

APRIL 2023

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church



He Is Risen

From our Senior Pastor

The time of Easter is upon us and I couldn't be more excited, but first Holy Week. I want to thank all of you for your attendance in church and experiencing with me each week the "Service of Diminishing Lights." Lent does carry with it the inherent irony that while the days grow longer, the time with Jesus grows shorter. The disciples went with Jesus to Jerusalem with great expectations for what Jesus would do only to run, hide, deny, and even betray him on Good Friday, but they too did not know and could not see, what God had in store. Jesus did die. Jesus experienced fully that final separation and cutting off from God in a unique way as he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.

Easter is the day of great light. Jesus walks out of a tomb, a grave, a place where death seemed to have the final say, but it has no say any longer. Whatever we think is true of the church the fact of Jesus' bodily resurrection and coming return, are the indisputable facts and hope of the church. We do well to keep this in mind, when we go about our lives and our lives of ministry. Whatever we find ourselves doing and wherever we find ourselves doing it, ministry must reflect and proclaim these two things. But to get there, we travel to the cross, and we do so with our brothers and sisters on Maundy Thursday and with each other on Good Friday. We do not run away. We walk with heads held high, and spirits a little low, knowing that we too have much to confess as we make our way to the cross. Yet confession leads to glory, and the proclamation of the incredible news that when we go with the women to the grave, we will also hear, "He is not here, he is Risen!" He is Risen Indeed!

about our members....



04/03 Storm Figura
 04/03 Sage Figura
 04/03 Timothy Anderson
 04/05 Guy Doyle
 04/05 Evan Veneski
 04/05 John London
 04/05 Avery Link
 04/06 Colsen Miller
 04/07 Michael Leigh
 04/07 Bev Hook
 04/07 Julie Foltz
 04/07 Victoria Gregory
 04/08 Jocelyn Morelock
 04/08 Ronald Gastgeb
 04/09 Dolly Russell
 04/09 Ryan Jackson
 04/09 Samantha Lindow
 04/10 Lena Werner
 04/10 Alicia Barbaryka
 04/10 Gabbie Sharp

04/02 Nathaniel Petrow
 04/02 Paula Padgelek
 04/02 Abigail Walsh
 04/02 Kyong Barnhart
 04/03 Quinn Miller
 04/03 Tabatha Harding
 04/03 Cole Valentine
 04/03 Caley O'Connor
 04/03 Jenna Price

04/11 Barbara Boehmer
 04/11 Laney Davis
 04/11 Brooke Schwotzer
 04/12 Esther Bearman
 04/12 Mark Talerico
 04/13 Jack Vollmer
 04/13 Ruth Underwood
 04/13 Heather Lucas
 04/13 Charlotte Gilmore
 04/14 Judy Gastgeb
 04/14 Ronald Knapp
 04/14 Bob Black
 04/16 Joseph Ciaramella
 04/16 Jayne Ciaramella
 04/17 Camryn Loebig
 04/20 Ronald Miller
 04/20 Henry Brickner
 04/20 Nicholas DeRoss
 04/21 Mark Romanelli
 04/21 Sharon Matusic
 04/21 Deacon Strouse
 04/22 Justin Jackson
 04/23 Dennis Farrer
 04/23 Laura Miller
 04/23 Cynthia O'Korn
 04/23 Joseph Brickner

04/26 Rebecca Sabin
 04/26 Taylor Exacustides
 04/27 Corey De Rose
 04/27 Mary Fortney
 04/27 Sierra Sienerth
 04/27 Eliza Dempe
 04/28 Richard Visser
 04/29 Richard Lucas
 04/29 Michelle Figura
 04/30 Walter Schultz
 04/30 Michael Foltz
 04/30 Carson Colvin
 04/30 Christine Costello

Happy Birthday!



CONDOLENCES

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:
 Mark Rackley and family on the passing of Mark's beloved wife, Catharina "Kitty" Rackley
 on March 19, 2023.





