



Bethany United Methodist Church

The Church with Open Hearts, Minds, and Doors

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August 31, 2025

10:00 a.m.

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

12th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME EVERYONE! Thank you for worshipping with us!

— *As the music begins, please quiet your hearts in preparation for worship.* —
**Please stand as you are able and please silence your mobile devices.*

VOLUNTEERS SERVING TODAY

Acolyte:	Josiah Minor
Media Team:	Scott Berry, Aidan Dumbrocyo, Susannah Hogge, Jeremy Nardozi, Cathy Raines
Altar Guild this month:	Jackie Hampton, Patsy Bell, Samantha Hornsby
Liturgist:	Betty Neikirk
Trustee Contact this week:	Donna Lane
Ushers:	Milton Hudgins, Kirk Bell
Greeters:	Nerine Hickman, Tom Smith
Counting Team:	Mary Kaylor, Ann Byrd

STEWARDSHIP	8/24
General Fund	2916.73
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	80.00
Endowment Fund	150.00
ATTENDANCE	8/24
In person Worship 8:30 am	30
In person Worship 11:00 am	93
Online Worship (Facebook/YouTube)	104
Total in Worship	227

BUMC STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. John Choi, Pastor	Office: 804.642.2110; Cell: 804-384-3521 Email: johnchoi@vaumc.org
Jimmy Mackey, Church Office Administrator	Office: 804.642.2110 Email: admin@bethanyumc-gp.org
Ellie Fountain, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries	Office: 804-642-2110 Email: youth@bethanyumc-gp.org
Sandra Fox, Director of Music	Cell: 757.329.6128 Email: foxysander@outlook.com
Dr. Rudy Shackelford, Organist	Home: 804.642.5938, Cell: 804.413.0211

Intrada

Come, Labor On (Ora Labora)

Thomas Tertius Noble

"And to each servant does the Master say, 'Go to work today' "

(1867-1953)

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor John Choi

*Call to Worship

Betty Neikirk

Leader: God of our life, through all the circling years, we trust in you.

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, your hand we see

Congregation: With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,

We own your mercies, Lord, which never fail.

Leader: God of the past, our times are in your hand; with us abide.

Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land; be now our guide.

Congregation: With you to bless, the darkness shines as light,

and faith's fair vision changes into sight.

Leader: God of our coming years, through paths unknown we follow you.

When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone; our refuge be.

All: Be for us in life our daily bread,

our heart's true home when all our years have sped. Amen.

*Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

UMH 89

*Responsive Reading (Psalm 46: 1-4, 8-11/select verses)

Betty Neikirk

God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.

All Services May be Viewed On:



Come, behold the works of the Lord;
 who has wrought desolations in the earth.
**who makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
 breaks the bow, shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.**

“Be still, and know that I am God!
 I am exalted among the nations;
 I am exalted in the earth.”
**The Lord of hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Hymn *His Name is Wonderful* UMH 174

Opening Prayer Betty Neikirk
**Almighty and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being,
 you created us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.
 Grant to us such piety of heart and strength of purpose that no selfish passion may
 hinder us from knowing your will, and no weakness from doing it. In your light may
 we see life clearly and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Anthems *Gratitude* Lake, Hastings, Bowe
 soloist, Carter Roane
Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies) Tomlin, Cash, Cash
 Praise Team

Children’s Time and Bible Presentation Ellie Fountain

Concerns and Prayers of Intercession, Petition “Lord, hear our prayer.”

The Lord’s Prayer UMH No. 895
**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 trespasses, as we
 forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Meditation *Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor* Johann Sebastian Bach
Performed in memory of Dr. Albert Schweitzer (1685-1750)

Offering and Offertory Prayer Pastor John Choi

Offertory *Summertime, from “Porgy and Bess”* George Gershwin
“One of these mornin’s you goin’ to rise up singin’ ” (1898- 1937)

***Doxology** UMH No. 95
**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.**

Scripture Reading Hebrews 13: 1-8 Betty Neikirk

Sermon “Christian Hospitality” Pastor John Choi

Hymn *Here I Am, Lord* UMH 593

***Benediction** Pastor John Choi

***Closing Chorus** *Surely the Presence of the Lord* UMH 328
 (repeat “Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place” at the end)

Exodus *Forth in Thy Name, O Lord* UMH 438

DR. ALBERT SCHWEITZER AND “THE FIFTH EVANGELIST”



On the 60th anniversary of his death, 4 September 1965, let us remember and celebrate Dr. Albert Schweitzer — theologian, physician, organist, and Bach scholar.

Schweitzer was born on 14 January 1875 at Kaysersberg, Alsace, into a family of Lutheran pastors, organists, and teachers. As a theologian he gained international recognition with *The Quest for the Historical Jesus* (1910), presenting the eschatological view that Christ’s ministry was dominated by His knowledge of being the Messiah and of the imminent end of the world. Yet even before this book was published, Schweitzer had decided to leave his positions as pastor and professor at the University of Strasbourg and became a humble medical student.

From 1913 onward he served as a pioneering missionary doctor in the hospital he himself built at Lambaréné, Gabon, in French Equatorial Africa.

Concurrent with these superhuman achievements was Albert Schweitzer’s lifelong pursuit of music, both as performer and scholar. In Paris he studied with renowned organist and composer Charles-Marie Widor, who introduced him to the works of Johann Sebastian Bach. “For me,” said Widor, “Bach is the greatest of preachers” – the Fifth Evangelist! At Widor’s instigation Schweitzer wrote *J. S. Bach: le Musicien-Poète*, a groundbreaking analysis of Bach’s musical word-painting and symbolism. The book portrayed Bach as a deeply religious mystic whose music was impersonal and unselfconscious, as cosmic as the forces of nature. It described the composer as a musician-poet, the supreme pictorial artist in sound, and gave detailed and copiously illustrated instructions for the performance of his works.

As an organist Schweitzer was indefatigable in spreading the gospel of Bach, and the proceeds from his concerts and recordings were always plowed back into humanitarian causes. He won the Nobel Prize for peace in 1952. Above all Albert Schweitzer can be regarded as an artist who strove with humility to become as nearly perfect as possible in his Christian discipleship and in all the facets of his many-sided genius.

– Rudy Shackelford

