

March 2026 Newsletter

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

From our Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Brian Janssen



February finds us moving into the season of Lent. Lent refers both to the season of reflection and introspection as we move toward Easter and also the lengthening of days that we experience during this time of year. It's not a short season or an easy one. Practically speaking, the season carries with it the anticipation of warmer weather and melting snow (finally!) We also walk the journey to the cross. It is an important time to be in worship if you can be there. Worship, even during this journey, is a time of connection and joy. It is a time of singing praises to God and looking forward to the many ways we will be blessed by God's work in our lives.

To this end we will be exploring what we believe as confessional Christians during this season. In his recent book Crisis of Confidence philosopher and theologian Carl Trueman writes: "Ours is a confessional faith. Our confessions remind us that we are not the center of the universe, nor are we those who decide what the meaning of our own lives will be." This is a deeply countercultural statement in today's world. The world today tells us that we get to define ourselves, and that other people need to get on board with our own self definitions. Consider for a moment the first sentence of the answer to question one in the Heidelberg Catechism: what is your only hope in life and in death? **That I do not belong to myself but to my faithful savior...** what a thing to proclaim in 2026! That we belong to Jesus.

This is not just something you say, it is a deep commitment. It is the strongest kind of vow you can make, and it is not one you can take lightly. Dieterich Bonhoeffer once said, "when Jesus calls a person, he bids them to come and die." This may sound harsh, but it is the best kind of news. We release the old ways we have clung to—the habits, hurts, grudges, and disappointments—and step forward into the new life Christ gives. Join us this Lent for a journey of faith like no other.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian



From our Interim Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby

“Do You Believe in Miracles?”



Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm sure I'm not the only one who's been watching the Olympics this week. I was surprised that the last time the USA won gold in Men's Hockey was in 1980! I'll never forget that incredible match between Russia and the USA. For those of us who are old enough, “Do you believe in miracles?” are the familiar words that Al Michaels screamed as the 1980 USA Olympic hockey team scored what many feel is the greatest upset in all of sports history. The defeat of the undefeatable Russian hockey team at a time when the whole country was in a state of malaise is remembered through the film “Miracle.”

The single-minded determination of Coach Herb Brooks to take a bunch of college kids and build a team that could beat the Russians seemed impossible to all but the coach. Again and again, he was challenged to change his focus, tactics and attitude but he refused because he could not be dissuaded from the goal. The result was winning the Olympic Gold Medal and restoring a new hope for the future to the USA. All because of a hockey game!

How much more can we believe in miracles because of another Man who would not be deterred or deflected from achieving His goal. That's what we celebrate in this season of Lent! The Lord Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. The enemy, and sometimes His friends, tried to get Him to be reasonable, to take the easy way out, to compromise or use the power He had for His own self-interest, but He would not be deflected from His mission. He kept His eyes on the goal, His ears open to His Father's will and His mind filled with the truth of God's Word.

We too are tempted these days to cut corners, to do what is easy and popular, to not make waves and to let the world shape our faith rather than to let our faith shape the world. Lent is hard work. It requires discipline and dedication. It chooses God's way over the easy way and pays the price in daily practice to become the people that God can use to win a victory infinitely greater than a fleeting medal or momentary exhilaration. We have been chosen to be on God's team, not so that we can win a victory for ourselves but so that victory can be declared for all God's people. **“Do you believe in miracles?”**

In His Love and Service,

Pastor Larry Ruby



A Message From MomCo.

Our Bethany MomCo group is a welcoming place where moms can find real friendships, encouragement, and support in every season of motherhood. We're all about helping each other grow—personally and spiritually—while figuring out this mom life together. At our meetings, you'll find fellowship, small group conversations, fun activities, and guest speakers, plus extra events throughout the year to stay connected. We truly believe in helping every mom “find your people and elevate your motherhood,” so no one has to do this alone. Our evening group meets the second Thursday of each month at 7pm, and we are open to welcoming new members! Please scan the QR code to submit an interest form and find out more !



