



Chester Bethel UMC

October 19, 2025

9:30 AM

Sharing in Worship Leadership this morning:

Preacher: Rev. Kelly Conner
Organist: Carmella Lynch
Special Music: Pam Manochio
Bell Choir Director: Pam Manochio
Greeter: Sylvia Illuzzi
Usher: Dora Greer
Worship Leader: Rich Kuc

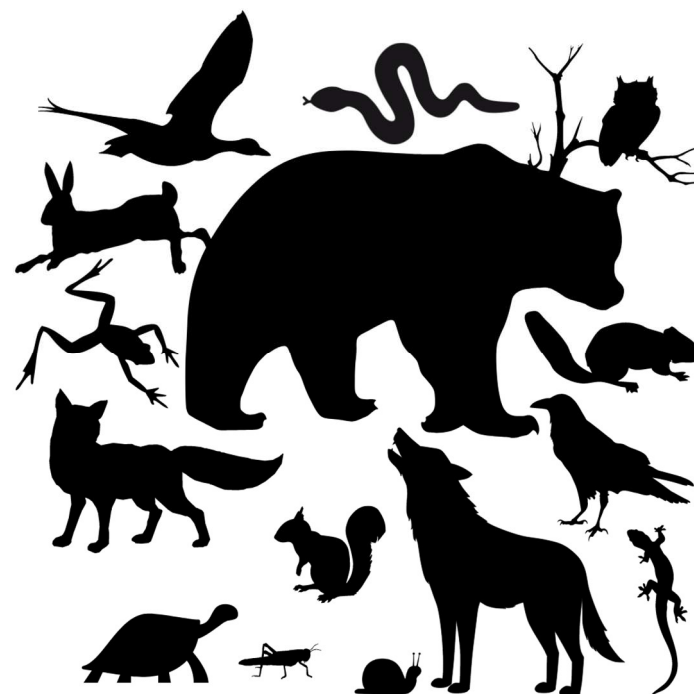
*Flowers are given
in loving memory of
Roberta
by Carol and Bob Williams
and to the glory of God*

Prayer Joys and Concerns:

H=Health; L=Loss; LT=Long Term; O=Other

Keith Saulsbury (H); Harry Taylor (H); The Barnhart Family (O); Steve Schellberg (H); Brione (H); Donna (H); Ken Donahoe (H); Joseph Glasgow (H); Bill Hazel (H); KFK (O); Jean Andrews (H); Andrew R.(O); Bill and Doreen Jones (H); Mary Ann Box (H); Ramona Harlow (LT); Holly Dorner (H); Donna McCormick (H); DeBrock Family (O); Allison (H); Kim Nally; Amy (H); Gail Kracyla (H); Dominic King (LT); Jill Brownback (LT); Nancy Walker (LT); MaryAnn Rumford (LT); Rick Browne (LT); all peoples impacted by war (LT)

Please add prayer requests and updates to the list in the Narthex



2619 Foulk Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810
302-475-3549 <http://www.chesterbethel.org>
Service Live-Streamed on Facebook

Office Hours: Tues, Thurs, Fri, 9 AM – 1 PM;
secretarychesterbethel@gmail.com

Reverend Kelly Conner
revkellyconner@gmail.com / Cell: 302-249-6157

October 19, 2025
19th Sunday after Pentecost
Blessing of the Animals

9:30 AM

TIME OF GREETING WITH THE ADORABLE CREATURES

**Please note the communal water bowl available for pets in the designated area.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP – “Circle of Praise” based on Psalm 148¹

Leader: All dogs and cats, large and small:

All: **Praise the Lord!**

Leader: All rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs:

All: **Praise the Lord!**

Leader: All goldfish, guppies, and swimming creatures:

All: **Praise the Lord!**

Leader: All robins, wrens, and singing birds:

All: **Praise the Lord!**

Leader: All racoons, squirrels, and deer:

All: **Praise the Lord!**

Leader: All horses, cows, and sheep:

All: **Praise the Lord!**

Leader: All lizards, snakes and creeping things:

All: **Praise the Lord!**

Leader: Every animal in the sky, the sea, and the forest:

All: **Praise the Lord!**

* OPENING HYMN – “I Sing the Almighty Power of God”
UMH #152

OPENING PRAYER

Announcements

- Don’t forget to support our preschool at the **Annual Trunk or Treat! Next Sunday** from 1-3; setup begins at 12. It’s FUN!!
- If you would like to **carpool to the annual Church (formerly Charge) Conference** on Monday evening, Oct. 27 please sign up in the Narthex (Pastor will be out of town so we’ll organize it from there.)
- Thank you!! we now have **Finance Co-Chairs for 2026:** Yvonne and Polly! Please thank them for helping our church!
- If you would like to remember a loved one who passed in 2025 with a mention **All Saints Day** Sunday, please either call the office or put the name (and yours!) on the list in the Narthex.

