

JANUARY 2023

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

From our Senior Pastor

2023

New Year...Same Jesus

We all know what a new year brings in the culture. Resolutions, eventually broken, endless cliches on Facebook and other social media platforms that suggest the past year was terrible, but The New Year will be amazing. The past year was not terrible by the way, every year brings with it joy, and pain, moments of ease and comfort, along with difficulty. The New Year brings with it a lot of things to look forward to even when the Christmas lights are packed up and things are put away. But whatever The New Year brings, and it will bring a lot, as it always does, The New Year will have the same Jesus.

We love to say, and we correctly say that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow; Hebrews 13:8 always rings true. Yes, the same Jesus. But when we encounter him, we might be the ones who change. The gospel is ever before us, and when we encounter this, we may find things that we are not used to. After all, just because Jesus never changes does not mean his story *will not change us*. In fact, theologically speaking, to come to Jesus is to be changed. Difficult though that is because people don't love change. Change has to occur. Without it we simply would not be able to grow up or change our perspective on things. We would never know what we value or be able to pursue truth.

At the beginning of the year the cultural promises of the holidays, that all will be merry and bright, and if we were lucky enough to give and receive the correct presents, give way to the reality that things are far from perfect. Jesus never promises us perfection. He only promises us peace on a world of tribulation. Knowing this is what makes it possible for us to push back the boundaries of needless suffering. If we can retain peace in The New Year knowing that life will be difficult sometimes, even most times, then we will be able to welcome others into our homes and lives just as surely as we hoped to do when we welcomed the baby Jesus just a few days ago.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian Janssen

From our Associate Pastor

Epiphany means "a manifestation of the divine." It is also defined as "a moment of clarity, sudden realization or insight."

This year, to celebrate the start of the season of Epiphany, January 6th through February 22nd, Ash Wednesday, Bethany will be introducing a meaningful new activity. Everyone will receive a "Star Word" during church on Sunday, January 15th. Just like the star that led the Wise Men to the Christ-child in Bethlehem, this word, which you will randomly be given, is to serve as a word to guide you for the year 2023. Along with your Star Word, you'll receive some instructions or suggestions on how to utilize it as a spiritual practice.

For example, you can: Consistently begin your prayer time by focusing on that word; When reading scripture, make note of the word and the context in which it appears; Consider how you can find ways to use that word in your life; Ask the Lord to teach you more about the meaning of that word. In 2019, my word was "Rest," and I discovered that God was helping me to find things that I consider to be restful: cooking, hiking, or volunteering. Thanks to that Star Word, which I put in a prominent place in my kitchen, I was constantly reminded that I needed to care for myself, rest my mind and spirit, but also rest in the Lord.

As the weeks and months go by, you will have opportunities to share with other congregation members and friends about how your Star Word continues to challenge you, speak to you, or guide you. So, get ready for your own Epiphany -- a showing of the Divine Love that will be revealed to you, wherever your journey may take you in this New Year!

Please Note: If you do not attend worship on January 15th, we will have Star Words available in the Welcome Center for the remainder of the month. We are also able to mail a Star Word to people who may be out of town or unable to come to church.

Please email Pastor Ellen with a request to receive a Star Word of your own.

Prayers abound,
Pastor Ellen

about our members....Happy Birthday



CONGRATULATIONS

The congregation is excited to announce:

The birth of Liam Michael Carman on Tuesday, September 27th, 2022.

He is the beloved son to Alexis and Bruce Carman.

and

The birth of Madelyn Louise Gossic on Tuesday, December 20th.

7 lbs and 14 ozs

19 inches long

She is the beloved daughter to Philip and Tanya and cherished granddaughter to Deb Gossic and the late Fred Gossic.

