

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SERVICES & MEETINGS

Board Meeting – Tuesday – 7:00 PM

Bible Study – Wednesday – 10:30 to 11:30 AM

Craft Night - Wednesday – 7:00 PM

Sunday Morning Worship Service – August 16 – 9:00 AM



WORSHIP STATISTICS

08/02/26

In Person Attendance – 28

Virtual Attendance (YouTube Views) –



THANK YOU TO THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Greeter: Rick & Linda Foulke

Lector: Linda Foulke

Ushers: Tanya Lang & Ruthann Lutz

Cantor:



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

Cell Phone: 570-778-1245

Email: bobpeiffer@alumni.nd.edu

Church & Office Telephone: 610-756-6589

Email: nbckempton@gmail.com

Bulletin Secretary: Ruthann Lutz

Phone: 610-756-6489

Email: ruthann_lutz@msn.com

Newsletter Coordinator: Jon Bond

Email: bondart@ptd.net

Organist/Choir Director/Chime Choir Director –

LeAnne Zettlemoyer

Email: zett113@ptd.net

11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2026

9:00 AM



*Thank you for worshiping 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

Gracious God, you met Jacob in the darkness and blessed him with a new name. You transformed Paul's life and taught him to press on toward the heavenly call in Christ. Through Jesus, you encourage us to pray with perseverance and never lose heart.

Meet us in this time of worship. Strengthen us in our struggles, renew us by your grace, and open our hearts to your transforming presence. May we leave this place with courage to follow Christ faithfully and joyfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER NOTES: In your conversation with GOD this morning, may we seek His help in doing His will.

"Our love for Christ is only as real as our love for our neighbor.



ORDER OF WORSHIP



THE PRELUDE

(^ = PLEASE STAND, AS YOU ARE ABLE)

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

^PRAISE HYMNS

^CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 46:1-3, 7

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

For the LORD forgives all our sins, heals all our infirmities, redeems our life from the grave, and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

The steadfast love of the LORD is everlasting upon those who fear him, and his righteousness is for their children's children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

^OPENING HYMN –

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

PASTOR: Let us confess our sin to God.

ALL: ***Merciful God, like Jacob, we often struggle against your purposes, trying to control our lives rather than trusting your promises.***

Like Paul, we cling to accomplishments, failures, and old identities, instead of pressing forward toward the new life you offer in Christ.

Like those who lose heart, we grow weary in prayer. We surrender too quickly, accept injustice too easily, and forget that you invite us to come before you with bold and persistent faith.

Forgive us. Give us courage to wrestle honestly with you, humility to receive your transforming grace, and perseverance to continue seeking your kingdom.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

PASTOR: Hear the Good News. The God who blessed Jacob still blesses those who seek him. The Christ who transformed Paul's life still makes all things new.

The Spirit who strengthens persistent faith still intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, our hope is renewed, and we are invited to walk forward—perhaps bearing the marks of life's struggles, yet blessed by the grace of God.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD (OUR LESSONS FOR TODAY)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: GENESIS 32: 22-32

²²The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet

my life is preserved.”³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penue!l, limping because of his hip. ³² Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the hip socket, because he struck Jacob on the hip socket at the thigh muscle.

RESPONSE: “Psalm 25: “To You, O Lord, I Lift Up”

To you, O Lord, I lift up, I lift up my soul, my God.

To you, O Lord, I lift up, I lift up my soul, my God.

EPISTLE LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 3: 7-16

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us, then, who are mature think this way, and if you think differently about anything, this, too, God will reveal to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

^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 LESSON: LUKE 18: 1-8

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

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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.

HOMILY (SHARING GOD’S WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN)

SHARING GOD’S WORD WITH OUR MORNING SERMON

Rev. Robert B. Peiffer, Ph.D.

“Limping Towards the Daylight”

PASSING OF PEACE

MORNING OFFERING: (RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD)

^HYMN –

^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

^RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION:

Go now in peace, trusting the God who meets us in every struggle.

We will walk in faith, trusting God's blessing and grace.

Press on toward the upward call of God in Christ Jesus, and never lose heart in prayer.

We will persevere in hope, for God is always with us.

May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

Amen

^CLOSING HYMN –

^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, Pastor Dave Blitch, Sarah Burns, Brenda Derr, Jay Drey, Donna Greenawalt, Sharon (Henry) Griffiths, Tim Haring, Felicity Herring, Tiffany Hoch, Casey Hoffman, Ernie Kanas, Bethany Keck, Emily 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, Melanie Wessner, Cassie Wolfe, Joanne Zawada-Paskoff, Reuben Zettlemoyer, Susan Zettlemoyer, and Ben Ziehmer.

THOSE WHO ARE SHUT INS:

Forrest Graff, Pat Graff, 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.



AS YOU PRAY THIS WEEK:

Remember to pray for New Bethel Church asking God to lead us in ways He would have us grow and guide our Board members as they make decisions about our church life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Monday, August 3, Darryl Dieter passed away. Please keep Barb and the rest of the family in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONALS: The new regular print Our Daily Breads are now available. Pick up your copy today!

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY BY & FOR LAY PEOPLE: Bible Study sessions will be resuming this week on Wednesday mornings. If you would like to attend they are held from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. Come and join in – all are welcome!

Please note Bible Study will be held from 10:30 to 11:30 this week.

ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE: Endowment Fund Update: As of July 31 our Church Endowment Fund is valued at \$146,259.00. Thanks to your generosity and substantial gains in the financial market, the fund continues to grow and benefit our church. The committee that oversees the fund will recommend appropriate disbursements to the church board beginning October 2027. By that time, the fund will have established a three-year return and any disbursements that fulfill the fund's mission can be calculated. Guidelines set forth in establishing the fund nearly two years ago will be followed. Thank you again for your continued support.

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 note that they will be phasing out the church code option.





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 August we will again be collecting food items that can easily be prepared for lunch.

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