

Announcements

**1. JOASH OFFERING-** Last Sunday was our annual Joash Offering. This year's collection will go towards seal coating the parking lot and exterior painting. If you have not donated already, you can give in person-mark your envelope accordingly, or online on our website [bfvumc.org](http://bfvumc.org). Click "online giving" then scroll down to Joash Offering. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**2. ALTAR FLOWERS-**

- The beautiful flowers that adorn our altar today were provided by Bill and Billie Small in honor of the 61st wedding anniversary with Bill's first wife.
- Sign-up sheets for providing Altar Flowers through the remainder of the year are now posted on the bulletin board. Reserve your special date now to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion.

**3. GREAT AGERS-** The leaves are changing colors, and the days are getting shorter which means it is time to celebrate Fall with the Great Agers here at Bethany. The group is open to all area seniors. Church membership is not required. We will meet for a **baked potato lunch** at noon on Friday, **October 10<sup>th</sup>**. We will provide the spuds and beverages and ask everyone to bring their favorite toppings from sour cream to chili to chipped beef. Or bring a salad or dessert if you prefer. Be sure to pack a plate and silverware to use also. Following lunch, we will play a few **games** including Ghost bingo. If you can, bring a small grab bag gift hidden in a paper bag to use for our prize auction. Plan to arrive between 11:30 and noon. We will pop open the potatoes at noon and eat. Sign up on the bulletin board, or call/email us if you plan to attend so we bake enough potatoes.

**4. DORCAS CIRCLE-**

- The Dorcas Circle is holding their **annual drive** to collect diapers, wipes, baby clothing, and feminine products to donate to the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry in Aurora. Items can be placed in the entryway throughout the month of September.
- The next Dorcas Circle meeting will be on Wednesday, **September 17<sup>th</sup>**, at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please park in the back lot. Join us for some light refreshment, grace, and fellowship!

**5. BELL CHOIR-** Rehearsals will be Tuesdays at 6:30 pm beginning **September 16<sup>th</sup>**. Contact Sherry Allen if you are interested in joining.

**6. JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE AND CHURCH PICNIC-** Mark your calendars! Join us in fellowship for a combined church service and picnic with the Bethany, Hope UCC, and Tabernaculo de Luz communities on **September 28<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00am. More details to follow.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Small Group: Loyal Leaders class (10:15am)  
Children's Church (9:20 am)

MUSIC MINISTRY

**Music Director** John Kwon / [yoahn4piano@gmail.com](mailto:yoahn4piano@gmail.com)  
**Handbell Choir** Sherry Allen / [sherryamail@gmail.com](mailto:sherryamail@gmail.com)  
**Children & Youth Choirs** Bonni Pear / [bpear@agencyinmotion.com](mailto:bpear@agencyinmotion.com)

YOUTH MINISTRY

Bradley Bibbs / [bradley.bibbs@gmail.com](mailto:bradley.bibbs@gmail.com)  
Angelica Bibbs / [aeliasmagadan22@gmail.com](mailto:aeliasmagadan22@gmail.com)

COMMUNICATIONS

Live Worship Technician

Dorothea Rynearson / [dcrynearson@gmail.com](mailto:dcrynearson@gmail.com)  
**Web Master** Gwen Daniels / [gwendelyndaniels@gmail.com](mailto:gwendelyndaniels@gmail.com)

MINISTERS: ALL MEMBERS

Rev. Sang Hun Han, Pastor

Office: 630.851.8010 ext. 2 Email: [crosssh55@bfvumc.org](mailto:crosssh55@bfvumc.org)

Rev. Dr. Marvin McClain, Pastoral Care Minister

Office: 630.851.8010 ext. 1 Email: [pastormarvin@bfvumc.org](mailto:pastormarvin@bfvumc.org)

Christine Pommier, Director of Administrative Ministries

Office 630.851.8010 ext.1 Email: [info@bfvumc.org](mailto:info@bfvumc.org)

This Week at Bethany

SUN	Sept. 14	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Online	9:00 am
		Loyal Leaders		10:15 am
TUE	Sept. 16	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary	6:30 pm