01/01 Payton Jackson
01/04 Steve Snyder
01/04 Matthew Colton
01/04 Martha Del Conte
01/05 Richard Radzik
01/06 Tammy Dady
01/06 Ray Gilmore
01/06 Huck Julius
01/07 Scott Miller
01/07 William Woods
01/07 Jane Venum
01/08 Richard Tessmer
01/08 Lee Restich
01/08 Oliver Jones
01/10 Randall Wilkerson
01/10 Patty Nowak
01/11 Shanan Goerd
01/11 Eda Woodward
01/11 Nolan Walsh

01/12 Gladys Kennell
01/13 Diane Dal Bon
01/14 Michael Ruehle
01/14 Breana Jarvis
01/15 Marilyn Richards
01/15 Joan Kerlin
01/16 Timothy Nagy
01/16 Emily Pyrdek
01/17 Judi Wolstoncroft
01/17 Owen Morse
01/18 Gunnar DeRoss
01/19 Barbara Mours
01/19 Karin Nass
01/20 Carol Visser
01/21 Abby Byers
01/21 Patricia Chilton
01/22 Pamela Postler
01/22 Debby Hayes
01/22 Jason Smith
01/22 Lucy Joesbury

01/23 Jerri Davis
01/23 Lorrie Just
01/23 Daniel Gillis
01/24 Terry Kohlmyer
01/24 Joe Findley
01/25 Cynthia Richards
01/25 Jenna Valentine
01/25 Joseph Verduci
01/26 Eric Gregory
01/26 Roland Drugmand
01/26 Collin Galbraith
01/27 Shalyn Muraco
01/27 Lori Rastetter
01/28 Richelle Sommerfield
01/28 Peggy Daube
01/28 Lisa Schultz
01/28 Cathy Smith
01/30 Lisa Jo Colwell
01/30 Robert Dal Bon
01/30 Hudson Venum
01/30 Philip Gossic

CONDOLENCES



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

Brad and Jamie Baldrige and their family for the passing of Brad's father, Robert E. Baldrige on December 24, 2022.

Divine Virtues - Temperance by Doug Bovard

Scriptures: Prov. 25:28; 1 Peter 4:7; Rom. 6:20, 7:15-25; Romans 12:1-2; Eph. 1:3, 17-20; Ephesians 4:1-6; Gal. 5:16-23 and Eccl. 3. When you hear the word temperance your mind may recall the Prohibition era and the "temperance" movement of a hundred years ago. It was a time when a good biblical virtue became more associated with a political movement that was disconnected from the gospel of Jesus Christ. However, a biblical definition of temperance is simply self-control and moderation. The Bible has much to say about it. "A man without self-control is like a city broken into and without walls" (Prov. 25:28). To be without self-control is to be spiritually vulnerable and defenseless. We are exhorted to cultivate self-control, that our bodies may be a living sacrifice and that our minds might be renewed (Romans 12:1-2) and Jesus himself demonstrates this even as he is on trial for his life. Jesus rejects violence as a means to solve our problems, (John 18:10-11.)

Self-control is not something we come by naturally or can produce in ourselves. Even in our union with Christ, we struggle with the remaining corruption (including lack of self-control) within us (Rom. 6:20, 7:15-25). The good news is that the power that raised Jesus Christ is the same power we receive by faith in Christ to a new life giving us godly self-control (Eph. 1:17-20). We are no longer under sin's power, penalty and curse. We have been given liberty in Christ to "walk in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:16-23). We wrestle with the flesh but are no longer under control by the flesh. As Paul reminds us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Self-control is the fruit of the Spirit and is the gracious work of Christ in our hearts. We become more like Christ whose desire was to do the will of His heavenly father (John 5:30). If you are in Christ, you have been blessed with "every spiritual blessing" in Him (Eph. 1:3).

Temperance should not be confused with inaction. How do we demonstrate temperance and righteous indignation? What does Ecclesiastes chapter 3 teach us?

Upcoming Events

January 8, 2023

Bethany Youth Group Meetings Start

Every Sunday starting on January 8th from 3-4:30 PM, BYG will be meeting in the Youth Lounge! We are very excited to kick off those meetings with the newest member of the Bethany Staff: Abigail (Abbie) Tyrbus as our Youth Director. More to come about Abbie in next month's Bethany Newsletter. For now, make sure your 6th - 12th grader blocks off those 90 minutes on Sundays!



