Bethany Presbyterian Church

# *Given to This Church: III. The Cost of Mercy*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026
10:45AM

WWW.BETHANYPRESBY.ORG/SERMONS

To trust in Jesus
To love like Jesus
To grow in Jesus
To bring others to Jesus

# WORSHIP THE LORD

## WE GATHER

**PRELUDE** **"For the One"** **Soloist: Rebecca Stout**
**Backing by Nadina Robusto and Caleb Auldridge**
by Jenn Johnson and Paul McClure; © 2016 Bethel Music Publishing

**WELCOME** **Pastor Brian Janssen**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Please Stand)* **Pastor Justin Miller**

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
**Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**
You turn us back to dust and say, “Turn back, you mortals.”
**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past or like a watch in the night.**
Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.
**Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands O prosper the work of our hands!**

**OPENING PRAYER** *(Please Stand)* **Pastor Justin Miller**

**HYMN** *(Please Stand)* **Love Devine, All Loves Excelling** **No. 358**

**1** Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

**2** Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

**3** Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy host above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

**4** Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in Heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**CALL TO CONFESSION** *(Please be seated)* **Pastor Justin Miller**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** **Pastor Justin Miller**

**Merciful God, you have called us to love you with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Yet we confess that we do not always live out this calling. We become so focused on our own concerns that we overlook the needs of others. We hold tightly to what we have been given, and forget that our gifts are meant to serve your purposes. Forgive us, Lord. Open our eyes and hands to those who need our care and teach us to be generous with all that you have entrusted to us. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** **Pastor Justin Miller**

Hear the good news. God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus we have been forgiven and renewed to walk in the newness of life and extend the mercy we have received. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Praise God! Amen.**

**RESPONSE** *(Please Stand)* **"Gloria Patri"**

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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.

**PASSING OF THE PEACE** **Pastor Justin Miller**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ. Let us be at peace with one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all…**and also with you.**
Let us share the peace of Christ with our neighbor.

## WE LISTEN

**MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP**

STEWARDSHIP VIDEO

MOMENT FOR MISSION

The kids can come forward for the Children's Sermon

**CHILDREN'S SERMON** **Debby Hayes**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** **Pastor Justin Miller**

**FIRST READING** **Colossians 1:1-14** **Pastor Justin Miller**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit. For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**SECOND READING** **Luke 10:25-37** **Pastor Brian Janssen**

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** **Given to this Church III.**
**The Cost of Mercy** **Pastor Brian Janssen**

## WE RESPOND

**THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**THE OFFERTORY** **“River in Judea"** **Bethany Choir**

Lyrics by Linda Marcus; Music by Jack Feldman;
Arr. John Leavitt; cpr. 1989 Jack Feldman, Linda Marcus

**THE RESPONSE** *(Please Stand)* **"Doxology"**

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Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; Amen.

**THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(Please Stand)*

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** **Pastor Justin Miller**

We pray this in the name of our Savior, who taught us to pray, saying… 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.

## WE ARE SENT

**HYMN** *(Please Stand)* **Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart** **No. 132**

**1** Spirit of God, descend upon my heart,
free it from sin, through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,
and make me love you as I ought to love.

**2** I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies,
but take the dimness of my soul away.

**3** Did you not bid us love you, God and King,
love you with all our heart and strength and mind?
I see the cross— there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek you and O let me find!

**4** Teach me to feel that you are always nigh;
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
to check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

# WELCOME TO BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**We are delighted to have you in worship with us this morning**!

**FOR OUR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - A Nursery Room** is across the hall from the pulpit side of the Sanctuary. It is equipped with a speaker system from the sanctuary so any parent(s) who wishes to stay with their child(ren) in the nursery can hear the worship service. **A Cry Room** is at the rear of the Sanctuary – entry is through a door in the Narthex near the usher's table. *We encourage you to use these rooms as needed.* **Worship Bags** are available for children to use during the worship service. The bags can be found at the Usher's Desk. **Sound amplification devices** are available to those who might need or want to use them. Our ushers are available to help with any needs that you have during worship.

# NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

Today's ushers are Deb Perkins, Pat Mishizen, Jim and Judy Davidson.

*The flowers this morning are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of the Blessing of Marriage by Steve and Cathy Smith.*

**Next Sunday, November 1st, is Commitment Sunday. By now, you should have received your stewardship packet and commitment card in the mail. Let's spend this week in prayer, asking how God is calling each of us to invest in our church's future. We will also be celebrating the Sacrament of Communion followed by a grab-n-go luncheon in the Welcome Center.**

***"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9:7***

It's that time of year to "fall back" - Next Sunday, November 1st is time to change the clocks back 1 hour.

# PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE 10:45 SERVICE**

Please note that we have the following Opportunities for children during the 10:45 Service:

**Worship and Wonder** for Children ages 3 to 2nd grade where children learn more about worshipping God. They are starting the year with the story of the Good Shepherd and then continuing stories of Creation and the Old Testament.

**Faith and Friends** for children in 3rd through 5th grade where children will explore lessons from the Bible in Life Curriculum through interactive learning, meaningful discussion and hands-on-activities. The Scripture lesson is the same as Sunday School; however, the lesson content and activities are different

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION –** Preschool registration for the 2026/2027 school year is still open on our website! Contact Danielle Gioia at Gioia.preschool@gmail.com with any questions! We are so excited for the coming year!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL COLLECTION-** This year our Sunday School Offering will go to our Mission Partner, Feed My Starving Children.

**ADULT CHIMES AND HANDBELL TREE** -We will resume in November! If you are interested in learning to ring, ding, hit, or hammer a joyful noise in worship - please message Nadina for more information about joining us this season at music@bethanypresby.org

**CITY MISSION DONATIONS-** The City Mission, one of Bethany's Mission Partners, has installed a new **Blue** donation collection bin located on the side of the church next to the **red shed in front of the extended parking area. They advised that they would be making collections every Monday.**

**CONGREGATION MEMBER/FAMILY PROFILE-** We are asking all Members/Families to complete a Congregation Member Profile in order to create a Binder for Pastor Justin to get to know each of us better. The Forms are located on the table on the right side of the Welcome Center. See Denise Leigh if you need help with a picture. **Please return the completed ones in the basket beside the forms as they are due today.**

**ROTARY COMMUNITY PROJECT– The Rotary of Bridgeville-South Fayette** is initiating a Community Service Program for Bridgeville and South Fayette families (limited scope). The Rotary will assess every request; however as they have a limited number of members and limited skills, they would welcome any individuals who would be able to help. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Bill Paviol at 412-722-3102. Please keep the Rotary and this Project in your prayers.

**ANGELS' PLACE COLLECTION-** The Mission Team is collecting "Wish List" items for our Mission Partner, Angles' Place. Angels' Place is a family cooperative community and home away from home with childcare and early childhood education for low income single parents. Their goal is to provide a clean, safe, fun and comfortable environment where families are free to play, grow and learn. The "Wish List" includes the following: Paper Towels, Paper Plates, Small Dixie Cups, 13 Gallon Kitchen Trash Bags, Hand Soap and Non-Perishable snacks for Children. A collection box will be located outside of the Nursery. **Please note that next Sunday, November 1st is the last day for the collection.**

**THE CHOSEN SEASON SIX, EPISODE 1 VIEWING PARTY-** The dinner for The Chosen Season Six, Episode 1 hosted by the Membership Team will be **tonight at 6:00pm** for those who signed up. **The viewing will begin at 7:00pm.**

**WILD AT HEART MEN'S FIRE - Next Date Wednesday October 28th at 5:30pm -** Men of all ages are invited to this opportunity to bring Proverbs 27:17, iron sharpens iron, into their life! Lite bites, good conversation, and great men. To RSVP or if you have any questions, reach out to Josh Gardner at 412-855-9029.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD COLLECTION –** The Bethany mission team will participate in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Collection for children ages 2 to 14 around the world**. Boxes are available** on the tables in the Welcome Center and **must be returned by next, Sunday, November 1st**. Boxes can be filled for girls or boys ages 2 to 4, 5 to 9 or 10 to 14 and information and gift suggestions are attached to each box. Returned boxes should be closed with a rubber band and include either $10 in cash or a $10 check to Bethany Presbyterian Church to aid with the shipping costs.

**BETHANY DEACONS BACKPACK DRIVE -** The Bethany Deacons are hosting another backpack drive to gift to the Southwood Boy's home. These bags will be gifted to every new admission throughout the 2027 year. **We will be collecting donations starting Next Sunday, November 1st until November 29th.** You will be supporting the purchasing of the backpack and the essential items we provided them with: socks, towels, toothbrush, shampoo, a Bible and more! All items are purchased and put together by the Deacons. Cash or checks made out to Bethany Presbyterian Church with **"backpack"** in the memo are accepted. You can drop an envelope with cash or a check in the collection bag on the poster in the Welcome Center, place it in the offering collection plate or give to Edgar Shaffer.

