

JULY 2022

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

from our Senior Pastor

I hope this finds you all doing well! I hope each of you has been able to enjoy the nice weather we are having. Remember to hydrate and to use sunscreen! It has been a great beginning to the summer here at Bethany Church! We had a wonderful Vacation Bible School with around 150 kids. What an amazing testament to our church's desire to serve the Lord and our community.

As you read this, I will be in Michigan spending time with my family. We have a small cottage on a lake that we pack ourselves into and I have always loved that my Granny said, "we don't have a lake house, we have a home on a lake." If a house is a building, a home is a place where family resides, where memories are made and where friendships are deepened. I think my Granny believed that because she knew, being a pastor's wife, that that was also true of the church.

Churches are wonderful places. They are more than buildings. They are also more than pastors, more than certain leaders, and more than certain ministries even. Churches, especially Bethany Church, are places where God's coming kingdom is imperfectly exhibited to the world. I say imperfectly because that is who we are, even as followers of Jesus Christ we are not perfect. However, the church at it's very best always looks like a home and a family. John 14 reminds us that in God's house there are many rooms, it is one of the great descriptions of heaven. Heaven is a home, a place where God's family resides together for eternity.

That home will be here one day in full when Christ returns. Until then I am thankful that in the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus called his church into being. It is a home that crosses geographical boundaries, that cannot be tied to any one place or any one person. It is a home, where racial, and socio-economic boundaries are knocked down to create more space. It is a home where any one of us can celebrate life and give glory to God. It is a home where the gifts of all are welcomed. It is a home where we gather to celebrate, where we gather to grieve, where we gather to recognize the extra-ordinary things, God does amid ordinary days.

I hope that you have a home away from home, a special place to visit. I hope you get to go there this summer, but I am so glad we have our church home to enjoy together.

Blessings, Pastor Brian

HERE'S WHAT'S UP THIS MONTH!

Page 2 -
Music & Staffing Notes

Page 3 -
From Our Associate Pastor

Page 4 -
About Our Members

Page 5-
Worship News

Pages 6 and 7 -
Upcoming Events

Page 8 -
Vacation Bible School

Pages 9 and 10 -
Ministry Group News

Page 11 -
The Foreknowledge of God



Music Notes

BY: MUSIC DIRECTOR, JOHN HENNINGER

Give Thanks!

We are so blessed at Bethany Presbyterian Church to have so many talented members and friends of the church willing to offer their gift of music to enhance our worship at the church.

Soloists and instrumentalists have volunteered through the summer to sing and play and offer their gifts of music to God.

Give thanks to the Lord for the wealth of talent and the willingness to use it for the Glory of God!



Staffing Notes

Bethany has a new Communications Director! Meagan Smith has joined the church staff to help with the social media, newsletter, publicity outreach and more. If you would like to connect with Meagan about any upcoming events you'd like to have promoted, or to say hello, feel free email her at Marketing@bethanypresby.org or give her a call on extension x205.

Meagan has been attending Bethany since 2000 with her husband, Jason. They have 2 daughters, Amelia and Lorelei, a Great Pyrenees puppy named Heidi and a dwarf bunny named Hopper. Meagan has a degree in Communication Design from LaRoche College and spent her corporate career with the company that is now called Willis Towers Watson. Meagan is active within Bethany's Presbyterian Women, she is their secretary, teaches Sunday School for Pre-K/Kindergarten and if you've walked through the Sunday school hallway you've seen her bulletin board creations. She is very excited about this opportunity and is looking forward to working alongside such a faithful, kind and caring congregation.



from our Associate Pastor

Death. It's not a topic we like to read about in a newsletter article, let alone talk about with loved ones or friends. However, death is a part of our life, and it's a part of our life together as a church family.

Edmund Barker, a Puritan said, "Every Christian hath two great works to do in the world, to live well, and to die well." We tend to talk about how to live our lives well as followers of Jesus Christ. But how do we live as those who also desire to "die well?"

