FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Summer Worship Service
The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Les cloches" (The bells) from *Deux Romances* L. 65 — Claude Debussy
Madison Zahorsky, soprano

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Friends, let us worship God today, for God is great –
God has blessed us with life, with faith, and with community.
Let us worship God today, for God is good –
God forgives us, and encourages us, and loves us.
Let us worship God today –
Because we are God's people.
Let us worship God.
Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #464
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee — HYMN TO JOY

WE CONFESS

*EMBODIED CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Chorus and Verse 1 – see page 3)
Healer of our Every Ill — HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON — Pam Phillippe

*Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Bob Hunsicker and Rose Hunsicker

Psalm 32

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Beyond the Wilderness: Forgiven and Empowered for the Road Ahead"

Rev. Karen Kinney

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

What temptations do we currently face in imagining our near-term and far-term mission and ministry? How does God's faithfulness in forgiving us encourage us for the future?

*SERMON HYMN #339

Be Thou My Vision SLANE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.26

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 Density of Light Sarah Quartel

Chancel Choir

*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.
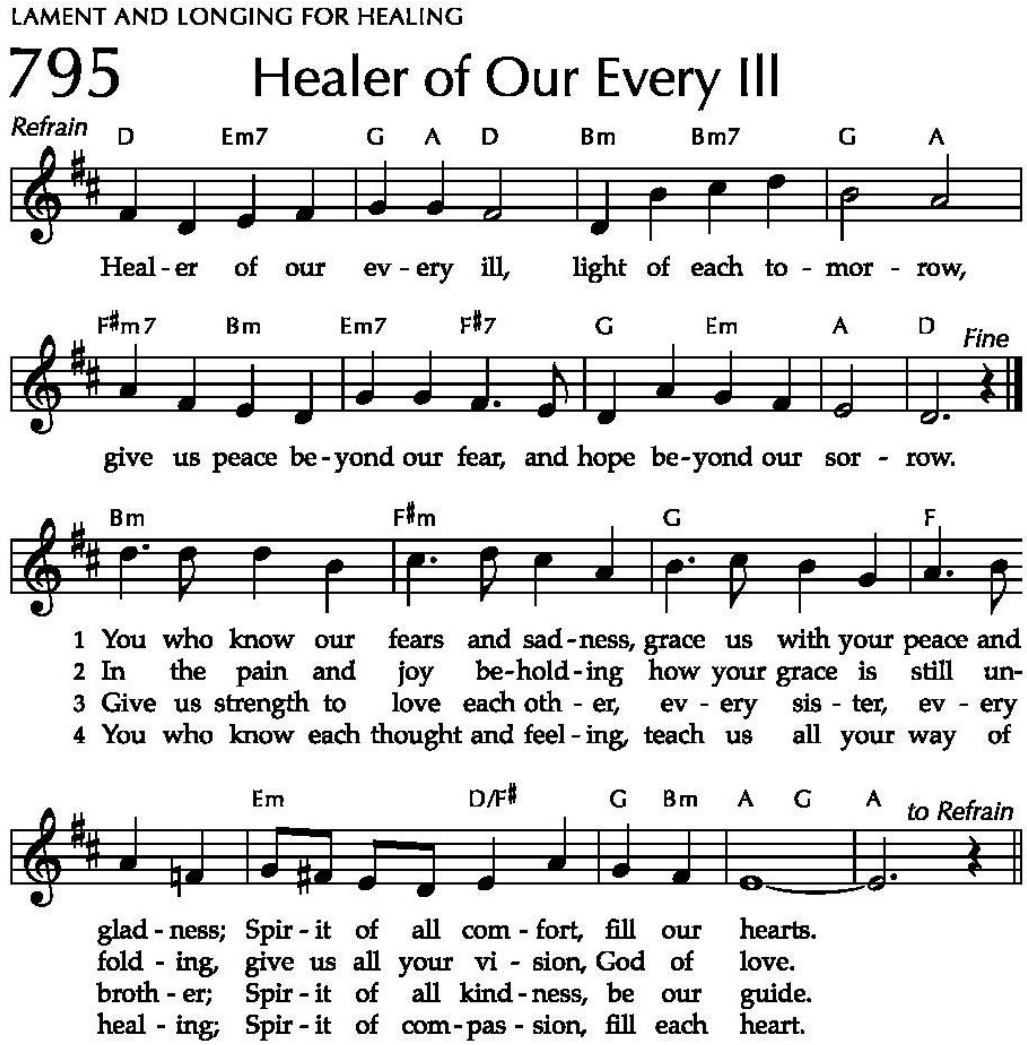
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN #559
We Gather Together KREMSER

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Freedom Kristian Stanfill
Contemporary Ensemble

You're welcome to stay and enjoy the Postlude or to depart while the music is played.
We hope you will join us for the Potluck and Visioning Retreat in Fellowship Hall.



COMMUNITY LIFE – ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MAY 17, 2026

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

For today: After our worship service, we'll gather for a potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall. The **Mission Study** committee will then lead a **retreat** for all participants until 3:30 p.m.; we'll also offer a Zoom option so everyone can participate (get it from info@fpc-bethlehem.org), and child care.

After today's service, we invite you to check in with the volunteers in the North Link, who will take your information for our **new church directory;** they will be available during the potluck.

Lemonade on the Lawn begins next Sunday, May 24, and we're looking for groups to host. Sign up online (bit.ly/42TDejr) or on the paper form at the Narthex info table. There are also **sign-ups to be lectors**.

If you're interested in a June 7 **Inquirers Class**, please contact Lindsey at lclifton@fpc-bethlehem.org.

For **Hi Neighbors** tomorrow: for our last program, we'll hear from Tom Repasch: ""**On the Pizza Trail: The Search for the Best Tomato Pie**." We'll start with a social time at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall; the program begins at 10 a.m. and will be followed by a provided pizza lunch. All are welcome!

Preschool's last day for the 25-26 school year is Friday; they'll return on Monday, June 1 for Summer Splash. The church building will be **closed on Monday, May 25** for the Memorial Day holiday.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Karen Kinney, Transitional Pastor; kkinney@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.