

April 2026 Newsletter

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

From our Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Brian Janssen



As I sit here writing this and working on a sermon and getting ready for a Personnel meeting it struck me that an odd sound was coming from down the hall. It took a moment to register what it was, but my memory kicked in and I remembered, “ah yes, those are the sounds of a choir warming up.” A kind of up-the-ladder, down-the-ladder vocal exercise that, to the untrained ear, might sound like a strangely intentional cry. Of course, it is anything but; it was a sound that I knew from my youth as the church choirs I sang in began to practice our glorification of the Lord through music. I can’t help but be excited by these sounds as I know what they are in service of, getting ready for the Glory of Easter.

I am fond of saying and, after five years of being your pastor, repeating that while Christmas is wonderful, if you lost the Christmas stories from the Bible, you would lose a couple of chapters in Luke and Matthew. However, without Easter you wouldn’t have a New Testament. I so look forward to this time of year. Not only Spring being in the air but the sense that God is doing something wonderful in our midst. You always feel the movement of the Holy Spirit here at Bethany, but I always feel it acutely during the seasons of Holy Week and Easter.

We know too of course that there are so many people in our life together that will need to claim the hope of the resurrection of our Lord from liminal places; hospital beds, hospice rooms, waiting the results of medical tests. These are the places where the church is able to step in and step up. Every prayer, every visit, every phone call to someone in this season of Easter carries with it the hope of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the proclamation that whatever else may be going on with our lives and our imperfect bodies, Jesus Christ is Lord.

The season also carries with it the beauty of disciple making. My favorite part of the Easter service is always the children’s sermon. So many kids in their Easter Sunday best answering the teacher’s questions. Answers always include: “He is risen!” or “Jesus!” On Easter Sunday those are the only answers you need. Indeed, they are the answers to all the questions of our lives. Blessings this Holy Week to you all and Happy Easter. “He is Risen: He is Risen Indeed!”

Blessings,

Pastor Brian



From our Interim Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby

Every Morning is Easter Morning



Dear Friends in Christ,

Many of you know the song, “*Every Morning is Easter Morning*” by Avery and Marsh. It cheerfully declares:

***Ev’ry morning is Easter morning, from now on
Ev’ry day’s resurrection day the past is over and gone
Good-bye guilt, good-bye fear, good riddance
Hello Lord, hello sun!***

I am one of the Easter people. My new life has begun!

One of the reasons I like the song so much is that it reminds us of the incredible truth and grace of Jesus’ rising from the dead. Having endured the pain of betrayal, rejection, humiliation, scourging and death on a cross, Jesus rose victorious over every enemy... even death! Do you know anyone like that? Do you know people who have experienced loss, defeat, failure, rejection, doubt or fear? I do. I see them every day. As a matter of fact I’m one of them. Guess what? There’s good news for people like us!

The good news is Jesus takes people like that and turns their lives around! Remember Peter, Thomas, John, Mary? They were people like us. Look around you next Sunday and be reminded of the incredible grace of our incomparable Lord. People who were desperately in need of a Savior who could take them from the depths of despair and turn their weeping into dancing and their fears into faith! We are surrounded by the evidence of God’s faithfulness power and love. We need only look around and the evidence is right in front of us! Right here, every day, in the midst of the same challenges that Jesus and those disciples faced and conquered, we are the people of God, filled with the gifts of God and empowered for the ministry of God!

Easter morning isn’t just another day on the calendar it is a new way of living! So let’s join together and let the world know:

***“Goodbye guilt, goodbye fear, good riddance.
Hello Lord, hello sun!
I am one of the Easter people.
My new life has begun!”***

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Pastor Larry Ruby





Holy week at Bethany

Maundy Thursday 4/2

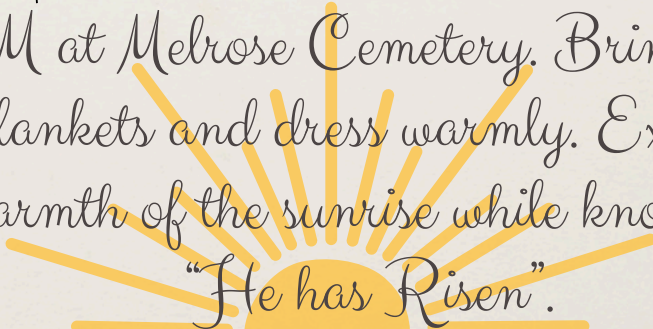
Service will begin at 7PM in the Sanctuary.
We will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion as we
prepare for Easter Sunday.