From our Associate Pastor

Dwelling in the Word: A Personal and Communal Practice

The Bethany staff gathers in the Library every Tuesday morning at 10:00am, and we begin with the practice of Dwelling in the Word. When the church session and the deacon board meet every month, they also begin their meeting by first looking at a passage of scripture together.

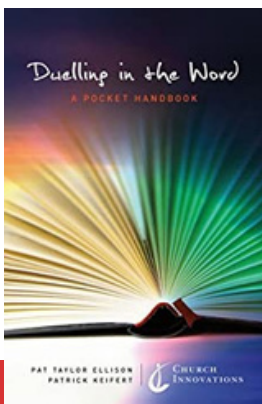
Dwelling in the Word is something that was new to me when I started at Bethany, and I am grateful that Pastor Brian introduced it to me. I have personally found that this method of studying scripture helps me to slow down, to listen to the Holy Spirit, and to listen to how the Spirit is working in our community.

I thought the members of our congregation might be interested to know more about it, so here is how it works:

- (1) A volunteer prays and then reads the passage out loud -- everyone has a copy of the passage or their own Bible in front of them;
- (2) the group pauses for silence and everyone takes the time to review the passage, pondering words or phrases that stand out to them;
- (3) the passage is read out loud again, followed by more silence;
- (4) everyone is asked to find a partner in the room, usually the person they know the least or as Pastor Brian says, "a reasonably friendly looking stranger";
- (5) once everyone has a partner, they take time to share with one another what stood out to them and why...what captured their imagination, what challenges or grasps them, or even how the Holy Spirit might be "nudging" them;
- (6) the group gathers back together, and people volunteer to share what they heard from their partner (not what they themselves think or conclude).

I have loved hearing and seeing how the Scripture speaks to us as a community, in community. The staff uses the same passage for several weeks at a time, and there are always different ideas and lessons that we glean, depending on what is happening in our lives and in the world. This practice also teaches us the importance of listening to one another. Above all, I think this practice demonstrates a central lesson that Jesus taught us: that we are to dwell...abide...remain in him, for without Him, the Living Word, we cannot bear fruit (John 15).

Pastor Brian recommends the book, "Dwelling in the Word: A Pocket Handbook" written by Pat Taylor Ellison and Patrick Keifert - pictured to the left.



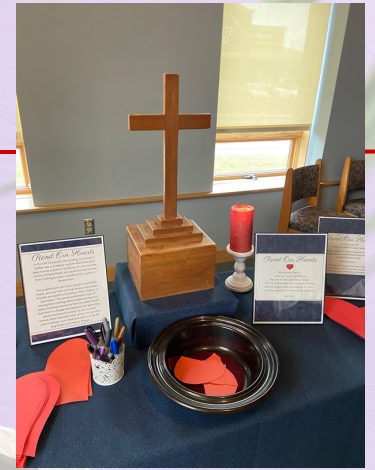
Prayers Abound,

Pastor Ellen



Some photos of Bethany's 2023 Lenten Journey

Ash Wednesday
Prayer Stations



Bethany goes to
the movies to see
Jesus Revolution

Seven Acts in Seven Weeks:
Feed the Hungry at the
Greater Area Food Bank



Seven Acts
in Seven
Weeks:
Clothe the
Naked at
World Vision



Holy Week at Bethany

Continuing on with our

★ Seven Weeks & Seven Acts of Mercy: A Lenten Journey of Discipleship and Service.
This week you're encouraged to visit the sick during Holy Week. Please sign up to deliver a prayer shawl to one of our church members who may be homebound, in the hospital, or in a nursing home. We will pair people up and will ask you to coordinate with the person you will be visiting.

Palm Sunday, April 2nd

★ During our 2nd Worship Service, there will be a Palm Processional featuring our Sunday School Children. They will sing Hosanna and encourage all church goers to sing too, as they wave their handmade palms throughout the Sanctuary.

