FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Summer Worship Service
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Awake My Soul — Martin Smith

Contemporary Ensemble

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says I am the bread of life
Come let us feast together
Jesus says whoever believes in me will never hunger nor thirst
Come let us gather and welcome one another to the meal
God is the reason we are here, let us gather in the name of God
Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

*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

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON — Virginia Smith

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Please stand as you are able.

SCRIPTURE Kate Arrington and Lizzie Green

John 6:5-14

Luke 14:12-24

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

"The Art of Gathering: A Crowded Table"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

What gatherings or groups come to mind as you reflect on past experiences of expansive welcome and transformation? What helped facilitate your experience of hospitality and change: the space, the people, the type of gathering, the activities, etc.? What made it memorable and meaningful?

*SERMON HYMN

Here in this Place (from *Glory to God* – see addendum)

*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 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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION AND OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Crowded Table Natalie Hemby

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

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (from *Glory to God* - see addendum)

*BENEDICTION

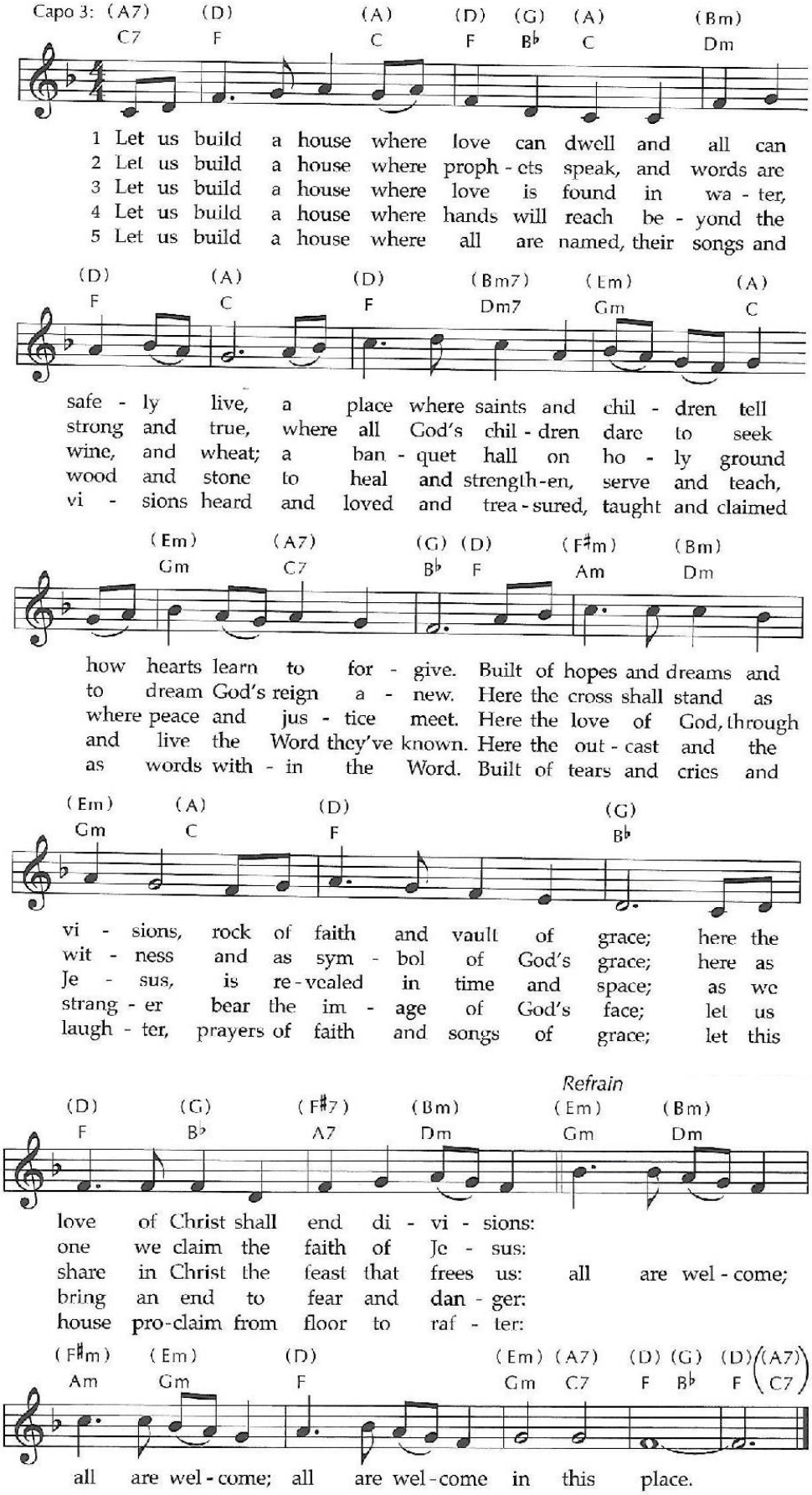
POSTLUDE Adagio in E Frank Bridge

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!

VERSE 1 ONLY

301 Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome



Here in This Place 401

Gather Us In



All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly 509



COMMUNITY LIFE – ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JULY 19, 2026

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

For today: After our worship 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 Women's K Group for hosting. If you'd like to host, you can sign up online (bit.ly/42TDejr) or on the paper form at the Narthex info table.

Here are your opportunities to participate in worship: you can **lead our children's sermons**, or serve as **lector** to share the scripture readings. The children's sermon sign up is at volunteersignup.org/hj4yy and the lector sign up is at bit.ly/3PQRBlq. There are also paper sign-ups for each in the Narthex.

New! **"Sharing our Bounty"** – bring your extra harvest to share at a table at Lemonade on the Lawn. Available for others to take, no charge! Anything left over will be donated to New Bethany, along with other produce harvested from the CommUNITY Garden located on our campus.

This month's food/personal care items collection is for the four-county initiative for the month of July, **Summer Harvest Food Drive.** For more info: summerharvestfooddrive.com.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton, Associate Pastor for Justice and Community Impact; lclifton@fpc-bethlehem.org
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.