

September 11, 2016

## Remembering 9/11

The 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks are being remembered today around the communities of our Conference. One congregation is posting a flag for each victim. Another is lighting candles. A third has offered individual names of those killed and asked each church member to pray for one of their families.

Some of us are too young to have a memory of that day. Some only remember the fear of their parents and teachers who struggled to make meaning out of the confusion. The long memory of our elders flashed back to a similar day in December 1941. My attempts to help Zach and Justin, then 8 and 6 years old, understand why people hurt each other seemed wholly inadequate. So was the explanation that I might have to leave our family to join my activated reserve unit. Children don't get the concept of weakening the bonds of family to strengthen the bonds of the nation. Oh, to live in a world where they would never have to.

But, the terrible days that followed brought out our best selves. We took less for granted, helped our neighbors more, went to church and relearned the timeless and oft forgotten lesson that we are stronger together than we are apart. Regretfully and painfully, that lesson is nowhere present in this presidential election season and we seem more determined now than ever to disgrace the memory of 9/11 with deep and senseless division.

Were there only a group of people determined to live out of the connectedness that followed the aftermath of 9/11; people committed to live by their values and vision and not perpetual victimhood; a people whose unity of purpose was born from a higher call to a higher authority; whose lives were driven by love not legislation. The disciples of Jesus were those people. Now more than ever, the world needs us to be those people again. May God help us make it so.

- Rev. William P. Worley, PSE Conference Minister

*Getting to Know :*

**Bethany United Church of Christ**

6545 Rising Sun Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111

Bethany United Church of Christ is a family of faithful Christians on Rising Sun Avenue in northeast Philadelphia. We have been welcoming people to walk with Jesus for more than 100 years. Our congregation is blessed to share ministry in our building with Christian Fellowship, a Haitian congregation, and with Bethany Academy pre-school. This past year, we raised funds and also sent people from our congregation to engage in a joint-ministry with Christian Fellowship in Haiti. This fall, we are planning to host a Health Fair highlighting services available in our community, in addition to supporting a variety of local and conference-wide ministries.

Bethany has enjoyed a long and close relationship with the Philadelphia Protestant Home (PPH). Several times each year, Bethany's pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jack F. Price, offers special studies for both church members and PPH residents. Every Christmas, a group of Bethany carolers goes to PPH to visit and sing for the residents and staff.



Pastor Jack F. Price leads us with interactive and energetic preaching firmly rooted in the best of Biblical scholarship. As a faith community, we are committed to living the journey of faith with integrity, optimism, and love. The greatest strength of Bethany is the spirit of her people who exhibit a deep commitment to caring for and supporting each other. This commitment extends to those in the neighborhood and our sisters and brothers in the Philadelphia Association and the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the UCC. Thank you for your continuing prayer support of Bethany and its ministry.



Prayers are requested for Bethany UCC in Philadelphia and Rev. Dr. Jack Fletcher Price.