★ Lenten Breakfast hosted by Men's Ministries from 9am - 1pm

★ Youth Group Egg Hunt @ 12:15pm

Maundy Thursday, April 6th

★ Worship Service with First Baptist Church at 7pm

Good Friday, April 7th

★ Worship Tenebrae Service at 7pm

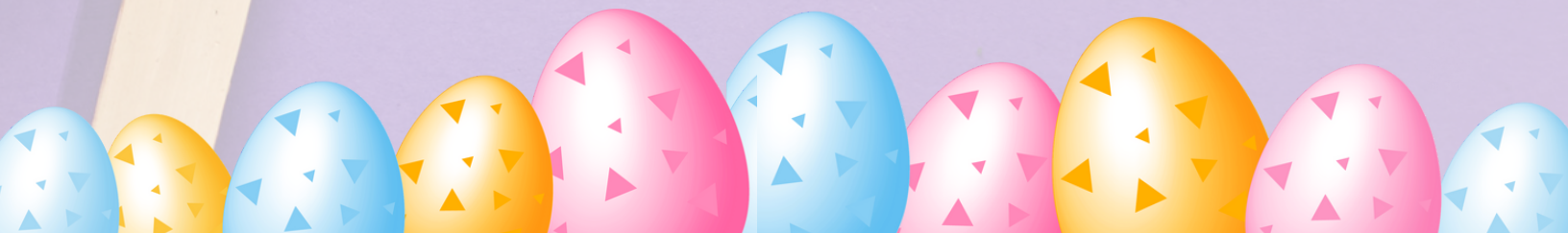
Easter Sunday, April 9th

★ Sunrise Service at Melrose Cemetery at 6:30am

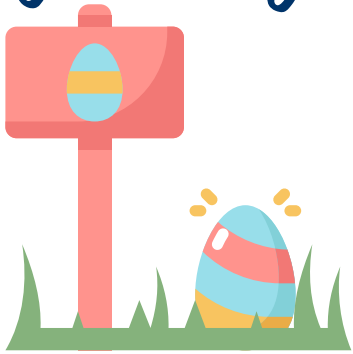
****Remember to bring a chair and to dress warmly****

★ Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 8:15am

★ Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:45am



Youth Group Events



April 2, 2023

Easter Egg Hunt

BYG HOURS WILL CHANGE! Effective Palm Sunday, April 2nd, BYG will start at 12:15pm, after church! To kick-off the new time we are celebrating with an Easter Egg Hunt! If you're between 6th - 12th grade, grab your favorite bag or basket and come down to the Youth Lounge after to church. *You belong here!*

April 9, 2023

Happy Easter - NO BYG Meeting

April 16, 2023

BYG MINI GOLF Outing

Grab your favorite golf club and ball & a ride to Sunset Golf as this fun filled springtime activity will be offsite. Interested in going? Connect with our Youth Director Abbie Trybus for all the details!



April 23, 2023

BYG Meeting at Bethany

Regular BYG Sunday Meeting in the Youth Lounge. **Starting at our new time - 12:15 PM!** *You belong here!*

April 30, 2023

BYG Meeting at Bethany

Regular BYG Sunday Meeting in the Youth Lounge. **Starting at our new time - 12:15 PM!** *You belong here!*

Discipleship News

Christian Church Camp Scholarships are available again this year!

To be considered for this scholarship you must be an active participant within Bethany's Sunday School, Worship or Youth Group. Applicants need to be entering 3rd grade thru the age of 23 years young. All funds will be paid directly to the Christian Camp your child(ren) will be attending. Interested? Check out the display in The Welcome Center highlighting the Christian Camps and what each one offers, throughout our area!

***For the scholarship to be awarded, the Scholarship Form must be received by Bethany's Business Manager - Kim McCann.





Men's Ministry

Men's Ministry Annual Retreat

Friday May 5th - Saturday May 6th

Not a golfer - no worries you're still welcome to participate.