January 16, 2023

Martin Luther King Jr: National Day of Service

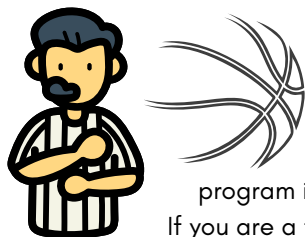
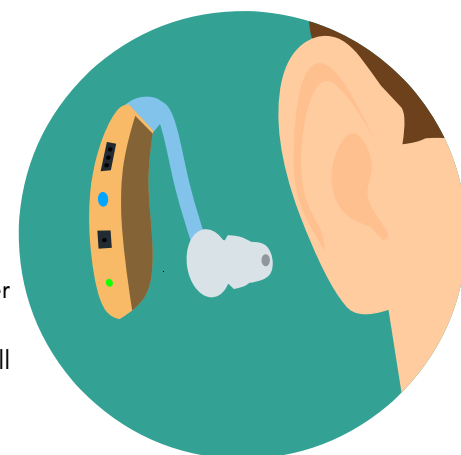
The One Music Fest, INC, will be celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.: National Day of Service here at Bethany Church at 6:30 PM. The One Music Fest is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to, "Bring people together using the universal power of faith-based music throughout the South Hills." In keeping with the tradition of emphasizing local talent, the headliner is internationally famous, world-class baritone, Anthony Brown, from South Fayette. Please see the enclosed flier for more information! All are welcomed to join us.



January 19, 2023

Golden Oldies

Did you have a hard time hearing your family members this past holiday season? If the answer is yes, you might be interested in learning more about a hearing aid. Along with the delicious dishes Golden Oldies is known for, Todd Saxton, from Hearing Unlimited, will be presenting all that his products have to offer.



Looking to add some good into your life this New Year? Bethany's Upward's program is looking for **Referees** and **Prayer Partners** to help throughout the season. If you are a fan of basketball and are interested, please call the church office to sign up.

January 21, 2023

Upwards Season Begins

February 16, 2023

Golden Oldies

The River Song String Ensemble will be filling the room with delightful sounds during your February meeting! They're a group of light-hearted and talented musicians originally formed as part of the Pittsburgh Mandolin Society. They play an eclectic repertoire using mostly acoustic instruments of the mandolin family, but have been known to include banjos, violins and even bagpipes in our performances. Hoping to see you there!



Mission News



MISSION TEAM SARRIS CANDY SALES FOR JANUARY

Proceeds will be donated to Jesus Film Project. Their goal is to help people experience Jesus in their own language using media tools and momentum-building strategies. The fact that JESUS has been recognized by The Guinness Book of World Records as the "Most Translated Film" in history reveals how seriously they take the objective to share the gospel with people from every nation, tribe, and tongue. With their partners, Jesus Film Project has committed to helping the body of Christ use film, equipment and other ministry strategies to make Jesus known, and for church planting and discipleship in every context and language.



DIAPER BANK NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to our very own Bethany Diaper Bank on kicking off their 4th YEAR of service within the community! When the mission began it was distributing 20-25 packages of diapers and wipes each month. As the community's need have increased, so has the Diaper Bank's distribution! In order to keep everyone in the diapers that needs them, the Bethany Diaper Bank is asking for **your help**. If you're able, please donate a package of *size 4, size 5 or size 6, diapers*; it would help this mission so very much. Any brand is welcome and greatly appreciated.

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
740 Washington Avenue
Bridgeville, PA 15017

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

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BRIDGEVILLE,
PA 15017
PERMIT #38



January 2023

UPWARD BASKETBALL PRACTICES ARE HELD FROM 5:30-8:30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the month of January and

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NEW YEAR'S DAY Worship at 9:00AM		6:00PM – Coed Dart Ball 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	10AM Fellowship of Prayer 7PM – Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 11AM – Home Communion Training 12PM – Rotary Meeting 7PM – Dart Ball 7PM – Upward Coach Training 8PM – AA		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School 3PM - BYG	5:30PM – New Deacon Training 7PM – Deacon Meeting 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	9AM – PW Seated Workout 6:00PM – Coed Dart Ball 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	7PM – Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 9:15AM – MOPS 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 7PM – Dart Ball 7PM - MOPS 8PM – AA		11:30AM -Knitters
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
EPIPHANY Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School 3PM - BYG 6:30PM – MOPS Steering Mtg	6:30PM - MLK Jr. Day Program 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	9AM – PW Seated Workout 6:00PM – Coed Dart Ball 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 6:45PM – Session Teams	7PM – Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Golden Oldies 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 7PM – Dart Ball 8PM – AA		FOOD BANK UPWARD GAMES
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School 3PM - BYG	7PM - Session 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	9AM – PW Seated Workout 6:00PM – Coed Dart Ball 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	7PM – Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 9:15AM - MOPS 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 7PM – Dart Ball 8PM – AA		DIAPER BANK UPWARD GAMES 11:30AM Knitters
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School 3PM - BYG	7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	9AM – PW Seated Workout 6:00PM – Coed Dart Ball 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	10AM Fellowship of Prayer 7PM – Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Knitters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 7PM – Dart Ball 8PM – AA		UPWARD GAMES

