

MAY 2023

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

From our Senior Pastor



We all go through seasons in life.

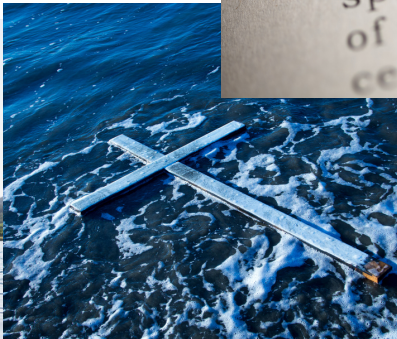
We know what this is like. We have seasons where it seems like nothing is going according to plan and we hope that these are short. We go through seasons where it seems like nothing can go wrong and we want to keep those good feelings coming, sometimes at all costs. Pastors go through seasons too. We have seasons where it seems like every sermon just “hits” in the right way, and other seasons where we wonder every Sunday what we should say, if anything, to the people staring at us from the pews. I always thank God that he is in charge of the preaching moment instead of me. This year's season of Easter has been a particularly good one.

The Lord has blessed us all with the number of baptisms we have been doing, and I am particularly happy about that. Baptism, being the enormous thing that clues us into the many blessings we are receiving from God. Every child is a blessing because all life matters. It is especially true when parents make promises on their child's behalf to commit themselves to ensuring that their child will know who Jesus is. Equally important is the role of the church in helping those parents know that their child is loved and welcomed in this place.

As we move through this season of Easter, I hope that all of you will take time to remember fondly the fact that you were baptized and loved into the family of God. We all know what the working out of God's promises looks like in our lives. Baptism is our opportunity to make those promises come alive in the lives of adults and young people who long to know who Jesus is.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian



From our Associate Pastor



On Monday, April 24th at 6:00pm, the Session of Bethany Church had a special meeting to hear the Statements of Faith from the 4 Confirmation students. They read their statements in front of the session, family members, and the mentors. They were officially welcomed as members of Bethany Church on Sunday, April 30th.

The Confirmation Program at Bethany Church is about teaching, mentoring, and loving these students as they prepare to become members of the church and claim their faith as their own. The curriculum we use is called Big God, Big Questions, and through a series of 12 classes, the confirmands are equipped with the vital skills of asking and seeking answers using scripture, tradition, and the church to tell their own story as Christian believers.

As part of this Confirmation program and evidence of their own growth, we require each student to write a Faith Statement -- a one page statement, including sentences about: what you believe about God; what you believe about Jesus; what you believe about the Holy Spirit; and what you believe about the Church (not just Bethany, but the universal church). They are also asked to include why these things matter to them personally.

I encourage members of Bethany to consider these questions of faith as well. I am sure your Faith Statement in 8th grade is different now, no matter your age. Maybe we can all be inspired to revisit these basic questions about what we believe and why what we believe matters.

Congratulations to our Confirmation Students and thank you to everyone who was involved in this year's program.

Prayers Abound,

Pastor Ellen

Part of the requirement for the Confirmation Students was to complete a service project. On Saturday, April 22nd, everyone involved in the class, served breakfast at the Washington City Mission. It was a rewarding experience for all.

CITY MISSION
HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS





CONDOLENCES

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Nikki O'Brien and family on the passing of her beloved husband, John "Jack" O'Brien on April 15, 2023.

Bethany Celebrations

Congratulations to:

Liam Michael Carman,
son of Sean and Alexis Carman,
grandson of Bruce and Donna Carman, on his
baptism on Sunday, April 16, 2023.



and

Alessi Anastasia Pyrdek,
daughter of Scott & Emily Pyrdek,
little sister to Talia,
on her baptism on Sunday, April 30, 2023.

and



our new members at Bethany who were
received by Session on March 23rd and
presented to the congregation on
April 16, 2023:

Jim Miller, Robin Miller, Jessica Paracca,
Darlene Restich, Julia Stewart
and Jessica Young.



and

our Confirmands presented their
Statements of Faith to Session on
April 24th. They have been received into the
membership of the church:

Mia DeRoss
Landon Mendenhall
Brenna Mours
Hudson Venum

about our members....