This event is open to all Bethany men and includes:

- Overnight accommodations for one night
- One breakfast buffet at the Ihlenfeld Dining Room Saturday morning
- Men's Retreat Session - Friday evening in the Terrace Room
- Golf - Friday (10 :00am tee time) - Palmer Course
- Golf - Saturday (10:10 am tee time) - Jones Course

The deadline to register is quickly approaching! If you're interested in attending this meaningful outing please register by Wednesday, April 5th. Pricing options and payment are on our website online or payment by check.



Save the Date

A Woman's Spa Retreat is in the planning stages! Keep Saturday and Sunday, August 26th and 27th open if you're looking for meaningful fellowship experience.

Vacation Bible School Preparations

THANK YOU! To everyone who has brought in donations for VBS Crafts. We are truly grateful for the outpouring of support and abundant supplies! We are thrilled that our goal has been reached for what is needed. As we continue preparations for VBS, and determine additional needs, we will let you know. In the meantime, if you would like to be of help to VBS, we are continuing to meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays (with the exception of 4/6) to prepare the crafts and would love to have you join us.

Upcoming Events



Easter Lily and Tulip Sales

Celebrate the magnificent miracle --

Jesus has Risen by ordering an

Easter Lily or Tulip for

Bethany's Easter Morning Services.

Each flower will cost \$6.50.

Be sure to look in your church bulletin
for ordering information.

Sales will conclude after Palm Sunday Services.

March 31, 2023

Young Adult Meet- Up

Are you seeking a faith-based group of young adults to get together with? Look no further than Bathany's Young Adult Meet-Up Group! Their core objective is to Glorify God and enjoy Him forever! Their next meeting is this Thursday, March 31st at 6:30pm in The Bethany Room. Meet-Ups consist of a Bible Study. The current focus is on the attributes of God and The Westminster Shorter Catechism. Following the hour of study is endless fun. This meeting's fun adventure will be Roller Skating at Neville Roller Dome. Above are photos from the lively February axe throwing meeting and Top Golf fun in early March.



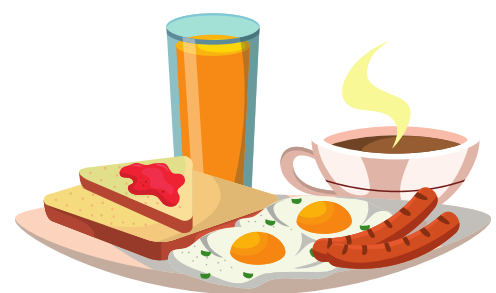
April 2, 2023

Men's Ministry Lenten Breakfast

Come to church hungry on this day!

You won't be sorry; the food is sure to be delicious when paired with Bethany's wonderful fellowship.

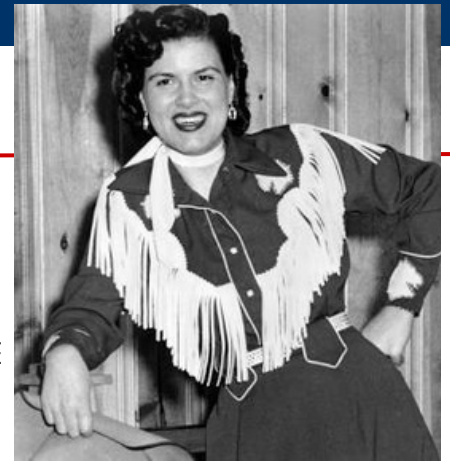
Breakfast will be open from 9am - 1pm in the Great Room.



April 20, 2023

Golden Oldies

Join Cathi Rhodes as she preforms a heartfelt portrait for a Patsy Tribute Show featuring the hit songs and stories of Patsy Cline, since her FAVORITE stage production Always...Patsy Cline can't possibly contain ALL of her great tunes!!