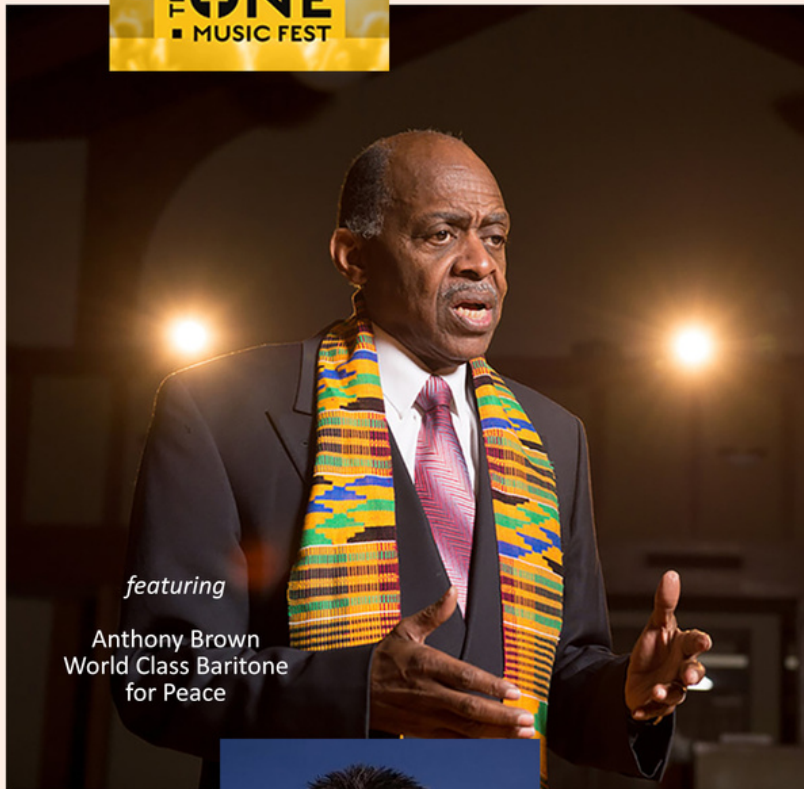


In Honor of
Martin Luther King Jr
NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

5th Annual Celebration of

Martin Luther King Jr.

January, 16th, 2023 @ 6:30 PM



featuring

Anthony Brown
World Class Baritone
for Peace



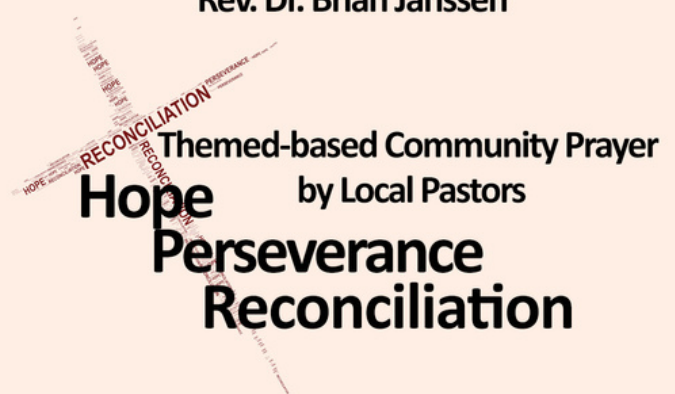
Michael Talerico, Tenor



Kathryn Kearney, Soprano



Bethany Presbyterian Church
740 Washington Ave.
Bridgeville, PA, 15017
Rev. Dr. Brian Janssen



Share 'n' Share Alike

FOOD DROP OFF

BRIDGEVILLE

COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

food & donation

drop off at the door