Do not fear. "Fear not!" is the most repeated command in Scripture. As a baptized follower of Jesus Christ, and one who trusts in him, your salvation is secure. If you or a loved one faces death, or if someone you know dies tragically or suddenly, rest assured that Jesus is with us as we take our last breath. Pastors often provide prayer and anointing, which can offer us peace and comfort in one's last days. Be not afraid because nothing in those moments is actually required for us to live forever in eternity. (As Presbyterians, we do not practice the sacrament of "last rites," which for the Catholic church is a final confession, anointing, and receiving communion.) By working through these fears, holding on to faith, and saying farewell to this life on earth, we can rest in the promises of Scripture. See *1 Corinthians 15:50-58; 2 Corinthians 5:1-9; Matthew 11:25-26.*

Pay attention. C.S. Lewis famously writes about heaven and earth in several of his books, most notably in *Mere Christianity*, stating, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." Take time to listen to the Holy Spirit who guides you and reassures you that God is preparing a place (John 14:1-4). As Christians, we can also pay attention to the spiritual experience of others experiencing grief and death. The great cloud of witnesses that go before us can teach us more about dying with grace, gratitude, and peace. As we sing hymns in church or at funerals, you can also learn more about faith in the midst of death, such as *Abide with Me, My Faith Looks Up To Thee*, and one of my favorites, *In Christ Alone*.

Talk about it. As difficult as it may be, talk about death with your loved ones. Don't wait for a certain birthday or a sudden diagnosis. One of the greatest gifts you can offer to your siblings, parents, or children is to communicate with them about your wishes. Have you prepared a living will? Have you thought about how you wish to be a steward of your possessions? Are there any relationships you wish to reconcile? Pastor Brian or I am available to help you start or have this conversation. It's important.

Of course, the *most* important thing we can do to prepare to die well is to put our faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins on the cross, and who passed from death to everlasting life in his resurrection. In the midst of grief, I have often heard the question, "How do people do this without faith in Jesus?" Brothers and sisters, we do not face death alone. We do not grieve alone. And we do not face death without the promises of God. Cling to the promise of eternal life, and rest in the hope and peace that comes with our faith in Jesus Christ. "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

Prayers abound,
Pastor Ellen

about our members....

CONDOLENCES

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

Carol and Tom Willhite, and the Willhite, Brown and Markle families, on the death of Carol and Tom's grandson, Axel Markle, on May 27, 2022.

Dean, Patti, Dylan and Devin Nock on the passing of Dean's mother, Joan Nock, on June 6, 2022.

The Carman and Witwicki Families on the death of C. Bruce Carman on June 17, 2022.

Arnie and Neva McAuley and family on the passing of Arnie's father, Arnold J. McAuley, on June 20, 2022.

Sharon and Karl Salvini and the James and Salvini Families on the death of Sharon's son, Michael James, on June 23, 2022.

Connie and Mike Segeleon and the Segeleon and Nolte Families on the death of Connie's brother, Lance Nicholas "Nick" Nolte, on June 28, 2022



Did you know that Bethany has a Pastoral Care team? The team regularly meets with shut-ins and handles a variety of concerns for the broader congregation. If you or someone you know has a concern or needs help, please let us know by calling the church office at 412-221-5132 or email prayers@bethanypresby.org.



July Birthdays

- 07/01 Georgina Townsend
- 07/01 Neva McAuley
- 07/03 Malinda Fink
- 07/03 David Calgaro
- 07/03 William Koch Jr
- 07/04 Tara Krieger
- 07/04 John Talerico
- 07/04 Hunter Briggs
- 07/04 Ruth Jones
- 07/05 Audrey Blackstock
- 07/05 Shirley Ellis
- 07/05 Shawn Ruehle
- 07/06 Martha Gabelhart
- 07/06 Rebecca Lewis
- 07/06 Jason Franchi
- 07/06 Julia Casciola
- 07/06 Bill Faulkner
- 07/06 Samantha Faulkner
- 07/09 William Just
- 07/09 Frederick Gerstacker
- 07/09 Connie Rucker
- 07/09 Zackary Rutkowski
- 07/09 Dean Wolstoncroft
- 07/10 Kim Hartnett
- 07/10 Renee Rusko
- 07/10 Madison Galbraith
- 07/11 Evelyn Barbish
- 07/11 Larry Poglein
- 07/12 Melina Shildt
- 07/12 John Schneider
- 07/12 Thomas Jones
- 07/13 Mary Brubaker
- 07/13 Barry Fricker
- 07/14 Dean Nock
- 07/15 Richard Bartolomeo
- 07/16 Diane Cook
- 07/17 Nolan Strouse
- 07/18 Hope Trotta
- 07/18 John Sienerth
- 07/19 Madison Zombek
- 07/19 Jan Underwood
- 07/19 Claudia Ziegler
- 07/19 Joan Kundra
- 07/19 Bruce Haviland
- 07/19 Landon Jackson
- 07/20 Victoria Segeleon
- 07/20 Kyle Sharp
- 07/20 Deborah Gossic
- 07/21 William Miklavic
- 07/22 Emma Underwood
- 07/22 Karin Cellone
- 07/22 David Colton
- 07/23 John Hunter
- 07/23 Gabriella Schinosi
- 07/23 Michael Casciola
- 07/23 Jason Sommerfield
- 07/24 Deanna Lambert
- 07/24 Jessica Mendenhall
- 07/24 Mark Rackley
- 07/25 Nicolette O'Brien
- 07/25 Payton Miller
- 07/25 Robert Loebig
- 07/27 Paige Morse
- 07/27 Ellen Zissis
- 07/27 Mary Wells
- 07/28 Robbie Best
- 07/29 Aaron Johnson
- 07/29 Aiden Sisk
- 07/30 Nathan Gibson
- 07/30 Zachary McGinnis
- 07/30 Tyler McGinnis
- 07/31 Naomi Unghajer
- 07/31 Alexandra Tumulty
- 07/31 Clara Talerico
- 07/31 Ainsley Link
- 07/31 Domenic Poiche