SAINTS IN ACTION

Worship Leader: **Sherry Allen**  
Ushers: **Charles Bibbs & Don Stern**  
PowerPoint Preparer: **Christine Pommier**  
Greeters: **Laura Garvey & Fatmata Jalloh**  
Children's Message: **Jane Heidemann**  
Children's Church: **Joni Javier**  
In-Person Slide Operator: **Jacquee & Ken Lawrence**  
Online Worship Service: **Dorothea Rynearson**

	8/17	8/24	8/31	9/7
IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE	33	43	34	45
ON-LINE ATTENDANCE	3	-	1	6
WEEKLY OFFERING	\$860	\$4,822	TBD	\$9,286
JOASH OFFERING				\$3,365

2025 APPORTIONMENT ALLOCATION: \$27,396  
PAID THROUGH JULY: \$4,380

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

RULES - OR GRACE?

BETHANY OF FOX VALLEY  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH



2200 RIDGE AVE. AURORA, IL 60504  
[WWW.BFVUMC.ORG](http://WWW.BFVUMC.ORG)  
[FACEBOOK.COM/BETHANYFOXVALLEY](https://FACEBOOK.COM/BETHANYFOXVALLEY)

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

\* Indicates that worshippers are to stand if able.  
Congregational responses are in bold print.

Worship Leader: Sherry Allen

ENTRANCE & PRAISE

Prelude	<b>“Prepare Our Heart”</b>	John Kwon
Greetings		Rev. Sang Hun Han
Announcements		Sherry Allen
*Opening Hymn	<b>“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”</b>	UMH #384
<i>1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.</i>		
<i>2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.</i>		
<i>3. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.</i>		

\*Call to Worship

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever.

**We come to worship the One who searches our hearts and knows our inmost thoughts.**

Not what is outward and seen, but what is within defiles or makes us whole.

**Create in us clean hearts, O God and renews a right spirit within us.**

Come into God’s presence with humility and praise.

**Let us worship the Lord our God!**

Passing Peace of Christ	<b>“O How He Loves...”</b>	TFWS #2108
<i>O how he loves you and me! O how he loves you and me! He gave his life. What more could he give? O how he loves you; O how he loves me; O how he loves you and me!</i>		

Children’s Message	Jane Heidemann
Children’s Church	Joni Javier

Joys and Concerns		
Pastoral Prayer		
The Lord’s Prayer		(Screen)
Contemplation Hymn	<b>“Sanctuary”</b>	TFWS# 2164

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true; with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You. (Repeat)*

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

*Scripture Reading	<b>Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23</b>	Sherry Allen
<b>That Which Defiles</b>		

**7** The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus <sup>2</sup> and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. <sup>3</sup> (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. <sup>4</sup> When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) <sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup> He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ““These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.<sup>7</sup> They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.”<sup>8</sup> You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

<sup>14</sup> Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. <sup>15</sup> Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

<sup>21</sup> For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come— sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

This is the Word of Life for all the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Offering Our Gifts to God’s Service

Offertory Anthem	<b>“Someone is Praying for You”</b> <i>(Lenny Wolf)</i>	John Kwon
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\*Doxology    **“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”**    UMH #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.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious God, help us remember that all belongs to you. Take these offerings and use them for your glory. Take our lives, and use us, always and everywhere, for your glory. In Christ’s name. Amen.**

*You may give your offering at [www.bfvumc.org/online-giving](http://www.bfvumc.org/online-giving) or mail it to:*

**Bethany of Fox Valley UMC**  
**2200 Ridge Ave. Aurora, IL. 60504**

Message:	<b>“Rules or Grace”</b>	Rev. Sang Hun Han
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SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn:	<b>“How Great Thou Art”</b>	UMH #077
<i>1. O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.</i>		
<i>**Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul my Savior God, to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!</i>		
<i>2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander, and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. **</i>		
<i>3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin. **</i>		
<i>4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim: my God, how great thou art! **</i>		

*Benediction		Rev. Sang Hun Han
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\*Postlude    **Excerpt from Schubert Mass in C**    John Kwon  
*We are glad that you joined us this morning in worship.  
We hope that you find strength, renewal, and a sense of peace going through the coming week.*