

**Bethany Memorial Church
(Disciples of Christ)
October 25, 2020
Homecoming Weekend**

**Prelude
Welcome
Announcements**

Vicki NeCastro
Vonnie Larson

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Vonnie Larson

HYMN OF PRAISE: #277 vs.1,3

"Christians, We Have Met to Worship"

Christians, we have met to worship
And adore the living God;
Will you pray with all your power
While we try to preach the Word?
All is vain unless the Spirit
Of the Holy One comes down;
Christians pray, and holy manna
Will be showered all around.

Let us love our God supremely
Let us love each other too;
Let us pray for all earth's people
Till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven,
At the table we'll sit down;
Christ will welcome us and serve us
Living manna all around.

INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Vonnie Larson

*Our Father/Mother 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.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And, also with you.

THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

JOYS AND CONCERNS PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Sharon Watkins

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22:34-46

Vonnie Larson

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet"?"

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

SERMON

"Touchstone"

Rev. Watkins

WE PARTAKE AT GOD'S HOLY TABLE

CALL TO OFFERING

Vonnie Larson

DOXOLOGY AND OFFERING PRAYER

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.*

COMMUNION INVITATION

Holly Hillgardner

THE THANKSGIVING PRAYER OF THE ELDER

Holly Hillgardner

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

FELLOWSHIP OF COMMUNION

Please partake of the bread and cup – one in the Spirit.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN #400 vs 1,2,4

"When You Do This, Remember Me"

You my friend, a stranger once,
Do now belong to heaven.
Once far away, you are brought home
Into God's family.
"When you do this, remember me."

Now my Lord is also yours,
my people are your own;
embraced together in God's arms,
I enfold you now in mine.
""When you do this, remember me."

So let us renew our faith,
remembering our Lord;
to our strong hope we will hold fast,
unshaken to the end.
""When you do this, remember me."

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rev. Watkins
Vicki NeCastro

When entering and exiting the church and sanctuary, please refrain from gathering and socializing in the narthex. And as much as we would like to praise God with our voices during these difficult times of Covid-19, please refrain from singing hymns. You may hum!

The lovely flowers which grace our sanctuary this morning are from the gardens of Vonnie Larson and Karen McFadden. They express our love and appreciation of our wonderful pastor. Thank you, Sharon!

PRAYER LIST

Tony Mitch
Bob Andrews
Azariah Gardunio
David Gnatek (brother-in-law of Holly Hillgardner)
Nancy Pietrangelo (sister of Penny Tittle)
Glenn Rodgers (cousin of Vicki NeCastro)
Tammy Ritchea
Ed Rodgers (Father of Vicki NeCastro)
Jackie Andrews
Ruth Tye, Jeannie Sarg Tye, and Jay Tye
Jack Hoffman
Ned George (father of David) and family
Perry Jones, Jr.
Dottie Hanners and Mike Cunningham
Gary and Vonnie Larson
Barb Stevenson, mother of Kim Stevenson
Jeffrey Yost
Shana Hatzopoulos
Sharon Poyneer (sister of Vonnie Larson)
Mary Sutherland (sister of Pat Sutherland)
Holly Cramblet Bowman
Caden Knisley
Joanne Sykes
Ellen Sanford
Mary Jane Jackson
Holly, Frank, and Sharley Hillgardner
Elizabeth DeJong
Donna Norman (Becky Ayers' sister)
Dottie Smith
Linda Owens Walters

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

Minister	Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins
Liturgist	Vonnie Larson
Elder	Holly Hillgardner
Music	Vicki NeCastro
Special Music	Brenda Hart
Videographer	Connie McVicar
Greeter	Penny Tittle

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All participating congregational members will be receiving a letter and pledge card in the mail early in the week. If you do not receive one and would like to pledge, please contact the church office.

Bible Study will take place **Monday, October 26, at 7:15** on ZOOM. John Cole will lead the discussion and will focus on the following scripture.

Revelation 7:9-17

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

All those who have been attending will receive a ZOOM invitation. If you would like to join in, let the church office know and you will be sent a ZOOM invitation.

Mid-Week Prayer services continue. For those of you on the BMC email list, you will receive an email with the Zoom invitation and are welcome to join. If you would like a link texted to you, please contact the church office. Prayer meetings are at 6:30 on Thursday evenings. If you have a prayer request, contact the church office.

Food Pantry – Thank you to those who have supported BMC's food pantry. The need is never-ending, so we invite you to drop off nonperishable food items as you wish.

Christmas Already? Well, contrary to what you see in the stores, Christmas is not here yet. However, we are preparing for the annual trip to Wilkinsburg to participate in what is this year being called "**Santa's Open House.**" As in past years, it will still feature photos with Santa, lunch, games, and shopping, all in a safe (from Covid-19) way. The event is on December 5 from 1:00 until 5:00 pm. Volunteers are expected to arrive by 11:30 pm to help set up and participate in training.

You can help in several ways. If you are interested in attending, call Deb Hull. You can donate small prizes for the shopping event. (More info provided below). You can donate money to the Wilkinsburg church through BMC or for the purchase of gifts for the event. And finally, you can pray for our friends in Wilkinsburg as well as for the success of this event.

This year all donated prizes must be in its original packaging. No loose toys can be accepted. No part of the toy can be exposed. This is, of course, for the safety of all.



The All Saints Fund is Turning 10

On December 31, 2010 our regional church established a remembering ministry, the All Saints Fund. As the initial investor, Mrs. Lois Drum of our Wheeling First Christian Church, wanted to do something in sacred memory of her beloved husband, Jim. He was a great churchman and believer in long term financial support for Christ's church. It was in many ways, a perfect gift and a perfect start to something new.

The All Saints Fund is open for anyone to remember a cherished saint of the church or honor a living witness among us. The regional board established that for an initial \$25.00 gift a name will be added to the fund. Once a name is established, gifts of any amount may be added.

For the past ten years members of our beloved regional church have provided for names to be honored in a public and formal manner. The account is carefully managed by the Christian Church Foundation. Each quarter the Christian Church in West Virginia receives a distribution of earnings (4.5% annually) while principal is invested for continued long term growth. The monies are unrestricted and support our unified budget.

As of October 1, 2020 the account has grown to \$89,431.99! This is a powerful testimony to the generous nature of Mountaineer Disciples, and it is a robust example to how relatively humble gifts coming together can add up. This life giving fund reminds us daily that the Saints are still speaking.

It seems that we have an opportunity before us as this fund turns 10! Can we, together, reach \$100,000.00 in the fund by the end of 2020? Are there names we should add to our list? Who should we respectfully remember? Who shall we deservedly honor?

Attached is our most recent listing of the Saints. Please pay attention to the names. Look not only to the names of those we remember, but look also to the names of those who have shared. I am touched each and every time I read your names. Thank you.

This ministry is not about money, but it is about people. All those listed are important as we continue to live into the ministry we are called to share.

We really are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Godspeed, stay well and all love,
+Thad

All Saints Fund List as of October 1, 2020:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/1u19vuf8l6engzl/All%20Saints%20WV%209-21-20.pdf?dl=0>

To give to an already established memorial, please visit <http://www.christianchurchinwv.org/ways-to-give.html>
To add a new name to the WV All Saints Fund, please email thaddaeus1969@gmail.com