

Thank you for worshipping with us this day.

If you are visiting with us today, please sign the guest book
located in the Narthex.

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### Calendar of Events

Sat. (7/18) 8:00AM–Noon SV Food Pantry @Trinity Leesport

**Sun. 9:00AM Worship Service in the Grove**

**7/19 \*\*Food Items available for purchase - preorder today\*\*  
(info page 15)**

**Sun. 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary**  
**7/26**

**Mon. (7/27) - Thur. (7/30) 6-8 p.m. Vacation Bible School  
"Rainforest Falls" (Info page 14)**

Fri. (7/31) Reading Phillies Game (Info page 15)

**Sun. VBS Closing Sunday**  
**8/2 9:00AM Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall**

Mon. (8/3) 6:30PM Fundraising Committee Meeting

**Sun. Holy Communion**  
**8/9 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary**

Sat. (8/15) 8:00AM–Noon SV Food Pantry @Trinity Leesport

**Sun. Bluegrass Sunday**  
**8/16 9:00AM Worship Service in the Grove**

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Acknowledgements:

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The Lutheran book of Worship—Augsburg Publishing, 1978

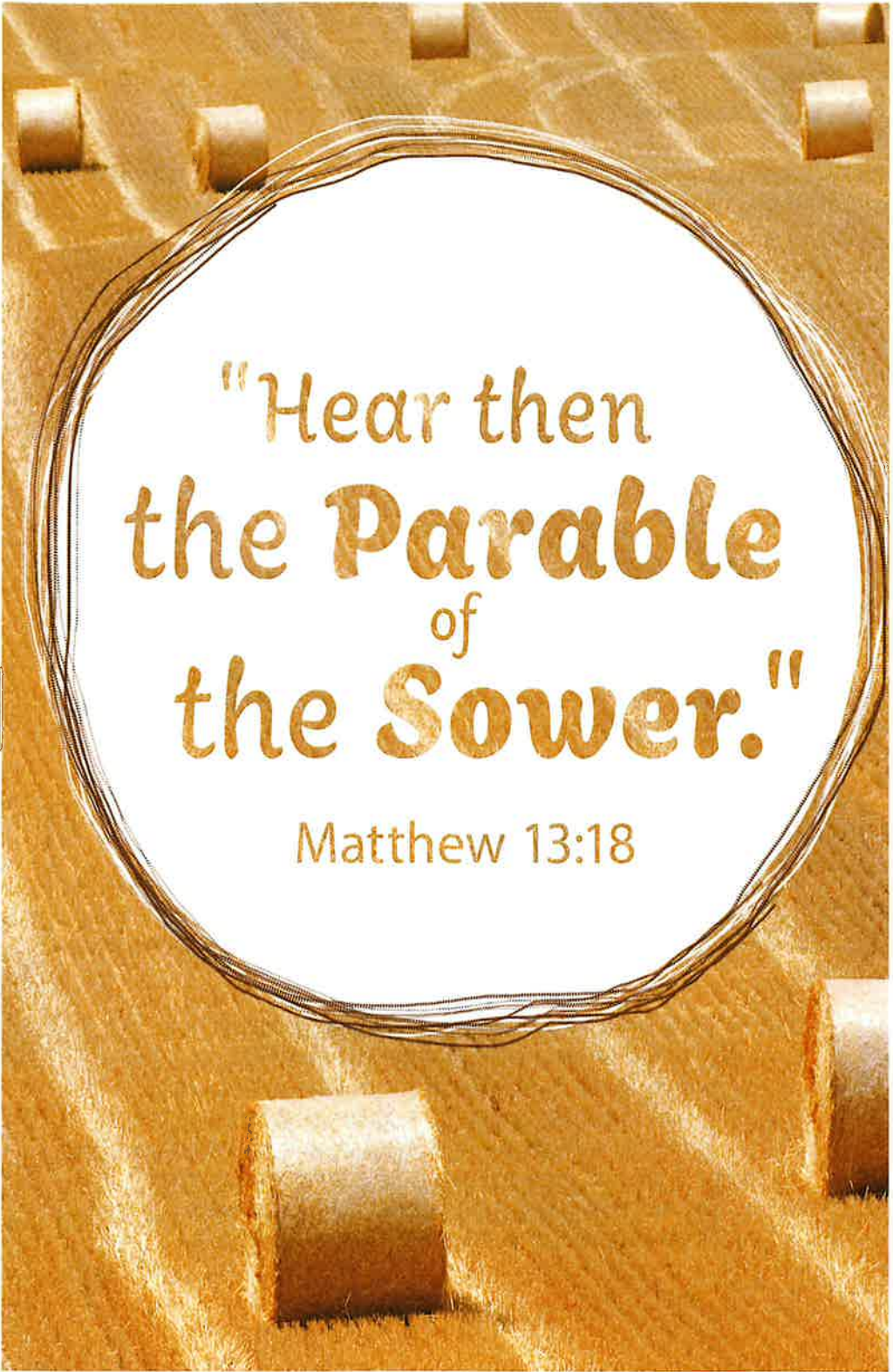
*Book of Worship, United Church of Christ, Office for Church Life
and Leadership, 1986*

The Worship Sourcebook of CRC Publications, 2004

Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023 (p. 131).

Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

www.ministrymatters.com



"Hear then
the Parable
of
the Sower."

Matthew 13:18

We welcome you to Salem (Belleman's) Church.

We are a shared ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the United Church of Christ.

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Rev. Kevin Fruchtl, Pastor (610-334-5130)  
Oliver Blatt, Director of Music Ministry  
James Fitterling, Administrator  
Joe and Bobbie Jo King, Sextons (484-671-2531)

Church email: [salembellemans@frontiernet.net](mailto:salembellemans@frontiernet.net)  
Web Site: [www.bellemanschurh.org](http://www.bellemanschurh.org)

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Church: 610-926-0461
Church Office: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Summer Sunday Worship Time is at 9:00 a.m.

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*Children's Bulletins are available in the  
pink crate in the entrance of the church.*

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Mission Statement:

**With the strength of our combined traditions
We strive to be unified through CHRIST as...
A community that reaches out and welcomes
individuals of various ages and faith
backgrounds... offering a diversity of
opportunities in worship and service... so that
we are spiritually enriched by the power,
promise and presence of the Holy Spirit.**

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

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#### *Welcome and Announcements*

##### *Prayers for Healing*

Mark Zipp, Peggy Hartman, Maya Hein, Dorothy Dougherty,  
Richard Hartman, Richard Bausher, Livia Kiwak, Sindy Bachman,  
Mathew Machmer, Xavier Shaffer, Larry Blatt, Brenda Anderson,  
Joe Barton Sr., John Geib, Donna Rueppel, Robert Elliott,  
Batdorf Family, Laura Schoeller, Deb Steffey,  
Lester and Gloria Gambler, Dennis Linderman,  
Rick Phillips, Shirley Felix, Dave Reager, Donna Newhall

Note: Please know that not all hospitals notify the church when a parishioner has been admitted. Please make the office or Pastor Kevin aware if anyone from our Belleman's family has been hospitalized. Thank you!

##### *Military*

Alfred Cross, Bradley Hoppes, John R. Wesner,  
Phillip Spatz, Cydney Lawrence, CWO2 Josh Linderman,  
Andrew Cichowicz, J. Michael Fluck, David Peterman,  
MSgt Kevin Mohn, Nathan P. Stump, Andrew D. Potts,  
Anthony Butt, Alex Hoffman, Dakotah Dailey, MAJ Michael Kufro,  
SSgt. Matthew Wurster, Dustin Spatz and all men and  
women serving our country.

#### *Prelude*

*\* Please stand if you are able.*  
*\*Gathering Hymn*

*"Forever"*

**Give thanks to the Lord our God and King  
His love endures forever  
For He is good, He is above all things  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise, sing praise**

**With a mighty hand and outstretched arm  
His love endures forever  
For the life that's been reborn  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise, sing praise  
Sing praise, sing praise**

**Forever God is faithful  
Forever God is strong  
Forever God is with us, forever, forever**

**From the rising to the setting sun  
His love endures forever  
And by the grace of God we will carry on  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise, sing Praise  
Sing praise, sing praise**

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*\*Call to Worship*

Come in from busy, summertime days to this place of worship.

**We come to connect with God's word.**

Come in from the stress of everyday life into the light of knowledge.

**We come as seekers of truth.**

Come into worship with offerings of praise.

**We come to hear the word and respond!**

*\* Call to Confession*

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Seed-scattering God, we come to you this day with so many things on our hearts and minds. Some of the events this week have been very positive and have caused us to celebrate; but we are constantly besieged by worries, doubts and fears. These negative things crowd out your word and we become like the useless soil, unable to receive and grow. Slow us down. Continue to pour your love on us because we really hunger and thirst for it. Forgive us when we allow all the negativity to drown out your word. Scatter again the seeds of peace, love, hope and joy that we may be better disciples for you in this world which is in so much pain. Amen.**

*\*Acknowledgment of God's Forgiveness*

Praise the Lord!

**The Lord's name be praised.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Share a sign of God's peace with those around you!  
(The sharing of hands/hugs are optional.)*



*\*Praise Hymn (Sung)*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say "I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done for us."  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say "I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done for us."  
Give thanks, give thanks.**

*\*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.  
Let us pray...