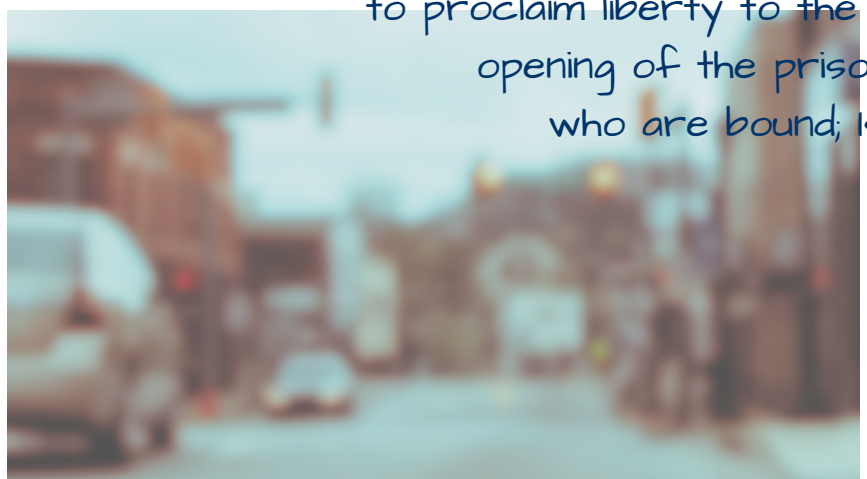


April 21, 2023

Kid's Night Out: Triple B NIGHT- Basketballs & B-I-N-G-O

Children ages 5 and up are welcome to attend this fun night out! Drop off your child(ren) for a pizza dinner and then endless rounds of basketball, B-I-N-G-O complete with prizes! Pick up is at 8pm. Sound like a great time? Be sure to register your child(ren) today on Bethany's website!

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD
because the LORD has a
to bring good news to t
he has sent me to bind
brokenhearted
to proclaim liberty to the ca
opening of the prison t
who are bound; Isai*



April 23, 2023

Neighborhood Prayer Walk

What Is a Neighborhood Prayer Walk? It's not just walking around. It's not just praying. It's walking through your neighborhood praying with your eyes and your heart wide open. Be there for this one. More information to come.



April 30, 2023

Bethany's Give Blood & Give Back Blood Drive

From 8:30am - 1:30pm on Sunday, April 30th in Fellowship Hall, Vitalant will be on site running this lifesaving blood drive. For each blood donor who registers, a financial contribution will be made in their honor to the Bridgeville Food Bank. To schedule your appointment, go to <https://donateblood.centralbloodbank.org>.

Bethany's group code is **G0010211**. If you have any issues and cannot schedule your appointment online you can call 412.209.7000.

Mission News

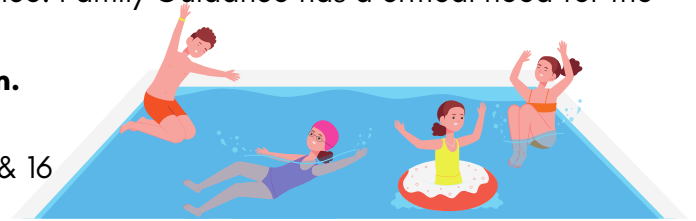


Bethany's Mission Team has EXTENDED the collection drive

for Family Guidance thru April. Family Guidance is a non-profit organization that has a goal of transforming the lives of youth from underserved neighborhoods through intentional relationships and the promise of Jesus Christ. They have a camp, called Promise Camp, in Clinton where they have several camping sessions for these underprivileged youth throughout the summer. The youth will experience camp activities and learn about the promise of Jesus Christ. Many of their participants have never been to camp and do not own the clothing needed for a safe and fun camp experience. Family Guidance has a critical need for the following items for their camp participants this summer:

****Please note, all items must be new with tags on them.**

- Girls, one piece bathing suits in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, & 16
- Boys swim trunks and white t-shirts in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14 & 16



MISSION TEAM SARRIS CANDY SALES FOR APRIL

Hippity Hop, Bethany's got the candy shop stop! This month everyone is looking for some chocolate and Bethany's Mission Team has it! All chocolate sold this month will benefit Fisher House. Look for their cart on Sundays in The Welcome Center.

