

Worship Service for Bethany U.C.C.
November 24, 2024

Prelude

Announcements, Joys and Concerns

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God has spoken to us and meets us here!

C: **We live in covenant with the Eternal One!**

L: We celebrate the faithful witness of Jesus Christ.

C: **We seek to share the good news that Christ reigns.**

All: **The Spirit encounters us here that we might learn. The Spirit inspires us that we might serve. God anoints us for ministry, giving us tasks to do so that the world may believe.**

*HYMN #382 SS *We Gather Together*

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Speak to us, Eternal God, through the music, prayers, and meditation today. Renew Your dwelling place in our hearts today. Help us to see beyond the here and now and strengthen the eternal values You call us to live. Guide us to live as citizens of that new heaven and earth in the days ahead. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we often forget who we are and whom we belong to. You see the ways we pretend to be more than we are. We turn away from You and what You would have us do. Wash us clean in Your forgiving grace, we pray. Help us to put away all that is false in our lives and discover a more true identity as Your faithful people. Amen.

*ASSURANCE

*GLORIA PATRI

INVITATION TO CHILDREN (Jesus Loves the Little Children)

CHILDREN'S TIME

TOTENFEST REMEMBRANCE

Russell "Russ" Wilbur Beeler - October 19, 1949 - January 13, 2024

T. Elvin Wollbrink - Nov. 16, 1938 - May 16, 2024

Brenda S. Reiter - September 22, 1961 - July 28, 2024

HYMN #296 UCC *For All the Saints*

OFFERTORY

*We Give Thee But Thine Own UCC #351

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, as You have given to us abundantly, we give to You. We give with grateful and joy-filled hearts. Inspire us to go out and serve, sharing Your gifts of love and salvation with others. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts and debtors)

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 8:1-3

Philippians 4: 4-9

John 6: 25-27

SPECIAL MUSIC

MESSAGE

*HYMN #508 SS *Now Thank We All Our God*

*BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY - Pastor Joel Schlatter

We will decorate the church for the Christmas season next Sunday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. Pizza will follow in the hall.

Rev. Smith has written a play for Christmas Eve. If you'd like to be involved, please contact him. A children's skit will precede the play on Christmas Eve. During decorating Dec. 1, Tami Roskamp will meet with kids in the hall to explain parts.

Women's Fellowship will meet Wednesday, Dec. 4, at noon with a carry-in dinner. A dish sign-up is on the bulletin strip. Ham loaf is provided. We will pack cookies for those in need. Each member is to bring 3 dozen individually wrapped cookies; bags will be available before the meeting.

Warsaw Friendship Baskets will accept donations thru Saturday, Dec. 7. Cookies and candy will be accepted Tuesday, Dec. 10, 3-4 p.m. &

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 8-9:30 a.m. at 825 Webster. For info, see bulletin strip or call Diane Heisler (217-256-3408).

Elvaston Church will host a hymn sing Sunday, Dec. 8, 6 p.m.

Mendon's American Legion Post 823 Pancake & Sausage Breakfast is Sat., Dec. 14, 7 a.m. to noon. See bulletin strip for more.

Living Water band will have 3 free Christmas concerts at the historic Nauvoo Theater Dec. 19 at 10 a.m. (for kids), Dec. 22 at 2 p.m., and Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. See bulletin strip.

SAVE THE DATES:

- Decorate Church: Sunday, December 1, 6:00 p.m.
- Visitation Sunday: Sunday, December 29 (no service)

Don Roskamp is greeter today, Marian Bland next week. Thanks to the greeter, Pastor Joel, the musician, AV tech - all who helped with the service.

WELCOME ALL! If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register and come again.

Bethany United Church of Christ

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