

Bethany United Church of Christ

May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter

As you prepare your heart for worship it might be helpful to read through the call to worship and the prayer of confession and think about them.

Prelude and Bell Ringing
Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Call to Worship (from Psalm 68)

Leader: Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God;

Congregation: let them be jubilant with joy!

L: Sing to God, sing praises to his name;

C: lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds;

L: his name is the LORD, exult before him!

C: Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

L: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;

C: sing praises to the Lord, to him who rides in the heavens.

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn of Praise #20 "Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, forgive us. We often seem to focus on the wrong parts of what you have told us. We fail to follow the even simplest of your instructions.

Sometimes we say that it's too difficult instead of trying at all to obey. We substitute busy-ness and business for real discipleship. Forgive us for our sinful way of living. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, and help us to be more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*GLORIA PATRI

Invitation to the Children (Jesus Loves the Little Children)

Children's time

Pre-K to Grade 2 children dismiss to church entryway for Sunday School

Scripture

New Testament lesson – Acts 1:1-14

Gospel lesson – John 13:31-35

Sermon “One Secret, One Promise, and Two Commandments”

*Hymn of Response #388 (SS) “Take My Life, and Let It Be”

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer

Offering, Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn of Commitment #312 “Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

*Charge and Benediction

Amen! We go forth to serve.

*Choral Response: “God Be with You” #177 (SS) (v. 1)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY – Rev. Darwin Smith

Next Sunday is Pentecost. The liturgical color is red.

The 9 a.m. Sunday School will begin summer break on May 24 and resume September 14. Sunday School for younger children during the church service will continue throughout the summer.

Beeline Adventures in Warsaw has a trip, “The Ark Encounter & Creation Museum,” August 3-7 to the Cincinnati, Ohio, area. See the bulletin strip for a letter with more details.

SAVE THE DATES:

Retreat House Service: Sunday, July 12, 10 a.m.

All-Day Bible School: Monday, July 13

Women’s Event: Saturday, August 22, 10 a.m.

Resume 9 a.m. Sunday School: Sunday, September 14, 9 a.m.

Men’s Event: Sunday, November 8, 6 p.m.

Women's Bible Study:

Mondays, 9:30 a.m.

Confirmation Class & Sunday School:

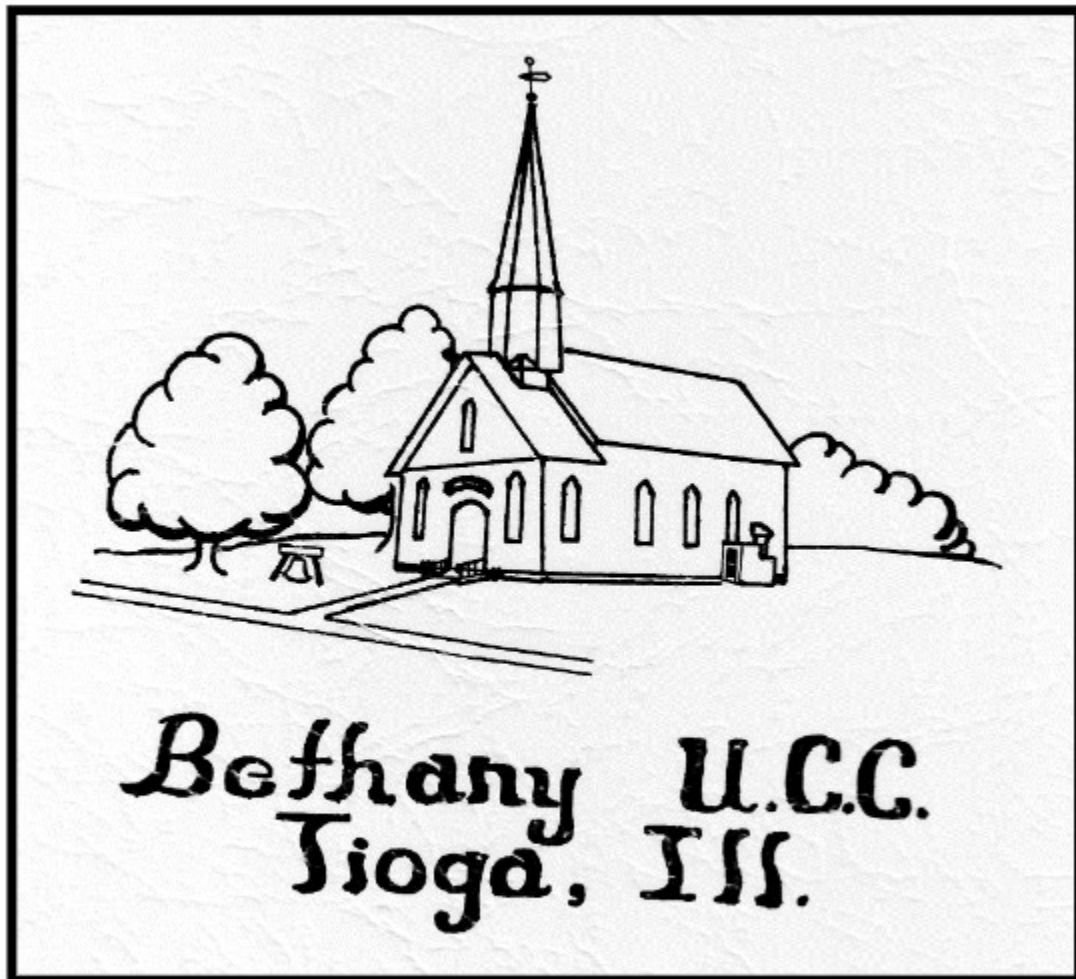
Sundays, 9 a.m.

Jane Roskamp is greeter today, Leon Wood next week. Thanks to the greeter, Rev. Smith, 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.

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Drawing on Bethany Belles Cook Book by Janice Shupe in 1979