

BEULAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, Pastor

Carol Schoening, Liturgist

Ellen Cooke, Worship Music Leader

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. September 21, 2025
(Please sign attendance book.)

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord!

Sing praises to the God of all!

Morning and evening, celebrate the steadfast love of God!

You, Lord, give us joy in Your creation;

at the works of Your hands, we sing for joy!

The righteous flourish like the trees that feed us.

They are planted in the household of our God.

*Hymn #477, “**Ye Servants of God**”

*Prayer of Confession

Creator God, forgive us for our lack of vision.

We forget that Your kingdom begins

with the smallest of seeds,

yet it grows to become a home for so many.

When we treat our faith as insignificant, we wither.

When we allow doubt and unbelief to take root,

the weeds of fear and hatred grow, blocking the Light.

Through Christ, plant the seeds of hope and courage

both within us and among us.

Give us growth to branch out

to create a welcoming home for all, in Christ’s love. Amen

*Assurance of Pardon

Scripture gives many images to talk about God’s goal for us: the kingdom of heaven; being set free; the mustard bush where the birds find a home. God provides what we cannot provide for ourselves.

God welcomes us home. Believe, and share the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

*Gloria Patri

Team Jesus

Offering / Offertory Music

*Doxology #592 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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

Scripture **Luke 13:10-19**, pg. 76

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon **“The Parable About Nothing That Became Everything”**

*Hymn #267, “**All Things Bright and Beautiful**”

* Prayers of the Community and 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 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.

*Hymn #104, “**Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!**”

*Charge / Benediction

*Congregational Response #108 vs/ 5

Christ is alive, and comes to bring

Good New to this and every age.

Till earth and sky and ocean ring,

With joy, with justice, love and peace.

*Postlude

**Indicates to stand as you are able – for everyone to rise in spirit.*

Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting is today right after Worship.

We will be electing PNC members and officers.

The Officers are: Elders - Jon Cross and Bill Metzler
Deacon - Jan Passini

Please see the back of this insert regarding today's Congregational Meeting.

Today's Sermon

Every day, we are bombarded by a mass of ideas and values. Whether it is from the internet, or television, or radio. In addition, there are all the interactions we have with other people. We are presented with competing values and visions that vie for our loyalty. Even in the gas station, we have five different blends of gas to choose from. Which one is the right one?

All of these commodities cry out for our attention. Not to mention the people, and their different agendas for what we should value and how we should live. It's overwhelming.

The contrast with Jesus is striking. Jesus does not bombard us with a big advertising campaign. He does not try to cajole us or push us. Jesus plants a seed. "The kingdom of heaven is like a tiny mustard seed..."

A quiet parable, telling a tiny story, that leads to a feeling of peace, and being at home.

New Members

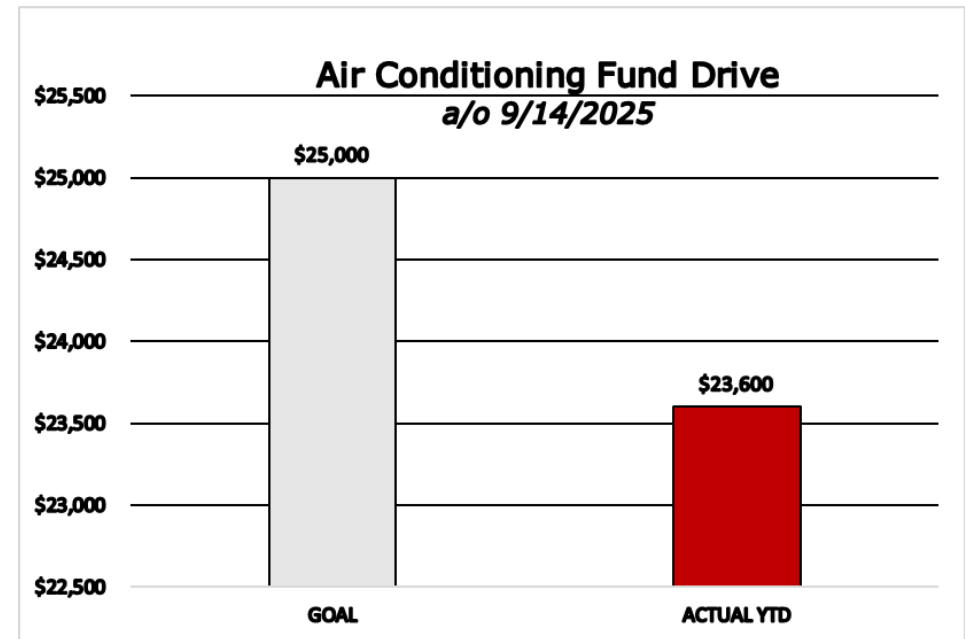
Beulah thrives through the strength of its's members. If you are ready to take the next step in your spiritual journey by joining the church, please talk with Dr. McDonald or call him at 402-480-3786.