Worship News

JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP AT
8:15AM and 10AM.

A reminder that you can find our weekly bulletins and a replay of our worship services each Sunday on our website.

The replay is posted immediately following the second service each week -

www.bethanypresby.org/sermons

Sunday, July 3rd

Karen Harkins will be a guest violinist at the 10am service
Pastor Brian Janssen will be preaching.

Sunday, July 10th

Music will be provided by guest Organist, Toni Sears.

Pastor Brian Janssen will be a guest soloist.

The sermon will be given by a guest Missionary from Africa.

Please note - Due to the need to keep the missionary's identity confidential due to security concerns from where he works as a missionary, the worship service will not be posted on the website.

Sunday, July 17th

Music will again be provided by guest Organist, Toni Sears.

Pastor Ellen Dawson will be preaching.

Sunday, July 24th

Pastor Brian Janssen will be preaching.

Sunday, July 31st

Pastor Brian Janssen will be preaching.



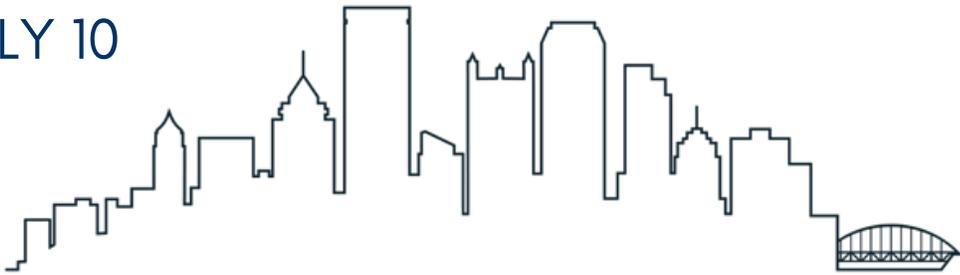
facility news

No more rain buckets will line the halls of Bethany! The new roof has started to be installed! Shingles are lined up in the parking lot along with the worker's and their vehicles.

Over the sanctuary, the original slate roof will be removed and a new shingle roof will be installed. Keeping our pastors, faithful members, organ and prayers dry for many years to come.

Upcoming Events

JULY 10



PITTSBURGH PRAYS

You are invited to be a part of Pittsburgh Prays on Sunday, July 10th from 2:00-4:00pm at Heinz Field. This event will unite churches from all over the city for prayer and live worship. If you'd like to attend, please register at pittsburghprays.com. Doors are scheduled to open at 1:00pm. If you plan to attend and would like to carpool contact Eric Gregory (eagregory1@yahoo.com) by July 8th. If you'd like to attend but not interested in carpooling, yet would like to meetup with fellow Bethany members, be outside of the stadium at Gate A/Panthers Ticket Office for 1:30pm.

Afghan Refugee Volunteer Opportunities

The Discipleship and Mission Teams are connecting with an organization called Mercy For All Nations. This organization serves refugee families in Pittsburgh, including the South Hills.

There is a tremendous need among Afghan Refugees that are being relocated to our area. Please join us in the Chapel on Sunday, July 10th at 11:00 AM (following the worship service).

We will discuss ways we can help as a congregation to share the love of Jesus.

These families are arriving in our neighborhoods with nothing but the clothes they are wearing.

We are called to serve the least and the lost.

If you have any questions please feel free to email Eric Gregory at eagregory1@yahoo.com or Carl Suppo at cj.suppo@gmail.com.



JULY 21

Golden Oldies

We will gather again at noon on Thursday, July 21st. A picnic lunch including hot dogs and hamburgers will be featured on our delicious menu!

The "Button Box Band" will be the entertainment, be ready for some lively music!

