

**Bethany Presbyterian Church**  
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**July & August 2025**  
**Volume 27, Issue 6**



# News of Bethany

## FROM THE DESK OF REV. KENT

We have returned safely from Disney World! We're broke, but we're safe, and that's all that counts! We had a wonderful time! Meredith and Ricky came along with us, which was a blast! They were able to help carry all our bags up two flights of stairs to the room, which was a big help. All I did was open the rear hatch, put the luggage on the sidewalk, and watch them do the rest. Age has its privileges!

Erin goes to the parks when they open in the morning so she can avoid the crowds. Meredith, Ricky, and I wander over in time for lunch. Works great, actually. That way, she doesn't have to listen to us whine about having to get up early and get going when the parks open. She buys



"Lighting-Lane" passes for us in the afternoon, so we don't have to wait in line for the rides. She is amazing, and we pay her well to act as our travel agent! (She loves it!)

***Mission Statement:***  
***Bethany Presbyterian Church is a church making an impact on the lives of all people through the love of Jesus Christ.***

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# Bethany News & Notes



**Special Dates  
Summer 2025**



**4th of July  
Friday, July 4**



# PRAY ABOUT *everything*

**Brian Ashba, Judy Maier, Polly Snyder, Don Risser  
Michelle Atwater & Will Campbell**



## SUMMER *birthdays*

### July

07/04 Polly Snyder  
07/06 Bob Waldeck  
07/07 Diane Ashba  
07/08 Judith Maier  
07/20 Michele Unitas  
07/21 Kaelyn Eckman  
07/25 Betty Duncan  
07/25 Randy Mohler  
07/27 Jean Schwartz  
07/28 Betty Stevenson  
07/29 Daniel Rine

### August

08/08 Grayson Martin  
08/17 Allison Fetterman  
08/20 Susan Paxson  
08/26 Sylvia Doyle  
08/29 Katelyn Martin  
08/29 Kent E. Holmes



I'm glad to be back in the Pulpit. I missed your company on Sunday mornings while we were gone. You are my extended family, and I enjoy worshipping with you! It seems that Preachers have a lot of material from which to choose nowadays. Somebody asked me the other day why I bring "issues" into my preaching. My response was, "How can I not? We live in an unsettled time, one which seems to be in a constant state of flux. The Bible and the newspaper go hand-in-hand – you can't have one without the other. The actual quote on this oft-repeated saying from Karl Barth is: *"Take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible."* (Time Magazine, May 1, 1966.) May these times be ones in which we always have our Bibles at hand when we access the news.



God joins us on our journeys, wherever they may lead. I respond to the needs/issues around me based on what I read in Scripture. **As a "child of God," I look to God to lead and encourage me. Sometimes God places me on paths I don't always feel comfortable following.** But, at the end-of-the-day I know that the path was the one I was destined to follow.

That's why I am honored to worship with you. I firmly believe that regular participation in Sunday Morning Worship sets the tone for our "everyday" lives. We can't function without the renewal which worship affords us. Our hymns, our prayers, and the sermons bring hope and energy to our souls and give us the strength to live life fully with purpose. God deserves nothing but our best selves. To that end, God stands ready to nourish us and love us on our individual journeys. May the Risen Christ continue to bless you and encourage you to do God's work wherever and whatever that may be!

Grace & Peace, *Kent*



**July 6, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. - Fourth Sunday After Pentecost**

“Bearing One Another’s Burdens” Galatians 6:7-16

Preaching: Rev. Holmes

**July 13, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. - Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

“Walk Worthy” Colossians 1:1-14 Preaching: Rev. Holmes

**July 20, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. - Sixth Sunday After Pentecost**

“Mature in Christ” Colossians 1:15-28 Preaching: Rev. Holmes



**July 27, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. - Seventh Sunday After Pentecost**

“What Used to Be” Colossians 2:6-15 Preaching: Rev. Holmes



**August 3, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**

**August 10, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**Ninth Sunday After Pentecost**

**August 17, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**August 24, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost**

**August 31, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
Greeter & Fellowship	Cam Baker	Linda Eckman	Emily Baker	Elaine Bornstein
Ushers	Joyce Richards & Diane Ashba	Sylvia Doyle & David Schwartz	Doug & Maurine Smith	Fred & Sue Fetterman

*Presbyterian News Service*

**In a letter to the Church, the Rev. Jihyun Oh says the PC(USA) will continue to stand with and for the most vulnerable among us.**

Stated Clerk and Executive Director: The heart of leadership is lifting up others instead of pushing them down



**The Rev. Jihyun Oh**

Dear Siblings in Christ Jesus and Fellow Disciples  
of our Crucified and Risen Lord,

Scripture reminds us that as Christ Jesus journeyed to the cross, he was also entrusting his earthly ministry to his disciples. Failing to understand, the disciples found themselves arguing about who would be greatest. To this, Jesus says, “The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted” (Matthew 23:11-12).

This is the heart of leadership, especially for any who would claim to be “Christian” — to serve others instead of insisting on one’s own greatness, to lift up others instead of pushing them down, to show honor to the least instead of denigrating their humanity, to use one’s power and authority to work toward the wholeness of God’s beloved world instead of harming those who are most vulnerable in society.