Good Friday 4/3

The Tenebrae Service will begin at 7PM
in the Sanctuary.

Easter 4/5

6:30AM at Melrose Cemetery. Bring your own
chairs, blankets and dress warmly. Experience the
warmth of the sunrise while knowing
"He has Risen".



8:15AM and 10:45AM at
Bethany Presbyterian Church

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday





from Abbie Gardner, Youth Director



BETHANY YOUTH GROUP

Easter is such a powerful reminder for all of us that new life is possible through Jesus. The resurrection shows us that even when things feel dark or uncertain, God is always at work bringing hope, renewal, and purpose. This message is especially important for our young people as they grow, ask big questions, and learn what it means to follow Christ in their everyday lives. Our theme for Group Nights has been God's Comeback Plan. We have focused on the redemptive story throughout the Bible and it has been such a fulfilling topic.

In youth ministry, we want our students to know that the story of Easter isn't just something that happened long ago, but it's a story they are invited to live in today. Because Jesus rose from the grave, we are given new life, new direction, and the assurance that nothing can separate us from God's love. My prayer is that our youth continue discovering how deeply they are loved and how God is calling them to use their gifts.

One exciting opportunity coming up is **Youth Sunday on April 26th**. This is always a special service where our students help lead and shape worship. If your student would like to participate; whether through reading scripture, sharing their musical talents, participating in our Proclamation of the Word, or any other form of using their gifts; I would love to hear from them! Youth Sunday is a great chance for our students to step into leadership and share their faith with the congregation, and for the congregation to see the talent, heart, and dedication of the youth!

We also have a fun event on the horizon: **Youth Paintball on Sunday, May 17th!** We are excited to bring back this fun (and only a little painful) event! This time, we will be going to Pittsburgh Paintball Park! The cost is \$35/student and will include the paintball gun, safety gear, and 300 paintballs.

Thank you for continuing to support the youth of our church through your encouragement, prayers, and presence. If you have any questions or if your student would like to get involved in Youth Sunday, please reach out to me anytime!



BETHANY YOUTH GROUP CONTINUED

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Confirmation Class has been learning all about Bethany Presbyterian Church, God, and themselves! The Session Teams have been or will be visiting our classes to talk about what they do, and then the students will be working with them to do something for the church! Confirmation Class is the way to initiate the kids into church life and for them to take their faith as their own - and I think this is a wonderful way to do so.

Confirmation Sunday is **Sunday May 17th**, and we can't wait to welcome our confirmands into the church as official members and for them to offer their gifts, talents, and youthful ideas to the church!

Please continue to pray for them as they continue to learn about the church and reflect on their own relationships with God!