The New York trip funds need to be paid ASAP!

Forms for the trip in November to see "David" are available.



AUGUST 14-20

WEST VIRGINIA



West Virginia Adult Mission Trip!

Micah 6:8 -

He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.

Bring God's love and blessings to the poor, elderly and victims of natural disaster in West Virginia. Engage in fun and fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters. This adult mission trip is planned for August 14 to August 20, 2022. We will stay at the Summersville Presbyterian Church in Summersville, WV. There is the flexibility to participate for half the week or the full week. Historically, we work on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday is a day for rest and recreation. Evenings bring prayer, bible study and reflections on our day's work. Please see wvmaw.org for additional details. The cost is \$300 for the full week or \$63.50 per work day. Contact Eric Gregory 412-389-3064 egregory1@yahoo.com or Doug Bovard 412-257-8901 dbovard@verizon.net.

AUGUST 20

Day at the Lake

All Bethany members, family and friends are invited to a DAY AT THE LAKE on August 20th at the North Shore Beach at Moraine State Park from 10am-2pm. We will meet on the right side of the beach down by the water and the picnic tables. Be sure to bring your favorite picnic basket, a lawn chair and bathing suit. Complimentary Sailboat rides will be available as well as a grill.



AUGUST 21

Church Picnic

Enjoy fellowship outside at Chartiers Park on Sunday, August 21st stay afterwards for a mouthwatering "Summer Splash" picnic lunch, games and fun for the whole family.



AUGUST 27

Church Volunteer and Teacher Training

Saturday, August 27th at 10:00am. More information soon...

Vacation Bible School was awesome!



Everyone enjoyed
Celebrating
God's Greatness

Ministry Group News

GOLDEN OLDIES

TRIP TO CHAUTAUQUA/MAYVILLE /JAMESTOWN NY

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Transportation by deluxe motor coach
Cruise on the Chautauqua Belle Steamboat
BBQ lunch
Stop at Webbs Candy Factory
Lucy Town Tour
Dinner at Shakespeare's Restaurant and
more...

LAST DAY TO SIGN UP IS FRIDAY, JULY 8

TRIP TO LANCASTER TO SEE "DAVID"

November 9 and 10, 2022

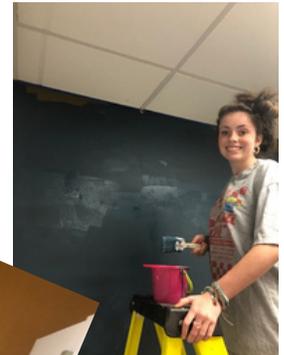
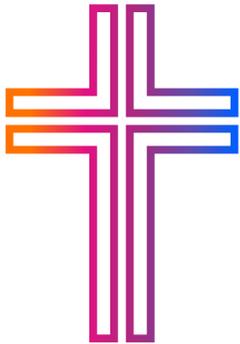
Transportation by deluxe motor coach
Bird in Hand Farmers Market
American Music Theater "Christmas Show"
Dutch Apple Dinner Theater "Singing in the the Rain"
Sight and Sound Theater "David"
and lots more fun activities

LAST DAY TO SIGN UP IS SEPTEMBER 27



BETHANY YOUTH GROUP

Donate a Cross for the Youth Room - The Youth Room is undergoing a renovation and we'd love our Bethany members to help us decorate one of the walls. We are asking for people to donate a cross, any color or material, preferably no bigger than 12 inches high. They do not need to be new. Please put your name on the back and bring to the church office by July 31st.



Ministry Group News continued...

Bethany's Annual Golf Outing



We had a huge success after 44 golfers committed to playing in this years outing on June 25th at Fort Cherry Golf Course. The Bethany Annual Golf Outing was started in 1989 by Rev. John Dykstra and Ron Gastgeb. For 32 years (not hosted during the year of Covid) we have gathered in fellowship and sportsmanship to come together as a mixed group of golfers and non-golfers alike. Pastor Ellen opened us in prayer (some needed it more than others) and we honored both Tom Hayes and Earl Swanson in our introduction. We had the best score of -7 that was won by the Bill Just, Ed Stewart foursome. The day was very HOT; lots of water was consumed at the turn. We all enjoyed seeing the great turnout and YES! We had a women's foursome! Next year we challenge anyone to participate, bring your friends, bring your kids or even your grandkids as this is a special day of fellowship that we look forward to enjoying will well into the future.