We find ourselves in a nation in which leaders who purport to be Christian are attacking those who preach the mercy and love of Christ Jesus, arresting those who pray for justice, and using their position of leadership to harm the most vulnerable and to enrich themselves and their friends and allies by impoverishing those who have much less. Instead of emulating Christ’s earthly ministry of justice and love that brought God’s reign of wholeness and peace, these leaders seek to create a society that is marked by fracture and violence, a society in which power matters more than truth, winning more than communion and the good of the whole. Instead of working for a world in which strangers and foreigners can become neighbors, the weak and sick are protected, and the young and lonely are embraced, they build up dividing walls of hostility, threaten the vulnerable, and ridicule the marginalized. This is not Christian. This is not Christian leadership.

As the Co-Moderators of the 226th General Assembly and I wrote in December, as a Christian, Reformed, Presbyterian denomination, we as the PC(USA) will be a church for this time and place as God calls us to be. And we will act in accordance with our biblical and theological values that have also guided the actions of our General Assemblies, both PC(USA) and our predecessor denominations, in the discernment of our policies.

We will continue to stand with and for the most vulnerable in our society, whether that is because of status, identity, ability, resources, or any other factor; all bear the image of God. In our common life as a denomination, we will continue to pursue representation and full participation of all in the life of our denomination as we continue living into unity in our diversity. We will continue to stand with and for LGBTQIA+ siblings and communities and act to resist efforts to denigrate or harm them, or exclude them from the promise of the fullness of life.



We will work toward the day of God's wholeness when all tears are wiped away, weapons are hammered into plowshares, hunger and violence are no more, Earth and all that inhabit it are restored, and God's love and justice reign.

As Reformed Christians, our Sovereign God calls us to involvement in the world instead of being apart from it. And our involvement should be more than words. The Church's call is to follow Christ, "entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life" [PC(USA) Book of Order, F-1.0301].

As Presbyterians, the Lord of our conscience calls us to stand up against the abuse of power and authority, especially when it is done in the name of Christ but not in the image and likeness of Christ and his earthly ministry.

Our God calls us and our cloud of witnesses calls out to us and strengthens us by their witness to the love and justice of Christ Jesus in the world.

Taking a stand against the rise of the Nazi party, the Confessing Church movement in Germany drafted the 1934 Theological Declaration of Barmen, asserting that Christ alone is Lord of the church and Sovereign of the world: "Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death" [PC (USA) Book of Confessions, 8.11].

Our God calls us and also sends us. God sends the Church to work for justice in the world: exercising its power for the common good; dealing honestly in personal and public spheres; seeking dignity and freedom for all people; welcoming strangers in the land; promoting justice and fairness in the law; overcoming disparities between rich and poor; bearing witness against systems of violence and oppression; and redressing wrongs against individuals, groups, and peoples [PC(USA) Book of Order, W-5.0303].

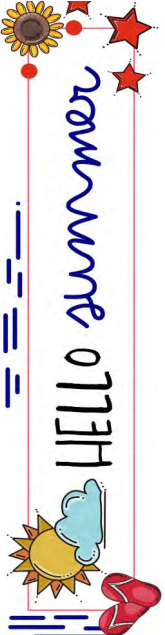

So many in the church, in faithful discipleship to Jesus Christ, have been working for and toward God's justice and love in the world. In the coming weeks and months, more will be shared about what Presbyterians are doing and can join to do.

Romans 12:9-16, 21 reminds us: 9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Let us not despair even as we grieve the brokenness and the pain we witness. Let us not lose heart. Let our discipleship be a faithful witness to what it means to be "Christian" in this time. May it be so for all of us.

# July & August 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		July 1 7:00 P.M. Troop Committee Mtg.	July 2 8:00 P.M. Al Anon Donegal Hall	July 3 7:00 P.M. Sense of Direction Westminster Hall	July 4 	July 5/Aug 2
July 6/Aug 3 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	July 7/Aug 4 6:45 P.M. Boy Scouts Donegal Hall	July 8/Aug 5 Aug - 7:00 P.M. Troop Committee Mtg.	July 9/Aug 6 8:00 P.M. Al Anon Donegal Hall	July 10/Aug 7 7:00 P.M. Sense of Direction Westminster Hall	July 11/Aug 8 7:00 P.M. AA Donegal Hall 8:00 P.M. Al Anon Parlor	July 12/Aug 9
July 13/Aug 10 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	July 14/Aug 11 6:45 P.M. Boy Scouts Donegal Hall	July 15/Aug 12	July 16/Aug 13 8:00 P.M. Al Anon Donegal Hall	July 17/Aug 14 7:00 P.M. Sense of Direction Westminster Hall	July 18/Aug 15 7:00 P.M. AA Donegal Hall 8:00 P.M. Al Anon Parlor	July 19/Aug 16 7:00 P.M. White Deer Run Westminster Hall
July 20/Aug 17 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	July 21/Aug 18 6:45 P.M. Boy Scouts Donegal Hall	July 22/Aug 19	July 23/Aug 20 8:00 P.M. Al Anon Donegal Hall	July 24/Aug 21 7:00 P.M. Sense of Direction Westminster Hall	July 25/Aug 22 7:00 P.M. AA Donegal Hall 8:00 P.M. Al Anon Parlor	July 26/Aug 23
July 27/Aug 24/31 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	July 28/Aug 25 6:45 P.M. Boy Scouts Donegal Hall	July 29/Aug 26	July 30/Aug 27 8:00 P.M. Al Anon Donegal Hall	July 31/Aug 28 7:00 P.M. Sense of Direction Westminster Hall	Aug 1/Aug 29 7:00 P.M. AA Donegal Hall 8:00 P.M. Al Anon Parlor	Aug 30