

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SERVICES & MEETINGS

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

Craft Night - Wednesday – 7:00 PM

Chili Cook-off – Iron Talon Farm – October 24 – 3:00 to 7:00 PM

Sunday Morning Worship Service – October 25 – 9:00 AM

Sunday School – October 25 – 10:15 AM



WORSHIP STATISTICS

10/11/26

In Person Attendance – 27

Virtual Attendance (YouTube Views) – 30



THANK YOU TO THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Greeter: Rick & Linda Foulke

Acolyte: Adalyn Mummolo

Lector: Barb Dieter

Cantor:



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

Cell Phone: 570-778-1245

Email: bobpeiffer@alumni.nd.edu

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Newsletter Coordinator: Jon Bond

Email: bondart@ptd.net

Organist/Choir Director/Chime Choir Director –

LeAnne Zettlemoyer

Email: zett113@ptd.net

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 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

Faithful God, you have created us in love, redeemed us through Jesus Christ, and called us by name to be your own: Grant us such confidence in your providence that, amid all the changes and chances of this life, we may know the comfort of belonging to Christ, rest securely in your grace, and offer our lives in joyful gratitude; through 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, give thanks for the beauty of nature He has given us to enjoy.

"The beauty of nature - God's greeting card."



ORDER OF WORSHIP



THE PRELUDE

(^ = PLEASE STAND, AS YOU ARE ABLE)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

^CALL TO WORSHIP:

Thus says the Lord who created you and formed you: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

You have called us by name; we are yours.

Whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord.

We are not our own; we belong to Jesus Christ.

The Good Shepherd knows his sheep and calls them by name.

We hear his voice, and we follow him.

Nothing can snatch us from Christ's hand.

Nothing in life or in death can separate us from his love.

Come, let us worship the God who created, redeemed, and sustains us.

With grateful hearts, let us worship the Lord.

^PRAISE HYMNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

PASTOR: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we have lived as though we belonged only to ourselves. We have trusted our own strength, clung to what we possess, and sought to control what rests in your hands. We have failed to trust your providence, to receive your grace with humility, and to answer your goodness with gratitude. We have neglected our neighbors, forgotten those who suffer, and followed voices other than the voice of Christ.

Forgive us, we pray. Call us again by name, restore us to the flock of your Son, and renew us by your Holy Spirit that we may belong wholly to you and live in grateful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

PASTOR: Almighty God, our merciful Father, has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith. Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, has laid down his life for us and taken it up again. In him we are redeemed, forgiven, and held securely in God's love. Therefore, by the grace of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

People: *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD (OUR LESSONS FOR TODAY)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: ISAIAH 43: 1-7

¹ But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
⁴Because you are precious in my sight
and honored and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

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

Shepherd me, O God, Beyond my wants,
Beyond my fears, From death into life.

EPISTLE LESSON: ROMANS 14: 7-9

⁷For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

^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 10: 11-18, 27-30

¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

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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)

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Robert B. Peiffer, Ph.D.
"I Am Not My Own"

^HYMN – No. 517

"The Solid Rock"

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:

You are not your own.

We belong to Jesus Christ.

When you pass through deep waters, do not be afraid.

The Lord who calls us by name will be with us.

Whether you live or whether you die —

We belong to the Lord.

Go forth in the comfort of God's grace, the strength of the Holy Spirit, and the gratitude of those who have been redeemed.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