The Foreknowledge of God

by Doug Bovard

When we attribute foreknowledge to God, we mean that all things always were, and perpetually remain, under His eyes, so that to His knowledge there is nothing future or past, but all things are present. And they are present in such a way that He not only conceives them through ideas...but He truly looks upon them and discerns them as things placed before Him. - John Calvin

God knows both the micro- and macro-dimensions of the entire universe. He numbers the very hairs of our heads. Not only does He know what we will do before we do it, but He knows all the options...His foreknowledge is perfect and absolute. He is not a great chess player waiting to see what we will do, but knows absolutely what we will do before we do it. Before a word is even formed on our lips, He knows it altogether. - R. C. Sproul

Scripture Readings: Romans 8:29-30; Acts 2:22-24; Gen. 4:1; 1 Kings 1:1-4; Amos 3:2; Matt. 1:25 and 7:23; John 10:14; Acts 2:23; and, 1 Peter 1:1-2

God's foreknowledge has been a misunderstood and unfairly maligned concept. This misunderstanding seems more prevalent today than in the past. Personally, I have held a false understanding of its meaning - but not now! To cover all the false understandings is beyond the scope of this article. However, some false notions of foreknowledge will be disabused. Primarily, this article will focus on defining foreknowledge with support from scripture and, of course, keeping a high view of God. This article should inspire trust and confidence in the One who foreknows His people.

God has never had to look into the future to learn anything - certainly not from us. God is omniscient (all-knowing). He never looks into the future and sees anything He has not already foreordained. He is never surprised or baffled by what happens. Foreknowledge does not mean foresight. Romans 8:29 states, "whom He foreknew" not "what He foresaw". Foreknowledge more accurately refers to God's previous choice to love a certain group of people.

Now let's look at the root word know to better establish the meaning of foreknowledge. The word know means a lot more than cognitive facts. Take your time as you read through these verses. In Genesis 4:1, we can clearly see that the word know in the Bible can mean a loving and intimate relationship. There could have been, but wasn't in 1 Kings 1:1-4. In Amos 3:2, we see God speaking about Israel. Know here means choosing to love in a very distinguishing way. Matt. 1:25 says, "(Joseph) knew her not until she had given birth." This refers to the intimate relationship between husband and wife. Matt. 7:23 "I never knew you." God means here that they never had a relationship. Finally, in John 10:14, Jesus says, "I know my own and my own know me." Jesus is speaking here of an intimate, personal, saving relationship. Simply put, to know means to love.

There are some explicit examples of foreknowledge. Acts 2:23 says Jesus was "delivered up according to the...foreknowledge of God the Father." In 1 Peter 1:1-2 Christians are "elect exiles...according to the foreknowledge of God the Father." Here we see that those who were chosen by the Father, were chosen because of the distinguishing love that the Father had for the elect.

Let's conclude with glorious and loving words from Romans 8:29, "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined..." Here we have clear evidence that those who are predestined, are those whom the Father has loved in eternity past with a distinguishing affection. Foreknowledge is amazing love!

How can God's eternal foreknowledge encourage believers in times of sorrow? Have you known other Christians who don't adhere to the definition of foreknowledge presented here? Do they witness to unbelievers differently? Do they talk about the love of God differently? Since God's foreknowledge is perfect and doesn't change, what motivation do Christians have for evangelism?

JULY 2022



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY:
Mondays – Thursday 9AM – 1PM, Fridays 9AM to Noon**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9AM – PW Seated Workout	2
3 Worship at 8:15am & 10:00am	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Church offices are closed	5 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice	6 10AM – Fellowship of Prayer	7 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA	8 9AM – PW Seated Workout	9 11:30AM – Knitters
10 Worship at 8:15am & 10:00am Afghan Refugee Meeting 11:15AM	11 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	12 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice	13	14 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA	15 9AM – PW Seated Workout	16 FOOD BANK
17 Worship at 8:15am & 10:00am	18 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	19 6:30PM – PW CT Meeting 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice	20	21 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Golden Oldies 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA	22 9AM – PW Seated Workout	23 DIAPER BANK 11:30AM – Knitters
24 Worship at 8:15am & 10:00am	25 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	26 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice	27	28 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA	29 9AM – PW Seated Workout	30
31 Worship at 8:15am & 10:00am	1 7PM – Deacon Meeting 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	2 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice	3 10AM – Fellowship of Prayer	4 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA	5 9AM – PW Seated Workout	6

Mission News

MISSION TEAM SARRIS CANDY SALES FOR JULY

This month's Mission Collection will be benefiting the West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Work Camps (WVMAW). Bethany's Mission Team will be returning to Summerville, WV for their adult mission trip. Proceeds will help with the rising cost of wood and supplies.



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