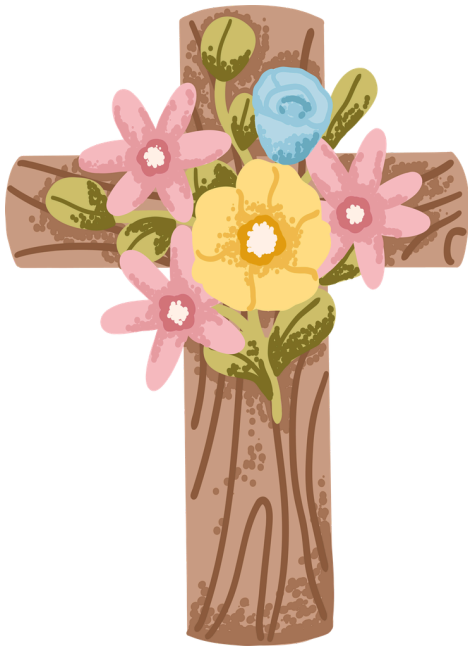


YOUTH SUNDAY

SUNDAY APRIL 26TH

8:15am & 10:45am

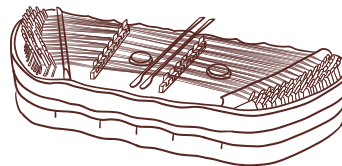
From our Music Director
Nadina Robusto



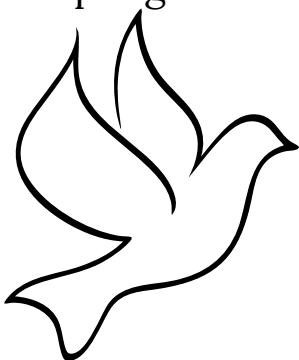
Happy Easter to you all! He is RISEN! Special thanks to all of you that made our Lenten and Holy Week worship services so special- ranging from the choir's endless hours of rehearsal and preparation; to our Pastors for their dedication to providing meaningful sermons at these beautiful services; to our music ensembles for blessing us with their gifts this season (Youth and Adult chimes, Sunday School teams, Hand Bells, ukuleles, and Bloom); to the extra commitment from our Ushers, Readers, and administrative staff; and to the guests that dedicated their musical talents to glorify God- WE ARE BLESSED! It is a beautiful thing to share in meaningful worship together!

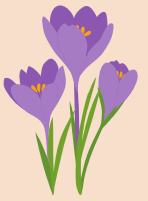
This month is exciting in music ministry as the youth are preparing for Youth Sunday with Bloom musicians- we are planning to rock out the service and can't wait to hear the special message that the youth will offer us! A huge shout out to our Youth Director, Abbie Gardner, for all the planning that goes into this big day!

Spring is springing and my prayer is that we worship our Risen Savior with vibrancy- look forward to special music offerings upcoming that will enhance our worship- ranging from chimes with flute, mountain dulcimer Sunday, and hearing from our friends in Bloom using their abundant talents.



Be on the lookout for special offerings in Music Ministry- Our Music Associate, Caleb Auldridge, will begin to offer special vocal training to choir members, and we are in the beginnings of planning our Summer plans for Choral Courtyard, a Summer Series Courtyard Concert, Bloom Outdoors at the Gazebo/Courtyard/Lawn, and NEW offerings this summer in our Sacred Music Sampling classes.





Secret Sisters!

Secret Sisters has really kicked off with a splash! On March 8th the Secret Sister participants had a wonderful time of fellowship together with great food and lots of fun. They kicked off the spring season with St. Patrick's Day and Easter themes with some of the Sisters making homemade desserts! There will be more luncheons to come in the future along with a lot more fun activities planned. We hope to see all of you Secret Sisters there!



Upcoming Events

Sign up in the Welcome Center!

The **2026 Men's Ministry Retreat** sign up is in the Welcome Center and it will be held at Oglebay Resort for May 8-9th!



COMING SOON... VBS!

**JUNE 15-19
9AM-NOON**

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

RAINFOREST FALLS
**EXPLORING THE
TRUE NATURE OF GOD**

**FOR KIDS AGES 4 THROUGH
ENTERING 6TH GRADE**



PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

**BETHANY
PRESCHOOL
REGISTRATION
2026-2027**

- NOW ACCEPTING AGES 3-5
- HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS
- PLAY BASED CURRICULUM
- M,W,F FROM 9:30-12:00
- TOURS AVAILABLE

REGISTER HERE!

412-206-0166
Gioia.Preschool@gmail.com

Preschool registration for the **2026/2027** school year is now open on our website!

Contact Danielle Gioia at Gioia.preschool@gmail.com with any questions! We are so excited for the coming year!



April 16th will be the Rotary Scholarship Luncheon at 11:00am!