**FRIENDSGIVING –** Please join us on **Sunday, November 8th at 12:00pm** after the second service for our **annual Friendsgiving and Potluck dinner**! There will be a Sign-Up sheet in the Welcome Center, you can sign up on our website, Bethanypresby.org or by using the QR code below to include the number attending and the optional Potluck dish (salad, side dish, dessert, etc) you would like to bring. You can also contact Gary Phillips at 724-926-2682 if you would be interested in helping in the kitchen on Saturday the 7th or Sunday the 8th.

**SECRET SISTER NEWS –** We are starting our Secret Sister operation for the 2027 season and have placed Secret Sister Packets in the Welcome Center. Please pick up one, fill out the questionnaire and place the completed form in the collection bag included on the display by **Sunday, November 8th** if you would like to be a part of the Secret Sisters next year. We would love to have you! Also, please **"Save the Date"** of **December 6th** for our Reveal Luncheon at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Mishizen at 412-417-3541 or Judy Davidson at 412-343-7530.

**BLOOM AND CAFÉ BETHANY –** Our next Bloom and Café Bethany event will by on **Thursday, November 12th at 6:00pm**. There will be a catered dinner followed by a Modern Worship Service for families at 7:00pm. We would love to see you there as **this will be our last one for 2026**. Please sign up on the signup sheet located in the Welcome Center.

**BETHANY YOUTH GROUP -** is heading to **Urban Air Adventure Park**! On **Sunday November 8th**, we will meet at the church at 4:30pm and arrive at Urban Air around 5pm. We will stay for 2 hours and arrive back at the church around 7:30pm. **RSVP for Carpooling to Abbie by Friday November 6th at** youth@bethanypresby.org. You can purchase tickets and sign the UAAP waiver on their website: www.urbanair.com See Abbie for a Bethany waiver.

**LAURELVILLE MUD WEEKEND -** is quickly approaching! All 6th - 12th grade students are invited to come to LMW **December 11th - 13th**. There are information packets on the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center. It is a great weekend of fun, high-energy worship, messages, discussions, and of course the MUD! Cost is $150 ($30 deposit to save your spot, then $120 remaining balance to be paid by December 1st.)

# CHURCH FINANCES AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2026

*Thank you for your continued support.*

| | 2026 YTD ($) | 2025 YTD ($) | +/- ($) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Contributions* | $ 440,821 | $ 412,548 | $28,273 |
| General Fund Subsidies (Transfers) | 300,465 | 292,333 | 8,132 |
| Investment Income ** | 10,958 | 12,422 | (1,464) |
| Total General Fund Income | $ 752,244 | $ 717,303 | $34,941 |
| Year to Date Budget | 732,101 | | |
| +/- Budget | $ 20,143 | | |

*For purposes of this report, any prepaid pledges have been spread over 52 weeks.

** Investment income is updated monthly upon receipt of investment statements.

*A friendly reminder from the Stewardship team, please write the amount of your giving on the outside of the envelope when turning in your offering. This helps make the job of those counting much easier.*

QR Code for online giving

## October Special Offering- Men's and Women's Ministries

The special offering envelope for October supports the Men's and Women's Ministries of Bethany.

Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for Men's and Women's Ministries on your check or a pew envelope.

Thank you for your contribution to Men's and Women's Ministries at Bethany.

# WEEK AHEAD

**Sunday, October 25**
8:15AM – Worship
9:30AM - Sunday School
10:45AM – Worship
Adult and Youth Ukulele Practice – after 10:45 Service
5:00PM – Bethany Youth Group
6:00PM – The Chosen Dinner
7:00PM – The Chosen Viewing

**Monday, October 26**
4:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout
6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group

**Tuesday, October 27**
10:00AM – Additional Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM - Session Meeting
7:00PM – ALANON

**Wednesday, October 28**
9:30AM - Staff Bell Choir
11:30AM – Knitters
6:45PM – Cantata / Choir Practice

**Thursday, October 29**
9:00AM – Quilters
12:00PM - Rotary
6:30PM – Bloom in Sanctuary
7:00PM - Dartball
7:30PM – AA

**Friday, October 30**

**Saturday, October 31**

**Sunday, November 1**
**Commitment Sunday**
8:15AM – Worship & Communion
9:30AM - Sunday School
10:45AM – Worship & Communion
Adult and Youth Ukulele Practice after 10:45 Service
5:00PM – Bethany Youth Group