



**Summer Worship Service
The Thirteenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

August 23, 2026

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Child of Love

Ed Cash

Contemporary Ensemble

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Beloved, God's never-ending love spills out all around us, drawing us together in beloved community with God, neighbor, and all creation.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

God's always-present grace surrounds us, enlivening us to love ourselves and our neighbors just as Christ loves us.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

God's persistent peace sweeps through us, guarding our hearts and empowering us to live as agents of God's mercy and justice wherever we go.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

May our rejoicing overflow into our families, neighborhoods, and the whole earth that through our living, working, resting, and playing, God may be glorified.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2026.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***GATHERING HYMN**

#461

God is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

WE CONFESS

***EMBODIED CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (from *Glory to God* – see addendum)

Let Us Build a House – Verse 1 only

TWO OAKS

**Please stand as you are able.*

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Virginia Smith

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Nancy Steele

Psalm: Psalm 100

Epistle: Philippians 4:1-9

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Karen Kinney

"Always Rejoice in the Lord?"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

What does it mean to YOU to rejoice in the Lord **always**? How does letting your gentleness be evident to **all** people protect your peace?

*SERMON HYMN

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (from *Glory to God* – see addendum)

THE SERVANT SONG

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from the *Confession of 1967*. 9.26)

New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Lord You Hear the Cry

Geraldine Latty

Contemporary Ensemble

*DOXOLOGY

#592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

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. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN

#538

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

SICILIAN MARINERS

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fanfare

Kenneth Leighton

Flowers given by David Shin in memory of his parents, Rev. and Mrs. Sung Kook Shin

*You're welcome to stay and enjoy the Postlude or to depart while the music is played.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!*

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

The Servant Song



1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall



be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
 geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
 night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
 laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
 find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -



grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
 oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
 to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.
 (repeat stanza 1)

301

Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

VERSE 1 ONLY

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
Gm C F B^b



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)
Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F C7



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

COMMUNITY LIFE – ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AUG. 23, 2026

If you are new to our church, welcome! Please complete a **“Connect Card,”** available in the Narthex.

For today: Following our service you have two opportunities to connect. We have tables set up in the Narthex for anyone who would like to **discuss the morning’s sermon** and service. You’re also invited to our **Lemonade on the Lawn** social time: we’ll meet on the West Lawn (otherwise in the North Link). Thank you to the Rossetti family for hosting. **If you’d like to host on Sept. 6**, you can sign up online (bit.ly/42TDejr) or on the paper form at the Narthex info table.

We are looking for volunteers to help staff our info booth at the **Lehigh Valley Pride Event** on Sunday, Aug. 30. There is a paper sign-up in the Narthex or visit <https://volunteersignup.org/JFLL9>.

For your calendar: **“Sitting with the Psalms”** is offered on the five Sundays in August; everyone is welcome to join the conversation from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. in the Church Library.

For the month of August we are collecting **donations for the Animal Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley**: they have asked specifically for **dry** dog and cat food. Thanks for considering how you can help!

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Karen Kinney, Transitional Pastor; kkinney@fpc-bethlehem.org

Rev. Dr. Virginia Smith, Parish Associate

David Macbeth, Director of Music Ministries; dmacbeth@fpc-bethlehem.org

CARE CONCERNS

IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED: Please tell the hospital our church code is 724. Also, please call the church office at 610-867-5865 to let us know as the hospitals do not always collect this information. After hours, leave a message or call our answering service at 610-778-7003.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Send to prayer@fpc-bethlehem.org or call 610-867-5865 and leave a message.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Regular Church Office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Urgent pastoral need? Please call our answering service at 610-778-7003.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – STAY CONNECTED!

We send an email newsletter each Friday morning; it will be emailed to those who request it: contact us at info@fpc-bethlehem.org or 610-867-5865. You can also request a printed copy be mailed to you.

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

2344 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017

610-867-5865 · fpc-bethlehem.org

Check our online calendar for all events and activities.

Your attendance at church events constitutes permission to use your image
(photos and video) in church communications.

Questions about our policy: info@fpc-bethlehem.org



Use this code to
donate through
our secure
website.