Happy Birthday



- 05/01 Joseph Mizia
- 05/01 Alice Eiszler
- 05/02 Jackson Gullo
- 05/02 Helena Brickner
- 05/04 Phyllis Matthews
- 05/04 Bethany Orosz
- 05/06 Brenda Wolesslagle
- 05/06 Annie Doty
- 05/07 Rusty North
- 05/08 Tom Harold
- 05/08 Timothy Gastgeb
- 05/08 Valeria Lorenzi
- 05/08 Jody Romanelli
- 05/08 Jenna Foltz
- 05/08 Kara Julius
- 05/09 Alex Harbison
- 05/10 Brandon Orosz
- 05/11 Larry Gastgeb
- 05/11 Jacquelyn Nixon
- 05/11 Kaycee Nelson
- 05/11 Roberta Gerstacker
- 05/12 Jim Davidson
- 05/13 Karen Talerico
- 05/13 Alyssa Padula
- 05/13 Brittany Edney
- 05/14 Sandra Gastgeb
- 05/15 Amy Gastgeb
- 05/16 Liam Edney
- 05/16 Colleen Heasley
- 05/16 Susan Nagy
- 05/17 Dylan Nock
- 05/17 Max Nagy
- 05/17 Denise Leigh
- 05/18 Melina Robinson
- 05/18 Carolyn Morelock
- 05/18 Susan Witwicki
- 05/18 Judy Vietmeier
- 05/18 Elaine London
- 05/19 Pat Frye
- 05/20 David Verduci
- 05/20 Joseph Szallar
- 05/20 Peter Wolstoncroft
- 05/21 Connor Schultz
- 05/21 Linda Manzini
- 05/22 Logan Smith
- 05/22 Faith Ruehle
- 05/22 Lara Bizzack
- 05/23 Katelyn Morelock
- 05/24 Samantha Hartnett



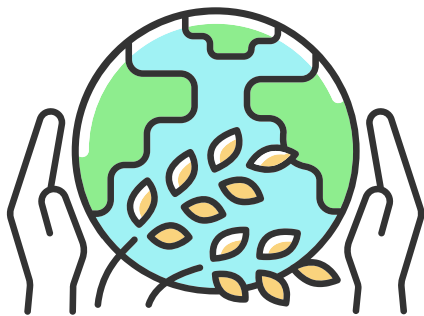
Youth Group Events



May 7, 2023

BYG Meeting at Bethany

Regular BYG Sunday meeting in the Youth Lounge @ 12:15pm - YOU Belong Here!



May 12th - 13th, 2023

30 Hour Famine Lock-in

Grab your sleeping bag, pillow and water bottle as it's the highly anticipated -combined **BYG & RYB- Lock-in at Bethany!** The Famine starts at 5pm on Friday, May 13th and goes through 8pm Saturday, May 14th. The Famine will be broken at 6:00pm, on Saturday when a big meal will be served to be shared with all who participated.

May 14, 2023

Happy Mother's Day - NO BYG Meeting



May 21, 2023

Youth Sunday

At both the 8:15am and 10:45am services, Bethany's Youth will be hosting a memorable service. Breakfast will be served between the services. Interested in being a part of the service? Let Abbie know! Keep your eyes peeled for information regarding practice date/times.

Please note, there will not be BYG after the 10:45 service.

May 28, 2023

Happy Memorial Day Weekend - No BYG Meeting



June 4, 2023

End of the Year BYG Picnic

YOU BELONG HERE! Join us, following the 10:45 service. Help us celebrate the 1st season of BYG with Abbie on staff! Location to be determined soon!

Upcoming Events



May 13, 2023

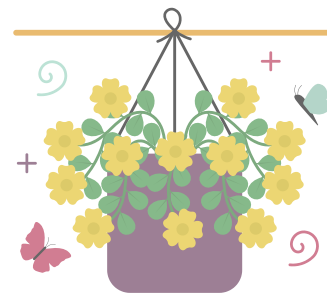
Spring Clean-Up Day

Join us, along with Scouts from Troop 2, on Saturday, May 13th from 8am - noon. Our hope is to rejuvenate our gardens and mulch. Cannot make it that day? We'd love for you to come when you can to pull weeds and prepare the gardens. If you'd like some gardening tools for your weed pulling adventures, feel free to contact Bill Stephan before you come so that he can have them ready for you.

May 14, 2023

Hanging Basket Sale - Happy Mother's Day

Looking for the perfect Mother's Day gift? We've got it! Beautiful hanging flower baskets will be on sale at Bethany for \$25 starting on 5/11 thru Mother's Day. Proceeds from the sale will go to the Bethany Diaper Bank.