Dates To Remember

- October 19—TODAY! Is the Blessing of the Animals service
- October 26—Guest preacher
-Trunk or Treat; 1-3 PM
- October 27 – Church Conference at Ezion-Mt. Carmel,
6:30 PM (we will have a carpool)
- Nov. 2—All Saints Day

¹ <http://www.webofcreation.org/SeasonofCreation/animalblessing.html>

O God, when you made each of us, both human and animal, you called us “good.” And you have given to us humans stewardship of these creatures, beloved by us and by you, so that we might share in your joy. As we enter into this time of celebration and blessing, surround all of us with your Spirit – that we, our pets, and even the whole earth will ever more faithfully sing your praises by being exactly who and what you have called us to be. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE TO ALL GOD’S CREATURES

** Please ask before greeting any pet, as not all are comfortable with people and other animals.*

INTRODUCTION OF OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS

You are invited to introduce your animal(s) to the congregation, sharing their names and any special information about them.

SPECIAL MUSIC Pam Manocchio, flute solo

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 104:10-24

MINI-SERMON

*HYMN OF RESPONSE – “All Creatures of Our God and King”
UMH #62 (vv. 1, 2, 7)

LITANY ON BEHALF OF GOD’S CREATURES²

Leader: Gracious God, you created the earth and all that is in it and proclaimed it good. All this belongs to you, and yet we harm your Creation. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to be champions of all those who suffer, so that we may be channels of your goodness.

People: **Hear us, O Lord!**

Leader: We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of the prophets who remind us of your true purpose and for those special people who minister with tenderness to all living beings.

² Duke Chapel: October 5, 2014:
<https://chapel.duke.edu/sites/default/files/AnimalBlessing2014.pdf>.

People: **Hear us, O Lord!**

Leader: We give you thanks, O God, for animals who live in our homes, on farms, in the wild, and in havens of refuge. Make us ever aware of our stewardship of Creation, and help us to be faithful in caring for all you have created.

People: **Hear us, O Lord!**

Leader: We pray today for animals who are mistreated in any way... for those who are tortured, deserted, abused, exploited, and used for unnecessary experimentation, and for any whose lives are spent in extreme confinement. Help us to stop abuse in any form. Open our mouths to the defense of the defenseless, and above all, open our lives to your ways.

People: **Hear us, O Lord!**

Leader: We ask forgiveness for the part we have all played in systems that employ violence and promote hardness of heart.

People: **Hear us, O Lord!**

Leader: We remember before you our companion animals who have died. We remember at this time also, those animals who are lost or separated from their owners.

People: **Hear us, O Lord!**

All: **O sweet maker of all, we ask your blessing on every creature gathered here today, the large and the small. May they live peacefully in praise of you. Bless us all to love your creation, and revere its sacredness. We ask this blessing in the name of the one who was, is, and always will be, our Creator, to whom every creature belongs. Amen.**

BLESSING OF EACH PET (INDIVIDUALLY)

All pets and pet parents are invited to form a line before the congregation for a blessing from the pastor.

Pastor: [Name of pet], may you be blessed in the Name who created you, and may you and [Name of pet parent(s)] enjoy life together with our God.³

All: **Thanks be to God!**

You may place your cash or check offering into the plates we pass around at this time or mail your tithes and offerings to the church office. Thank you for working as Christ's hands and feet in the world!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him all creatures here below! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise Him, the source of all our gifts; praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*CLOSING HYMN – “How Great Thou Art” (vv. 1, 2) UMH #77

*BENEDICTION

May God, who created the animals of this earth, continue to protect and sustain us all, now and for ever. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Our animal friends may stay and play after the service for as long as they would like!

**Standing in body or in spirit*

Music licensing CCLI #1642131, Streaming license CCLI #20705544

³ https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/11/st_francis_day_resources.pdf.