

NOVEMBER 2022

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church



From our Senior Pastor

Give Thanks and Be With

I have to say that when it comes to all things Thanksgiving, nothing is more wonderful and exciting than an excellently cooked turkey. No doubt, we all have memories of the smells we love while we watch parades and get ready for football games to be watched, and played. We love Turkey Day. But I also have memories of missing one person in the family. Sometimes my Mom, sometimes an Aunt, even an Uncle from time to time. They were missing because they were always checking on "The Bird". Maybe they were basting it every 30 minutes. Maybe they were making sure it wasn't getting too dark. Who knows, but the memory remains. And, so, I suppose I am most thankful these days for digital read thermometers.

I should explain. I remember the first time I got to cook a Turkey for my family at Thanksgiving. I brined it overnight - I have rethought this technique since - patted it dry stuffed the cavity with some onions and sage, and stuck a digital read thermometer into the thickest part of the breast and cooked it at 375° until it reached an internal temperature of 165°. I can remember that it was cooked. I cannot remember if it was good. What I do remember is being able to spend time with my family. No constant checking the bird, no need to wait or check a timer or try and guess how many minutes per pound. Please know that if you are a traditionalist and like to do things this way, no judgment. I just like being able to "set it and forget it." I was able to play football and cards and watch the parade without worry. I could be with my family. These days my thermometer is Bluetooth capable and connects to my phone! This allows for even more *witness*.

Thanksgiving always occurs just before the season of Advent, a season in which we await with anticipation the God who comes to us in Jesus Christ to be with us. This is a theme that is important for the church. The Holidays are an important time, they are indeed Holy Days, but they can only be that fully if we are able to find moments to be with one another as a reflection of God's desire to be with us. It doesn't happen all the time or maybe as much as we would like. Certainly, this not a call to stop gift giving or having family meals! Those things are important, but being with one another matters too. And with the help of a well seasoned turkey and a digital read thermometer it has become a little bit easier to do.

Have a great Turkey Day!

Pastor Brian



THE SO VERY
thankful
INCREDIBLY
grateful
UNBELIEVABLY
blessed
ISSUE

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about our members....

Weddings to celebrate



Liz Suppo and Tyler Skirble were married on
October 7, 2022,

and

Breanna Beltz and Jason Jarvis were married on
October 15, 2022.



CONDOLENCES

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

Randi Shelton, Dolly McCrea and their families, on the death of Randi's step-father, and Dolly's uncle, Paul "Buck" Lafferty, who passed away on September 24, 2022.



Josh, Sara, Amelia and Sadie Sunderlin on the passing of Josh's grandmother, Constance Martin, on October 1, 2022.



Joyce Bartolomeo and family on the passing of her husband, Dick Bartolomeo, on October 16, 2022.



Tom and Peggy Unghajer and family on the passing of Naomi Unghajer on October 17, 2022.



November Birthdays



11/01 Tanner Zissis	
11/01 Grace Rock	
11/03 JaCoby Davis	
11/03 Brandon Dемpe	
11/03 Carl Skerl	
11/04 Kitty Rackley	
11/04 Sammi Berton	
11/04 Sharon Salvini	
11/04 Rocco Matusic	
11/05 Austin Gossic	
11/05 Raymond Browner	11/18 Nancy Hartz
11/05 Phillip Carman	11/19 Alice Montagna
11/05 Sean Carman	11/19 Malia Padula
11/06 Jeanine Rainone	11/20 Hunter Hoffman
11/06 Garnet Mikush	11/21 Taryn Briggs
11/07 Amanda Doty	11/21 Katelyn Gilmore
11/08 Arthur Rutkowski	11/22 Maxwell Hanich
11/08 Katie Regan	11/22 Tawyna Shrewsbury
11/09 Logan Leigh	11/22 Sandra Casciola
11/09 Haley Nicholson	11/22 Carole Aspinall
11/10 Robert Matusic	11/23 Leo Vighetti
11/11 Bonnie Hendershot	11/23 Landon Gossic
11/12 Geri Phillips	11/24 Grace Schneider
11/12 Ava Orosz	11/24 Olivia Goerdт
11/13 Steven Lower	11/25 Michal Barbaryka
11/13 Enzo Franchi	11/25 Jean Roemer
11/13 Andrew Shrewsbury	11/25 Heather Dempster
11/13 Gregory Pitzer	11/26 Brady Kane
11/15 Sydney Niecgorski	11/26 Roman Franchi
11/15 Erica Anderson	11/26 Becky Yanak
11/15 Amy Miklavic	11/26 Melanie Bedner
11/16 Aiden Harding	11/27 Shelly Gastgeb
11/17 Michele Rutkowski	11/28 Antonio DePaoli
11/17 Bill Gray	11/28 Joseph Underwood
11/18 Judy Davidson	11/29 Linda Karns
11/18 Brandon Davis	11/30 Jacob Nelson



From our Associate Pastor

"Listen to your life, see it for the fathomless mystery that it is."
- Frederick Buechner

A friend of Bethany Church, Rev. Sharon Stewart, was here recently to teach about the Spiritual Discipline of Noticing. She shared with me that she read about this practice in the book *Everyday Contemplative: The Way of Prayerful Living* by Roger Owens, a pastor and professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. As we prepare for a busy season of life, full of errands to run, people to visit, cookies to bake, and presents to wrap, I would like to pass on this wonderful and very practical Spiritual Discipline of Noticing.

