis stores. Thank you to anyone who has purchased one or more of these gift cards over the years.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS: If you are a Thrivent member and receive Thrivent Choice Dollars did you know you could designate them to New Bethel Church? It's easy to do but if you need the information on how to designate them there is a flyer down at the bulletin board or talk to your Thrivent representative.

TITHE.LY: If you would like to contribute or make your weekly offering to New Bethel and can't make it to church try TITHE.LY! By donating this way you are able to make a one-time donation or set up recurring donations. Tithe.ly deposits the funds directly to the Church's bank account at the same time tracking your donations on a yearly basis. Their website is <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1308566>

NEW BETHEL ENDOWMENT FUND: As you plan your financial legacy please consider New Bethel Church in your plan. Our endowment fund will accept monetary gifts including stock that would be deposited into our brokerage account. Having a strong endowment fund will help to keep New Bethel going strong for future generations.

ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE: Thank you! Recent financial donations have been earmarked for our church endowment fund. The fund balance as of mid-April is now \$122,462.00. Your donations to this ongoing fund help to ensure a financially healthy church for generations to come. Heartfelt thanks to all who support our endowment!

ON-LINE SERVICE INFORMATION: Can't get to church on Sunday morning? If you would like to view the service just go to nbchurchkempton.org and click on the Youtube link on our home page. There you will find videos of our recent services that are available for viewing.

PASTORAL CARE: When you are in need of pastoral care, please have a family member contact Pastor Peiffer at 570.778.1245 or call the church at 610.756.6589. If you are in the Lehigh Valley Hospital, please let admissions know your church code is #457.

2026 NEW BETHEL CHURCH BOARD

Jon Bond – President	Linda Foulke – Vice President
Barb Dieter – Secretary	Lynette Daniels
Marge Hamm	Penny Rhodes
Janelle Stump	Sherry Stump
Luisa Follweiler – Treasurer	Tanya Lang – Financial Secretary





ALBANY TOWNSHIP PANTRY

First Tuesday of each month - 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Kempton Community Center

Food pantry and social services are open to Albany Township residents and families in need. Resources are also available for those who are struggling with financial challenges (ex. Utility bills) or need help applying for food or medical assistance. If you have any questions about your options, contact Friend, Inc. at 610-683-9011.

FRIEND, INC. Food Pantry

During these times let us not forget those less fortunate than we are. If you are able, please consider donating any nonperishable items. For the month of May we will be collecting cereal and breakfast items.

In addition to food items, please consider donating personal items such as shampoo, soap, etc. and household items (laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, etc.). These last items are things that we often overlook.

Friend, Inc. also collects pet food to help families in need provide for their pets. These items will be distributed by Friend, Inc.

Thank You All For Your Generosity!