

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SERVICES & MEETINGS

Bible Study – Wednesday – 10:00 to 11:30 AM

Craft Night - Wednesday – 7:00 PM

Sunday Morning Worship Service – August 23 – 9:00 AM

Sunday School 1st Day – September 13 – 10:15 AM



WORSHIP STATISTICS

8/9/26

In Person Attendance – 27

Virtual Attendance (YouTube Views) –



THANK YOU TO THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Greeter: Luisa Follweiler & Shirley Wessner

Lector: Rick Foulke

Ushers: Laura Miller & Linda Schroeder

Cantor:



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

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Newsletter Coordinator: Jon Bond

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Organist/Choir Director/Chime Choir Director –

LeAnne Zettlemoyer

Email: zett113@ptd.net

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 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

O God, whose light shines in the darkness and whose truth overturns our certainty: open our eyes to behold your presence, open our ears to hear your voice, and open our hearts to receive your grace; that, like Balaam, we may recognize you in our path, like the man born blind, come to see and believe, and like Saul, rise from our blindness to walk in the way of Jesus Christ our 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, ask His direction for our ministry together as His church in this place.

"Nothing is impossible; the word itself says 'I'm Possible.'"



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 27: 1, 8, 13-14

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face."

Your face, LORD, will I seek.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Tarry and await the LORD'S pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart.

Come, let us seek the face of the God who gives sight to the blind and light to those who walk in darkness.

Let us worship the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

^OPENING HYMN –

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

PASTOR: Let us confess our sin to God.

ALL: *Open our eyes to see what you would have us see. Give us courage to change direction, and lead us in the way of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have often been certain when we should have listened, confident when we should have questioned, and quick to judge what we did not understand.

You have stood in our path, and we have failed to see you. You have spoken through unexpected voices, and we have failed to hear you. You have opened our eyes, and still we have preferred the darkness.

Forgive us for the blindness of pride, the blindness of prejudice, the blindness of fear, and the blindness that mistakes our own certainty for your truth.

Stop us when we are traveling the wrong road.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

PASTOR: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit open your eyes to the light of his grace. **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD (OUR LESSONS FOR TODAY)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: NUMBERS 22: 21-35

²¹ So Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the officials of Moab.

²² God's anger was kindled because he was going, and the angel of the LORD took his stand in the road as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him. ²³ The donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand, so the donkey turned off the road and went into the field, and Balaam struck the donkey, to turn it back onto the road. ²⁴ Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side. ²⁵ When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it scraped against the wall and scraped Balaam's foot against the wall, so he struck it again. ²⁶ Then the angel of the LORD went ahead and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. ²⁷ When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it lay down under Balaam, and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. ²⁸ Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and it said to

Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" ²⁹ Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a fool of me! I wish I had a sword in my hand! I would kill you right now!" ³⁰ But the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I been in the habit of treating you this way?" And he said, "No."

³¹ Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with his drawn sword in his hand, and he bowed down, falling on his face. ³² The angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? I have come out as an adversary because your way is perverse before me. ³³ The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let it live." ³⁴ Then Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know that you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now therefore, if it is displeasing to you, I will return home." ³⁵ The angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but speak only what I tell you to speak." So Balaam went on with the officials of Balak.

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: ACTS 9: 1-19

¹ Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias

answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,

^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: JOHN 9: 1-11, 24-38

¹ As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know

that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.

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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.
“God Opens What Is Closed”

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 into a world where God may meet you on roads you did not choose.
Lord, open our eyes.

When God stands in your path and calls you to change direction—
Lord, open our eyes.

When truth comes through a voice you never expected to hear—
Lord, open our ears.

When Christ asks you to surrender an old certainty so that you may receive a deeper truth—
Lord, open our hearts.

And when the road ahead is strange, and you cannot yet see where it leads—
Lord, give us faith to walk by your light.

Go in the blessing of the God who stopped Balaam on the road, the Christ who opened the eyes of the blind, and the Spirit who turned Saul from persecutor to apostle.
We go with open eyes, open hearts, and willing feet.

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

THANK YOU: Thank you to everyone who generously loaned fans to cut down on the heat in the sanctuary during the funeral of Darryl Dieter. It made the temperature bearable, allowing family and friends one less thing to worry about. Thank you!

FIRST RESPONDERS SUNDAY: We are planning to hold a First Responders Recognition on Sunday, September 13. If you would like to help plan this see Linda Schroeder and Pastor Bob to volunteer.

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!

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!