**Loving God, gather us into this moment of reverence, celebration, and growth. As your sons and daughters, we long for renewed faith and meaning in our lives. Christ's Parable of the Sower lights our path, with its images of rocky ground, tangled thorns, and green shoots. May the light of your word illuminate our way and become the joy of our hearts! Amen.**

*Proclaiming The Word - Read by Amber Blatt*

*FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13*

<sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup> So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup> You will go out in joy

and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. <sup>13</sup> Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briers the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever."

*PSALM 65:1-13*

<sup>1</sup> Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup> **You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.**

<sup>3</sup> When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup> **Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!**

**We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.**

<sup>5</sup> You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior,

the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,

<sup>6</sup> **Who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength,**

<sup>7</sup> Who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.

<sup>8</sup> **The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.**

<sup>9</sup> You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.

<sup>10</sup> **You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.**

<sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.

<sup>12</sup> **The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.**

<sup>13</sup> The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

The Word of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*\*The Holy Gospel*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. <sup>2</sup> Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>9</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear." <sup>18</sup> "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup> But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>22</sup> The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Children's Message*

*Jingle Offering: Reid Schrack and Family*

Hymn

*(Sung to the tune Hyfrydol)*

**Let us hope when hope seems hopeless,  
when the dreams we dreamed have died.  
When the morning breaks in brightness,  
hunger shall be satisfied.**

**One who sows the fields with weeping  
shall retrace the sorrowing way  
and rejoice in harvest bounty  
at the breaking of the day.**

**Faith and hope in love's compassion  
will survive though knowledge cease,  
through the tongues of joy fall silent,  
dull the words of prophecies.**

**Faith shall see and trust its object;  
hope shall set the anchor sure;  
love shall bloom in Love eternal.  
Faith and hope and love endure.**

**Like a child outgrowing childhood,  
setting childhood things away,  
we will learn to live in freedom,  
in the life of God's new day.**

**Now we see as in a mirror.  
Then we shall see face to face,  
understand how love's compassion  
blossoms through amazing Grace.**

*Sermon*

*\*A New Creed—United Church of Canada*

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

*Offering*

*Offertory Selection*

*\*Offering Response (Sung)*

**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.**

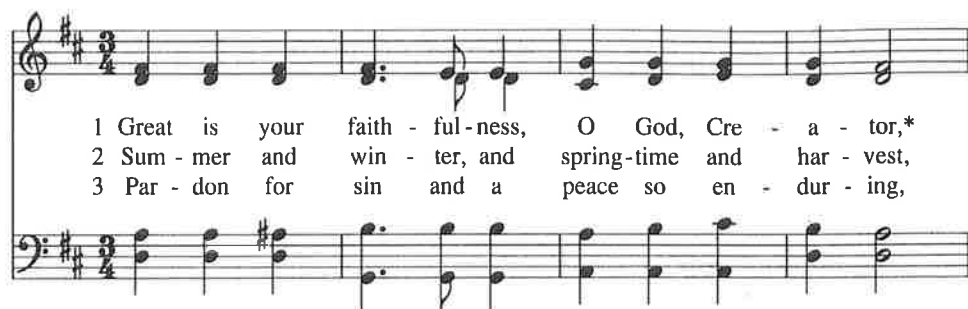
*Pastoral Prayer*

*\*The Lord's Prayer*

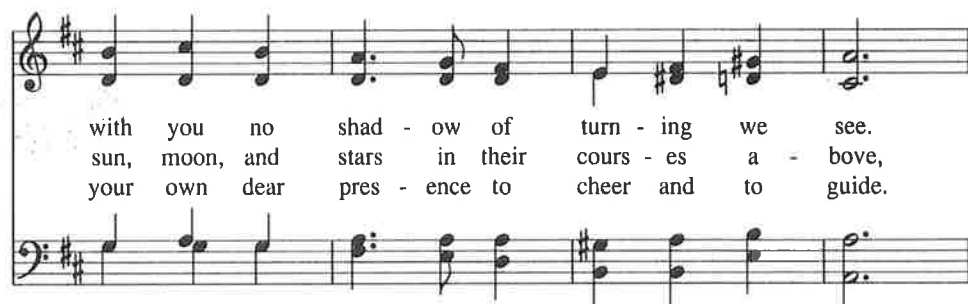
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*\*The Benediction*

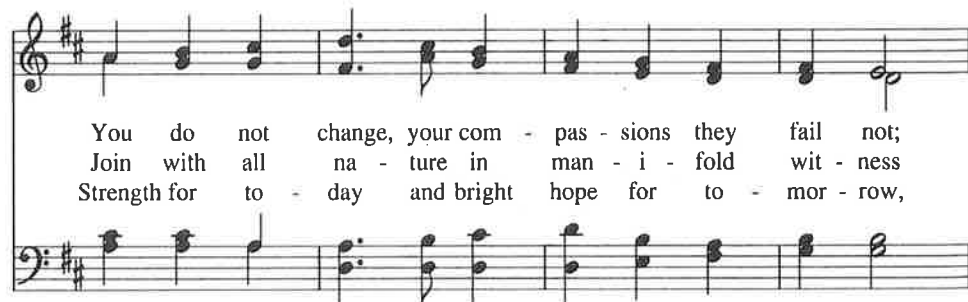
# \*Sending Hymn



1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,\*  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,



with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.  
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,  
 your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