♥♥♥ from Abbie Gardner, Youth Director ♥♥♥

BETHANY YOUTH GROUP:

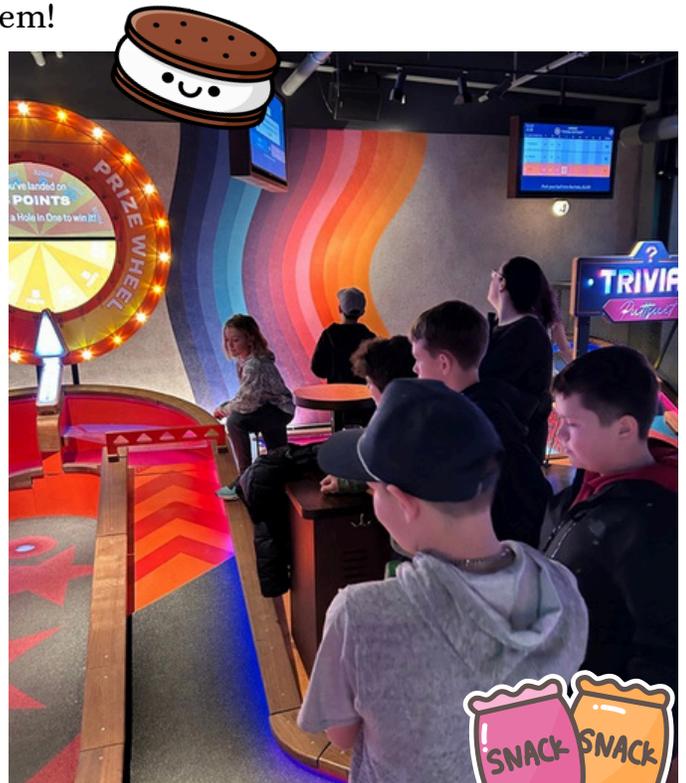
As we step out of winter and into the season of Lent, it feels fitting to pause and reflect. This winter brought more snow than usual. Cancelled plans, slippery roads, COLD cold temps, and plenty of reminders that some things are simply out of our control. And yet, despite the cold and the snow, our youth ministry had a wonderful season. We had a wonderful time at Puttshack Mini Golf where Michael took the win! We had a Super Bowl Game Day with adults vs kids and while it was a valiant effort for all involved, the kids did take home the trophy. We gathered for Group Nights, we laughed, we played, and we learned more about God and His faithfulness.

That experience sets the stage perfectly for our March study series: **God's Comeback Plan.**

In the month of March, students will explore the powerful truth that God is in the business of redemption. What looks like failure, disaster, or defeat is often the very place God is preparing something new. Scripture shows us again and again that God is sovereign, and that He loves us. We will be recounting Bible stories that youth are probably familiar with, but digging a little deeper into them!

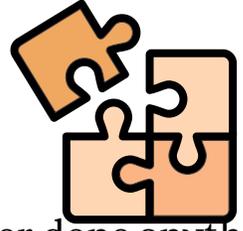
Our hope is that students will begin to recognize God's comeback plan not just in the Bible, but in their own lives. Doubts, setbacks, broken friendships, and hard seasons of life are not the end of the story. God is always at work, often in ways we don't see until later.

As winter turns to spring, we're grateful for the faithfulness of our students, families, and volunteers who showed up, even on snowy nights, and trusted that God was doing something good. We look forward to all that God will continue to grow, restore, and redeem in the months ahead. Thank you for praying for and supporting our youth ministry. We can't wait to see what God brings next.



A Letter from the Mission Team!

Feeling like you don't fit in? Well, when it comes to mission work, you are part of a bigger picture! And we need you in that picture! **Join us on March 15th for the Mission Team Luncheon at 12pm in the Great Room!**



Perhaps, you want to contribute to mission work...but you have never done anything like this. Maybe you are uncomfortable or unsure about what you can do, or maybe you feel you cannot give the time necessary for mission work. Guess what? All of us who have done mission work had the same feelings and concerns – and we may have answers for you. Ask us! When it comes to church mission work, team-work is a common thread – you don't go alone. You find an interest, see if there is a fit, learn from your church team members, and - a precious benefit - deepen your relationship with team members as you work.

At Bethany PC, we have a variety of missions and mission work. To help familiarize and pique your interest, please consider the list below and those familiar with that mission. Talk to us about mission work and maybe we can find a fit. Tell us about your previous mission work. Feel free to sign-up for multiple missions, then as you learn more, narrow down your choices or talk to us about possible new ones.