Divine Virtues - Prudence by Doug Bovard

Scriptures: Proverbs 12:16; 12:23; 14:8; 14:15; 16:21; 18:15; 19:14; and 22:23.

Matthew 9:4; 21:24; 25:15-21; John 6:61.

I like to think of prudence as a quiet, unseen virtue. It is often manifested in something we did not do or say. It is better demonstrated than defined. As you can imagine, Proverbs has a lot to say about prudence.

Please read the scriptures above. Only the unwise will ignore this virtue. It is a keen awareness of all aspects of a matter so that our response protects us and others. Careful consideration, informed judgement, controlled emotions, assessed risk, and heeded advice are just some elements of prudence.

The footnote in my study bible for Proverbs 12:16 is noteworthy. It reads as follows:

Self-control is characteristic of the wise. The fool reacts too strongly and too soon, destroying relationships. The wise person leaves the way open for reconciliation.

Let us not be quick to anger when we see wrong. Proverbs 12:23 reminds us not to "parade" our knowledge and to curb our tongue. Proverbs 14:15 teaches us not to believe everything we hear and to be skilled in our judgment. Proverbs 18:15 teaches us to seek and acquire knowledge. Do we make decisions without information? Do we make risky assumptions? Proverbs 22:3 teaches us to have foresight about the reality of evil in our world and protect ourselves and loved ones. Let us not stumble blindly into problems.

Everything our Lord Jesus Christ did was a demonstration of perfect prudence. He knew the thoughts of the Pharisees and He knew the reasoning of their hearts. He was aware of his disciples grumbling. Of course, we will never have the perfect prudence of Jesus, but this virtue of prudence is a blessing we need to develop. How can we be more prudent as parents? More prudent in our marriage? More prudent in our disagreements and negotiations?

April Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
PALM SUNDAY Lenten Breakfast Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School 12:15PM - BYG	7PM – Deacon Meeting 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	10AM – Fellowship of Prayer 11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Choir 7PM- Scouts	MAUNDY THURSDAY 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 7PM –WORSHIP SERVICE	GOOD FRIDAY TENABRAE SERVICE AT 7PM	11:30AM - Knitters
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
EASTER SUNDAY Sunrise Service at 6:30am at Melrose Cemetery Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am in the Sanctuary	6:45PM – Session Teams 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Choir 7PM- Scouts	9AM – Quilters 9:15AM – MOPS 11AM – Rotary Scholarship Luncheon 7PM – MOPS 7PM – Scouts Roundtable 8PM – AA	6:30PM – Young Adult Fellowship	FOOD BANK 9AM – Confirmation Class Service Project
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School 12:15PM- Confirmation Class 4:30PM –BYG (offsite) 6:30PM -MOPS Steering Mtg	7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Choir 7PM- Scouts	9AM – Quilters 10AM – VBS Crafts Prep 12PM – Golden Oldies 8PM – AA	6:00PM- Kids Night Out	DIAPER BANK 11:30AM - Knitters
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School 12:15PM- Confirmation Class 12:15PM – BYG 12:15PM – Prayer Walk	6PM - Confirmation Class Statements of Faith 7PM – Session 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Choir 7PM- Scouts	9AM – Quilters 9:15AM – MOPS 12PM – Rotary 8PM – AA		
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
BLOOD DRIVE Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School 9:30AM- Confirmation Class Breakfast 12:15PM - BYG	7PM – Deacon Meeting 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	Golden Oldies Trip to Hagerstown MD 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	10AM – Fellowship of Prayer 11:30AM – Knitters 7PM - Choir 7PM- Scouts	9AM – Quilters 10AM – VBS Crafts Prep 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA		

Bethany's Easter Services

SUNRISE SERVICE AT MELROSE CEMETERY AT 6:30AM

EASTER SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY AT 8:15 AND 10:45 AM



HE IS RISEN

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
740 Washington Avenue
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Phone: 412-221-5132
Fax: 412-220-9107
office@bethanypresby.org
www.bethanypresby.org

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