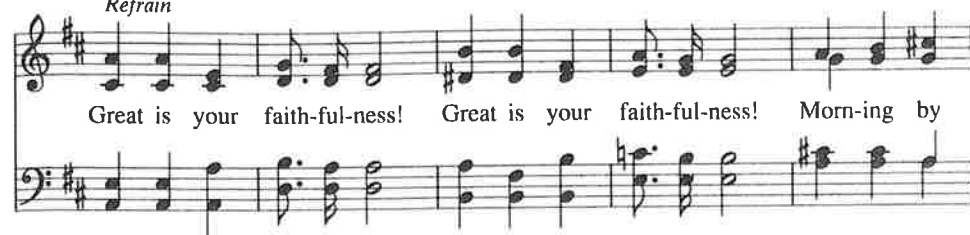


You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;  
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

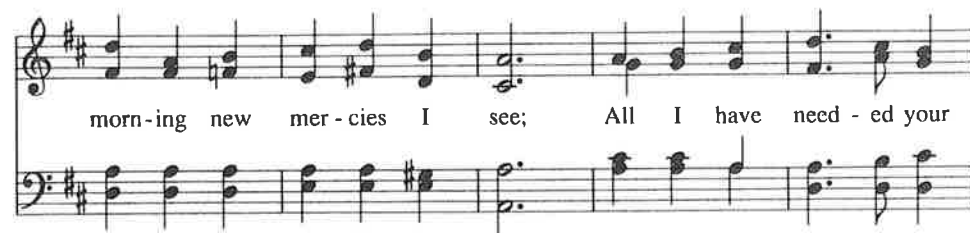


all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.  
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

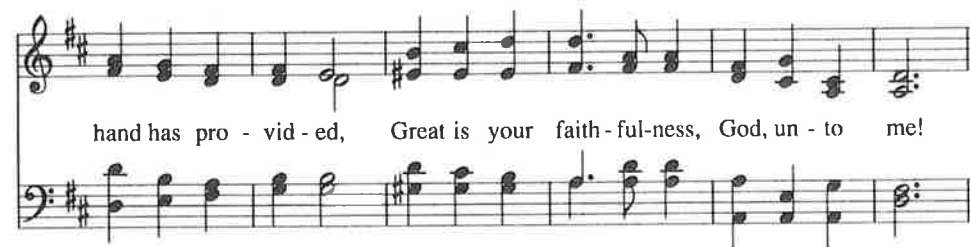
## Refrain



Great is your faith - ful - ness! Great is your faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed your



hand has pro - vid - ed, Great is your faith - ful - ness, God, un - to me!

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord.  
 Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

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Bulletins are in loving memory of Donald Miller presented by
 his wife Mary Miller.

Belleman's Vacation Bible School



This Summer's Vacation Bible School event will be conducted the evenings of **July 27-30, 2026** from **6:00PM to 8:00PM**.

Again this year, VBS will be located at the Church Grove/ Fellowship Hall!

Please use the QR code link to the sign-up page...



We hope you will come and be a part of Vacation Bible School 2026!

We cap off the week of VBS with
"Belleman's Night at the Reading Phillies"

R-Phils™

Date: July 31, 2026
Gametime: 7:00 p.m.
Cost: \$12 each

This game is open to everyone! Please, sign up in the chapel or contact James in the church office with any questions.

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## Soup and Pie Sunday is next Sunday!

July 19 after our 9 a.m. worship in the grove, there will be a soup and pie sale.

### Items available will be:



Quarts of Turkey Noodle Soup with corn - \$8  
Quarts of Turkey Noodle Soup no corn - \$8  
Quarts of Smoked Sausage Chowder - \$9  
Lemon Sponge Pie - \$9 whole/ \$4.50 half  
Blueberry Custard Pie- \$9 whole/ \$4.50 half  
Strawberry Cheese Pie - \$9 whole/ \$4.50 half  
Zucchini Chocolate cake with peanut butter icing - \$3/piece  
Hickory Nut Cake - \$3/piece

This sale will be by preorder using the sign-up sheet in the narthex today. Extras will be limited.

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Please keep in mind.... **Belleman's ongoing program** in support of the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry

Non-perishable donations may be dropped off in the Narthex and will be delivered to the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry on a monthly basis.



Thank You for your participation!