During the March 21st Food Bank distribution, 112 families were assisted which included 37 children, 78 adults and 90 elderly.



CONDOLENCES

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Mike Suchoza and family on the death of his beloved wife, Lynne Suchoza, who passed into the arms of her Lord and Savior on March 13, 2026.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM- Scouts	Maundy Thursday 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 7:00PM - Service 7:30PM – AA	Good Friday 7:00PM - Service	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
EASTER SUNDAY 6:30AM – Sunrise Service at Melrose Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM	4:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	7PM – ALANON	10AM – Fellowship of Prayer 11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM- Scouts 7PM – Choir	9AM – Quilters 9AM – Morning MomCo 12PM - Rotary 6:30PM – BLOOM 7PM – Dart Ball 7PM – Evening MomCo 7:30PM – AA		11AM – Knitters
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School 5PM - BYG	4:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	6:45PM - Session Teams Meetings 7PM – ALANON	11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM- Scouts 7PM – Choir	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Golden Oldies 11PM – Rotary Scholarship Lunch 6:30PM – Bloom 7PM – Dart Ball 7:30PM – AA		FOOD BANK 8AM – Troop 2 Training
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School 5PM – BYG	4:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	7PM – ALANON 7PM – Deacon Meeting	11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM- Scouts 7PM – Choir	9AM – Quilters 9AM – Morning MomCo 12PM - Rotary 6:30PM – BLOOM 7:30PM – AA		DIAPER BANK 11AM – Knitters
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
YOUTH SUNDAY Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 12PM – Fellowship Lunch 9:30AM -Sunday School	4:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	7PM – ALANON 7PM – Session	11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM- Scouts 7PM – Choir	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 6:30PM – BLOOM 7:30PM – AA		



April Birthdays



04/02 Nathaniel Petrow
 04/02 Paula Padgelek
 04/02 Abigail Walsh
 04/02 Kyong Barnhart
 04/03 Tabatha Harding
 04/03 Cole Valentine
 04/03 Quinn Miller
 04/03 Caley O'Connor
 04/03 Storm Figura
 04/03 Sage Figura
 04/03 Timothy Anderson
 04/05 John London
 04/05 Guy Doyle
 04/05 Evan Veneski
 04/05 Avery Link
 04/05 Lilly Carman
 04/06 Colsen Miller
 04/07 Michael Leigh
 04/07 Bev Hook
 04/07 Julie Foltz
 04/07 Victoria Gregory
 04/08 Ronald Gastgeb
 04/08 Jocelyn Morelock

04/09 Samantha Lindow
 04/09 Ryan Jackson
 04/09 Dolly Russell
 04/10 Lena Werner
 04/10 Alicia Barbaryka
 04/11 Barbara Boehmer
 04/11 Laney Davis
 04/11 Brooke Schwotzer
 04/12 Mark Talerico
 04/12 Esther Biearman
 04/13 Ruth Underwood
 04/13 Jack Vollmer
 04/13 Heather Lucas
 04/13 Charlotte Gilmore
 04/14 Judy Gastgeb
 04/14 Ronald Knapp
 04/14 Bob Black
 04/16 Jayne Ciaramella
 04/16 Joseph Ciaramella
 04/20 Henry Brickner
 04/20 Nicholas DeRoss
 04/20 Ronald Miller
 04/21 Mark Romanelli
 04/21 Sharon Matusic
 04/21 Deacon Strouse
 04/21 Lynn Walker
 04/22 Justin Jackson

04/23 Laura Miller
 04/23 Joseph Brickner
 04/23 Cynthia O'Korn
 04/26 Taylor Exacustides
 04/26 Rebecca Sabin
 04/27 Eliza Dempe
 04/27 Sierra Sienerth
 04/27 Corey De Rose
 04/29 Jana Grimm
 04/29 Michelle Figura
 04/29 Richard Lucas
 04/30 Michael Foltz
 04/30 Elizabeth Smith
 04/30 Walter Schultz
 04/30 Carson Colvin
 04/30 Christine Costello



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