Angels Place – Childcare, early childhood education for low income parents

Bethany Diaper Bank – 1 package Monthly of both Diaper & Baby Wipe distribution for Moms in need

Bridgeville Food Bank – Provides groceries for those in need in the Chartiers Valley & South Fayette School Districts

Camp Crestfield – Presbyterian Christian camp for over 500 youth campers in summer & over 3000 conferences & retreat uses for all ages

Campus Life South Fayette – Local part of Youth for Christ for middle & high school youth providing ministries, and programs



Family Guidance - Mentoring and future planning for families and youth, and cultivating their relationship with Christ

Feed My Starving Children – World-wide Christian non-profit organization hand packing meals for children over the world

Fisher House – Provides “Home away from home” to families of hospitalized Veterans and active duty military

Guardian Angels Service Dogs – Rescues, trains & donates medical dogs to veterans & people with disabilities

LaCroix Mission Support – Helps support a Christian education and a daily meal for children in the area of the mission

Living in Liberty – Restores dignity, freedom, healing and a means of a new life for victims of human trafficking

Malawi-Chiradzul Health & Development – Oversees several health and development projects for that region in Malawi

Medical Benevolence Foundation – Provides medical care through medical partners which gives hope & healing around the Globe (Christ's mandate to heal the sick & proclaim the Gospel)

Neighborhood Academy (Pittsburgh) - College preparatory middle & high school that helps remove generational poverty & helps remove barriers that prevent youth from thinking about & achieving their futures

Sojourner House – Provides faith based compassionate support recovery for mothers and children

Washington City Mission - All Entities: AVIS ARBOR, VETERAN FACILITY, WOMEN'S SHELTER, SALLY'S HOUSE

WVMAW Support – A charity group focused on disaster relief & combating poverty in West Virginia (several members of our church help for a week each year)

Urban Impact – Encourages the youth of Pittsburgh's North Side by providing them an opportunity to develop and share their talents through holistic community outreach & arts programs



Choir Call for Holy Week



From our Music Director
Nadina Robusto

Have you wanted to see what it's like to sing with the Choir but are not ready to make a commitment to the whole year? You're invited to join us to share in our special music offerings during Passion Week! Rehearsals started Feb 25th at 7pm and continue on Wednesdays until Easter. The first part of rehearsal will focus on prepping music for the season. For Easter this year, the Choir will bring back a Bethany favorite- "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah. We will offer special anthems during Holy Week from the Messiah, as well, and we invite YOU to participate in this incredible journey with us starting on Palm Sunday with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

We will also share special anthems at services through the week celebrating the Last Supper, and mournfully gather to share music in worship on Good Friday to deeply meditate on Jesus' crucifixion to save each of us. Please consider joining us to prepare these special anthems with us! We look forward to celebrating His **VICTORIOUS** Resurrection on Easter Morning with you as we sing "Hallelujah" with joyous cries together! We are sure that if you don't sing with us from the choir loft that you will sing along from your seat during this triumphant Easter celebration!

Please see Nadina or contact her at music@bethanypresby.org for more details. Look for our special musicians joining us on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday to add to our time of worship as we glorify our Savior together!



Bloom with a Twist, with a Twist!

For the whole season of Lent, Bloom with a Twist is back! But this year, we added another "twist" to make it a little more fun :). We extended our welcome to all artists- bring your craft, crochet project, or coloring app on your phone and JOIN US in the Welcome Center on Thursdays at 6:30pm to share in a time of fellowship, music, and worship through music. We hope to see you there!



Ushers Needed for Sundays!



We are in need of ushers for the 10:45 service. You can volunteer for a specific Sunday of the month. If you would like to consider volunteering, please contact Dale Anderson at dalea591@gmail.com.

Save the Date!

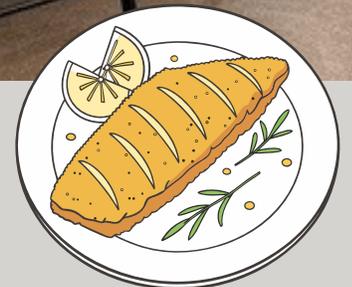
2026 Women's Ministry Retreat

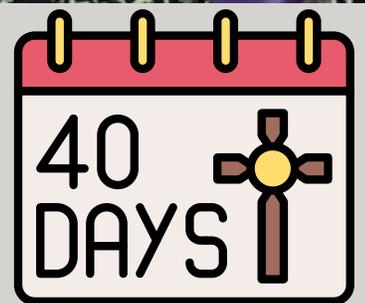
We are planning a Retreat for the Women of Bethany!
The retreat will be held at the Stonewall
Resort in Roanoke, WV the weekend of 5/15-5/17.

Nursing babies are always welcome!



The Ash Wednesday dinner and service was such a special time of fellowship together as a church body. Thank you to everyone who prepared beforehand for our fish dinner. From cooking, and setting up tables, to serving and cleanup, it was a fantastic evening of communion and celebration as we kicked off the season of Lent.





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



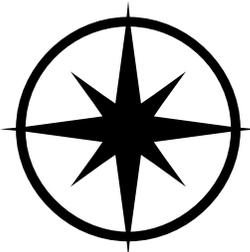


REGISTER HERE!

 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!