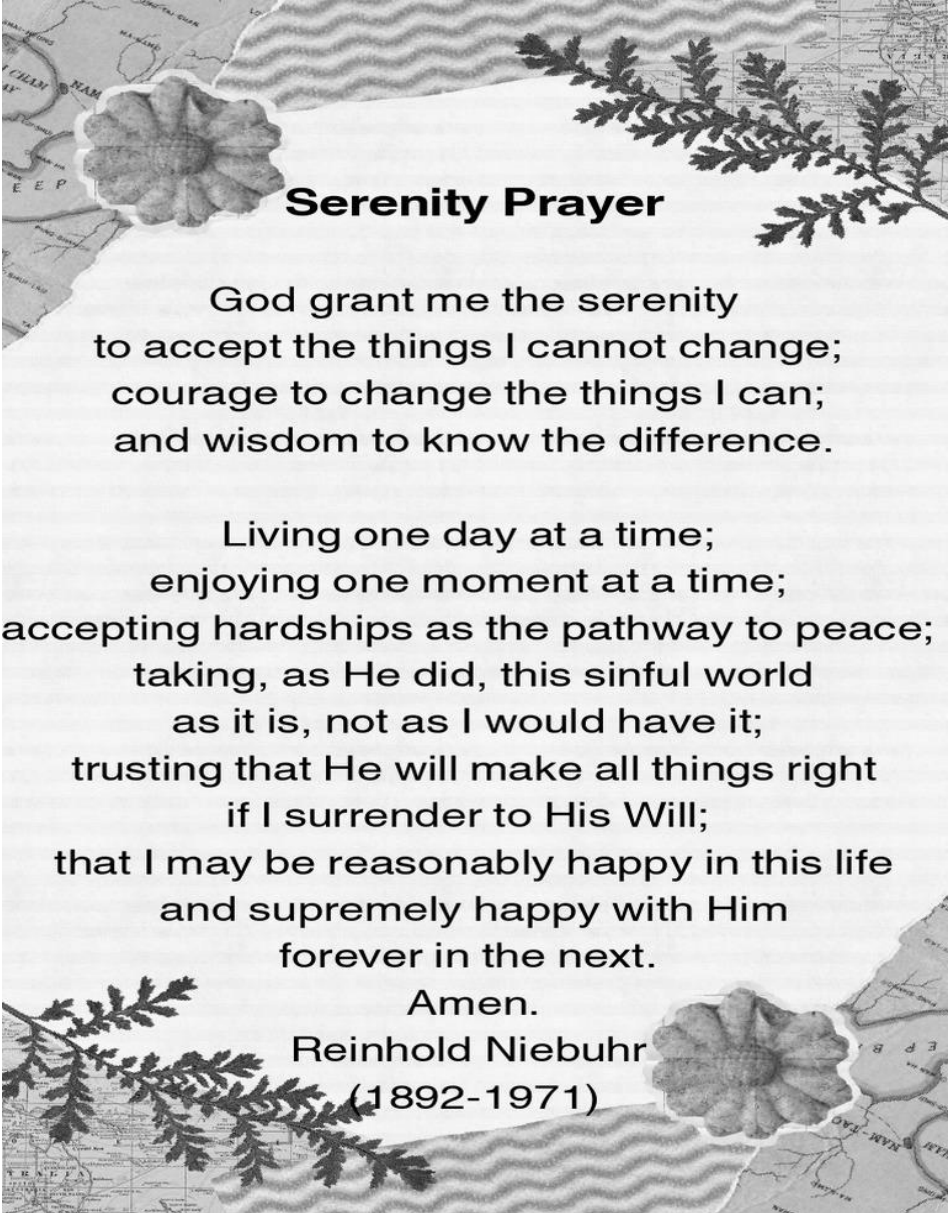
Amen

^CLOSING HYMN — No. 523

"Trust and Obey"

^WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

^POSTLUDE

The graphic features a light gray background with a faint, stylized map of the world. A large, dark gray, multi-petaled flower is positioned in the upper left corner. A dark green, leafy branch extends from the upper right corner towards the center. The text of the Serenity Prayer is centered in a black, serif font. At the bottom, the name 'Reinhold Niebuhr' and his dates '(1892-1971)' are centered, with another large, dark gray, multi-petaled flower positioned to their right. A dark green, leafy branch extends from the lower left corner towards the center.

Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next.

Amen.
Reinhold Niebuhr
(1892-1971)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, 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, Peggy Light, 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:

Donna Greenawalt, Forrest Graff, Pat Graff, Michael Kirkhoff, Nancy Kleinsmith, Sandy Long, Lester Lutz, George and Judy Megerle, Christie Ryan, Delano and Sandra Schucker.

THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY:

Cooper Dunn, Amanda Kertsmar and Trista Fulmer-Smith.



This morning, we continue our worship series "What We Believe." The series will investigate the two questions – What do we believe? And What kind of congregation do our beliefs invite us to become? Today we looked at Luther's Shorter Catechism and the Heidelberg Catechism. Next week, Reformation Sunday, we ask what does it mean to be a church that is continually being renewed.

CHILI COOK-OFF: New Bethel Church and Iron Talon Farm will host a Chili Cook-off and party at the farm on New Bethel Church Road, on Saturday, October 24 from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. Iron Talon Farm has launched a program to rent cabins on their beautiful property to provide peace and rejuvenation for first responders. Come for food, fun, fellowship and to honor our first responders.

ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY: All Saint's Sunday is November 1 and as in years past we will be honoring those of our New Bethel family and friends that have passed away during the past year. If you would like to have a loved one honored, let LeAnne or Ruthann know. If possible, supply a picture for our slide show.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS: This year we will once again be collecting food for Thanksgiving meals. We hope to collect enough food to benefit 8 families. Three of the families are in our community the other five families are located in the Kutztown Area School District. Look for more information in the narthex or contact Barb Dieter if you have any questions.

BIBLE STUDY SPECIAL: On Wednesday, November 4 the Bible study group will welcome Jon Bond for an area history talk. Tell family and friends to join us from 10:00 to 11:30 AM for an exciting adventure and look back in time.

CHURCH DIRECTORY: The new Congregational Directory is available – pick up your copy today! If you notice you or your family are not listed in the directory it could just be that a release was not signed when you sent in your information. We cannot put your information in without the release.

See the Pastor to get a release signed. A newer edition of the directory with changes and corrections will be put out in the near future.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Join us following worship for our coffee fellowship. Enjoy the coffee and snacks and the fellowship that comes with it. If you would like to bring snacks and/or drinks for any given Sunday there is a sign-up sheet at the door to the choir room. You may also sign up to help set up before worship or clean up following coffee fellowship. Paper products and coffee are provided.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Mark your calendar for Thursday **October 24 for the Shared Abundance Community Meal**. This is a free meal open to all community members. It will run from 5:00 to 6:30 PM at New Jerusalem Zion UCC, 1456 Krumsville Rd., Krumsville (across from the Greenwich Elementary School). It is hosted by the Local Shared Outreach Group of Mount Zion Lutheran, Friedens Lutheran and New Jerusalem UCC Churches. Information needed – just call 610-756-7892.

Also if anyone is interested in joining in the Local Shared Outreach Group, contact Sharon C. Billger at 610-682-7038. They are always looking to gain new members and thus serve more of God's people in our local area.

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!

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 October we will be collecting pasta and items served with a pasta meal.

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!