May 18, 2023

Golden Oldies

This month is all about the Good Stuff! Delicious meals and thoughtful fellowship followed by some Sarris Chocolate! Representatives from Sarris will be here to discuss how they make it taste so good!

May 21, 2023

Youth Sunday - Last day for Sunday School

Enjoy the gift of Bethany's Youth as they lead both the 8:15am and 10:45am services. Please note: **Sunday, May 21st is the last day for Sunday School.**

June 4th and 11th, 2023

Sacrament Class with Debby Hayes

Children entering third grade - sixth grade and their parent(s) are welcome to join this 2 week class featuring the meaning of communion. Class starts at 9am.

Please contact Debby Hays to register your child(ren) at 412.266.0982.



June 24, 2023

Bethany Golf Outing

SAVE THE DATE - All are welcome to join in on the fun at Fort Cherry Golf Club! Stay tuned for more information!

Mission News



SOJOURNER HOUSE

MISSION TEAM SARRIS CANDY SALES FOR MAY

When you stop by the Mission area in The Welcome Center on Sundays this month and purchase one or a few pieces of Sarris Candy, the benefits will be going to Sojourner House. Otherwise known as "A Beacon of Hope for Troubled Families." Sojourner House and Sojourner House MOMS (Mentoring, Opportunity, Motivation, Spirituality) provide compassionate, faith-based residential recovery services to mothers and children in the Pittsburgh area. We help addicted mothers learn to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and chemical abuse while rebuilding damaged relationships with their children. Sojourner House believes women can shatter the chains of addiction and hopelessness when surrounded by what means most to them: their children.

GOLDEN OLDIES NEWS

With increased costs, and in order to assure that we have enough food, it is now mandatory that you register ahead of time if you would like to purchase lunch at our monthly meetings. You can register each month at the meetings for the following month, or contact the church office by the 1st Friday of each month to register. We will no longer be able to provide a lunch to walk-ins and those who did not register in advance. The last day to register for the May 18th meeting is May 5th. Thank you for your cooperation!

Vacation Bible School - Registration

**BETHANY WILL BE
BLASTING OFF DURING
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!**



Join us

June 19th - 23rd

Register your child(ren) on Bethany's Website:

Bethanypresby.org

May Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6PM – Seated Workout 7PM – Deacon Meeting 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	Golden Oldies Century of Song Trip 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	10AM – Fellowship of Prayer 11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Choir 7PM Scouts	9AM – Quilters 10AM-VBS Crafts 12PM – Rotary 7:30PM – AA	Men’s Retreat at Oglebay	Men’s Retreat at Oglebay
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
EDUCATION FUND SUNDAY Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM- Sunday School 1PM – BYG Picnic	6:45PM – Session Teams 6PM – Seated Workout 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Choir 7PM - Scouts	9AM – Quilters 9:15AM- MOPS 12PM – Rotary 7PM - MOPS 7:30PM – AA	BYG 30 Hr Famine Lock-In	BYG 30 Hr Famine Lock-In 8AM – Church Grounds Clean-up Day 11:30AM - Knitters
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
COMMUNION Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM- Sunday School	6PM – Seated Workout 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	6:30PM – Men’s Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice	11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Choir 7PM Scouts	9AM – Quilters 10AM-VBS Crafts 12PM – Golden Oldies 7:30PM – AA		FOOD BANK
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
YOUTH AND GRADUATION SUNDAY Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM- Sunday School	6PM – Seated Workout 7PM – Session Meeting 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	6:30PM – Men’s Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice	11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Scouts	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 7:30PM – AA		DIAPER BANK 11:30AM - Knitters
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
PENTECOST SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS BEGIN Worship at 8:15AM & 10:00AM	MEMORIAL DAY 6PM – Seated Workout	6:30PM – Men’s Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice	11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Scouts	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 7:30PM – AA		

A graphic in the top left corner features a large yellow sun with rays, and three black birds in flight against a yellow background. The background of the entire top section is a gradient from yellow to red.

Bethany's Summer Worship Hours

Starting on

Sunday, May 28th

services will be at

8:15am and 10:00am

From Memorial Day - Labor Day

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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HAPPY
Mother's Day



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PA 15017
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