Save the Date - Join the Team

The Quad City Area CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday, October 5, 2025. Check-in is from 1pm-2pm at Caxton Building/Bethany for Children & Families, 1701 River Drive, Moline. Please come walk with us, if you can, and fight hunger at home and across the globe. Peanut butter and jelly are being collected at the CROP Walk.

Beulah Calendar

Sunday	September 21	9:00am	Worship
		after Worship	Congregational Meeting
Monday	September 22	7:00pm	Agape
Thursday	September 25	11:30am	Lunch @ O Kitchen
Sunday	September 29	9:00am	Worship



This week's Home Study Lectionary Readings

Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15	Ps 91:1-6, 14-16	Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Ps 146	1 Tim 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31

We are invited to 1st Presbyterian Church, Coal Valley, to join them in Worship at 10:30am to celebrate Reformation Day (10/26/25).

Note: There will NOT be a Worship Service at Beulah that day.

After Worship there will be a Scottish festival to enjoy.

Events include Scottish games for kids, food, bagpipes, face painting, etc. We encourage you to bring friends!

More information to come!

Prayer List

Heather DeHaven	Robert DeVries	Norma Gordon
Martha Green	Cathy Morgan	Dylan Preston

Missionary relatives and friends of our church family

Ted & Kim Treadway in Guatemala.

Please Remember These Members in Your Prayers

- ♥ Barbara Anderson
- ♥ Louise Green
- ♥ Joyce King
- ♥ Don Paulsen
- ♥ Terry Vincent
- ♥ Jackie Williams

Tax Tip – Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows individuals aged 70½ or older to donate up to \$108,000 annually from their **traditional IRA directly to a qualified charity**, potentially avoiding income tax on the distribution. This strategy is particularly useful for those who need to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) but don't need the funds for living expenses.

Key Rules for QCDs:

- **Age:** You must be at least 70½ years old at the time of the distribution.
- **IRA Type:** QCDs can be made from **traditional IRAs, inherited IRAs, and sometimes** simplified employee pension (SEP) or savings incentive match plan for employees (SIMPLE) IRAs.
- **Direct Transfer:** Funds must go **directly from the IRA custodian to the qualified charity**, not to you first. Request your IRA custodian to send your donation directly to Beulah Church.
- **Eligible Charities:** The charity must be a 501(c)(3) organization that is qualified to receive tax-deductible contributions. **Beulah Church is an eligible charity.**
- **Annual Limit:** The maximum QCD amount is \$108,000 per individual per year, indexed for inflation starting in 2024. For married couples filing jointly, each spouse can make a QCD, potentially totaling \$216,000.
- **Timing:** The QCD must be completed by December 31 of the tax year.
- **RMDs:** QCDs can satisfy all or part of your RMD for the year.
- **No Itemized Deduction:** Unlike traditional charitable donations, **QCDs are not deductible as itemized deductions.**
- **Tax Implications:** QCDs are excluded from your taxable income, potentially lowering your overall tax liability.
- **Record Keeping:** It's crucial to keep records of your QCDs for tax purposes.

Sept 21, 2025

Beulah Congregational Meeting for Election of Pastoral Nominating Committee

Today at Beulah, we are electing the Pastor Nominating Committee. Presbyterians do things differently than other denominations. Our pastors are not appointed by Bishops, nor are they shepherded in by former pastors. We have our Congregational Nominating Committee discern a small group of members, representing wisdom, broad backgrounds, and commitment to the congregation. The names of this group are brought before the congregation for an election to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

The PNC works confidentially to search our next installed Pastor. The Presbyterian Church USA provides a computer system to match candidates and congregations, and help them discover their shared interests.

The PNC will look at a significant number of candidates to find a great fit between a candidate's gifts and the congregation's needs. The Presbytery assists in discerning appropriate candidates and making sure things go smoothly.

On-line worship and Zoom meetings make it much easier in our time to find out about potential candidates and their spiritual gifts. At the end, the committee will meet face to face with candidates and make sure it is a great fit.

After they find the right candidates, there is a congregational meeting to vote on this candidate. All current members of the congregation are entitled to vote.

Beulah's PNC will begin working with First Presbyterian Church of Coal Valley's PNC for this joint pastoral search. CVPC elected their committee last Sunday.

The congregation is invited to pray for them and encourage them. The best support may be to tell them to make sure they take their time to choose the best candidate. Our goal is to find a pastor who will be a great fit for both congregations, and lead these churches into a thriving future.