We loved celebrating Troop 2 during Scout Sunday. What a special treat! We are excited for their futures!



During the February 21st Food Bank distribution, 106 families were assisted which included 40 children, 73 adults and 82 elderly.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Worship with Communion at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM – Sunday School 5PM - BYG	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 11:30AM – Rotary Student of the Month 6:30PM – BLOOM 7PM – Dart Ball 7:30PM – AA		8AM – UPWARD Celebration
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School 1PM – Troop 2 Council 5PM – BYG	4:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	6:45PM – Session Team Meetings 7PM – ALANON	11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM- Scouts 7PM – Choir	9AM – Quilters 9AM – Morning MomCo 12PM - Rotary 6PM – BLOOM and Café Bethany 7PM – Dart Ball 7PM – Evening MomCo 7:30PM – AA		11AM - Knitters
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT BLOOD DRIVE Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School 5PM - BYG outing	4:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	St. Patrick’s Day 7PM – ALANON 7PM – Deacons Meeting	11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM- Scouts 7PM – Choir	9AM – Quilters 12PM - Rotary 12PM – Golden Oldies 6:30PM – BLOOM 7PM – Dart Ball 7:30PM – AA		FOOD BANK
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 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 – Session Meeting	11:30AM - Knitters 6:30PM- Scouts 7PM – Choir	9AM – Quilters 9AM – Morning MomCo 12PM - Rotary 6:30PM – BLOOM 7PM – Dart Ball 7:30PM – AA		DIAPER BANK 11AM Knitters
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
PALM SUNDAY Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School 9AM - Lenten Breakfast	4:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	7PM – ALANON	10AM Fellowship of Prayer 11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM- Scouts 7PM – Choir	MAUNDY THURSDAY 9AM – Quilters 12PM - Rotary 7PM - Service	GOOD FRIDAY 7PM - Service	



March Birthdays



03/01 Peggy Patterson
 03/01 Molly Regan
 03/02 Lorelei Smith
 03/02 Darcie Biancini
 03/02 Brandon Postler
 03/02 Amy Ramage
 03/03 Nicklaus Lytle
 03/03 JoAnn Johnston
 03/04 Casey Jackson
 03/05 Janice Teller
 03/05 Anthony Naples
 03/05 Jack Ramage
 03/05 Kelly Gilmore
 03/06 Laura Dugan
 03/07 Bruce Carman
 03/07 Anita Myers
 03/07 Mary Bressanelli
 03/07 Calin Kane
 03/07 Meredith Stewart
 03/09 Kerri Kane
 03/09 Kelli Watson
 03/09 Barbara Crawford
 03/09 Sarah Paviol
 03/10 Lori Jablonski
 03/10 Alec Heiskell
 03/11 Roman Baronio
 03/12 Amelia Smith
 03/13 Victoria Beattie
 03/15 Chuck Lacher

03/15 Matthew Stark
 03/16 Dominic DiDomenico
 03/17 Kristin Gricar
 03/17 Marlene Knapp
 03/17 Allison Galbraith
 03/17 Pat Mishizen
 03/17 Scott Trimmer
 03/18 Ann Griffin
 03/18 Robert Rahr
 03/18 Robert Grimm
 03/18 E. Dianne Fiorentini
 03/18 Madison Turnbull
 03/19 Hailey Sabin
 03/19 James Jenkins
 03/19 Aaron Stout
 03/19 Elise Ramous
 03/19 Camden Gullo
 03/20 Brad Bowman
 03/21 Bob Joesbury
 03/21 Kelly Kain
 03/21 Taylor Barbaryka
 03/21 Sarah Verduci
 03/21 Marlene Brown
 03/21 Mason Tumulty
 03/22 Adriana Romanelli
 03/22 Thomas Clarke
 03/23 Dawn Dunlap
 03/24 Mark Marra
 03/24 Andrew Sommerfield

03/24 John Hunter Jr.
 03/24 Bonnie Katruska
 03/25 Jeff Nowak
 03/26 Carrie Emerson
 03/26 Robert Grossi
 03/26 Casey McCaffrey
 03/27 Jesse Wilhelm
 03/27 Jake Hanich
 03/27 Tanner Lacher
 03/27 Al Heaps
 03/27 Darren Deemer
 03/28 Eli Franchi
 03/28 Kylie Turner
 03/28 Bill Paviol
 03/28 Niki Ciaramella
 03/28 Tommy Gilmore
 03/29 Edward Stewart
 03/30 Silas Paracca
 03/30 Connor Gricar
 03/31 Steve Smith
 03/31 Arthur Wells
 03/31 Randall Rastetter
 03/31 Presley Venum



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