First, how would you describe your current level of "paying attention" in life? To God? To Others? Second, take a moment to think about what gets in the way of noticing? Finally, think of a few ways that you can pay attention to God and how God is working in you and in your daily life.

If you read Mark 10:46-52, this is a story of Jesus noticing someone. He notices Bartimaeus. Our Lord never ceases to notice us. God never stops watching over us.

Take some time this month to walk through your neighborhood or a nearby park; or do this while you sit at home with the TV off and the phone put away; or even as you run errands, drive to work, or prepare a meal. Pause. What do you notice? What do you smell or hear? What feelings or emotions do you notice: anxiety, gratitude, doubt, joy, fear? Then ask yourself what you may need to let go of and trust God with that day. Take a few minutes to experience God's grace and love, and to feel his peace in the midst. Then, take a moment to reflect on how slowing down to notice can be helpful and encouraging, and how it serves as a reminder of God's all-encompassing love.

Prayers abound,
Pastor Ellen

Mission News



MISSION TEAM SARRIS CANDY SALES FOR NOVEMBER

November's Mission collection will be benefiting Presbyterian Disaster Relief for Florida.
Out of Chaos, HOPE.

PDA is working with affected Presbyteries and international partners to assess the aftermath of Hurricane Ian to offer resources and support. Emergency grants have been disbursed and national response team members are deployed.

From PDA - "As people of faith, we stand ready to partner with Presbyteries, congregations and communities to meet the immediate and long-term needs."

Upcoming Events

November 6, 2022

Neighborhood Prayer Walk

Matt Geppert, President of the South East Asia Prayer Center (SEAPC) and spiritual leader in Pittsburgh will teach a class on the spiritual practice of Prayer Walking as part of our . Matt's team at SEAPC is working to establish and connect a global community of prayer that brings the hope and love of Jesus Christ into the world through education, healthcare, parenting, and micro-economic development. Matt will lead us through the reasons to get involved in the practice of Prayer Walking and will share stories of how the simple act of going, walking and praying has been a powerful tool in nations all over the globe. He will provide us with some steps so that we can lace up our boots and get praying right here in Bridgeville. Church pastors throughout Bridgeville along with congregation members have been invited to join us on this impactful walk through our neighborhood.

November 13, 2022

Bethany MOPS Operation Christmas Child Packing Party



**Good News!
Great Joy!**

Pack a box. Impact a life.

We would **LOVE** for you join us, Bethany's Mother's of Preschoolers - morning group - at our 2nd Bethany MOPS Operation Christmas Child packing party! It's on Sunday, November 13th from 3 - 5:00 PM. Last year we had a blast (children and adults) filling boxes, creating memories, and watching life lessons be taught. This is a

great opportunity for families to come together and help make a child's Christmas one to remember. To find out more information check out their event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/434986565486851/?active>

November 17, 2022

Golden Oldies

Calling all history buffs! This afternoon is all for you!

Bethany's own, Joe Oyler will be hosting a discussion on the History of Fallen Hero's, entitled "Almost Forgotten." The wonderful fellowship and delicious food Golden Oldies is known for will also be served.



November 20, 2022

Woman's Ministry - Family Decorating Day

Following church on Sunday, November 20th, we invite you and your family to help decorate Bethany. New decorations are being purchased! We need lots of hands to help make lite work for the celebration of The New Born King. Please register so that we know who will be joining us:
<https://bethanypresby.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508145>

December 3, 2022

Kid's Night Out: Santa's Workshop

Back by popular demand - Bethany is hosting it's 2nd Kids Night Out at Santa's Workshop!!! Please join us on Saturday, December 3rd from 5:00 - 8:00 PM. Children ages 4+ thru 10 are invited to be dropped off at Bethany to enjoy some Christmas shopping (they will need their own money to purchase gifts), eat some pizza for dinner, and watch an age-appropriate Christmas movie with popcorn and concessions! To Register your children please use this link:
<https://bethanypresby.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508194>

Please consider helping out - we are looking for volunteers to help with this event! Volunteer hours can be earned for youth helpers.

Reach out to Kelly Gilmore or contact the church office if you're able to help!



December 15, 2022

Golden Oldies

Looking to kick off the season? We welcome you to join Christmas Festivities! During this memorable luncheon the BLE Ensemble will be playing "Christmas Music" for all to enjoy! A holiday style meal will be prepared for all to dine on.

December 10, 2022

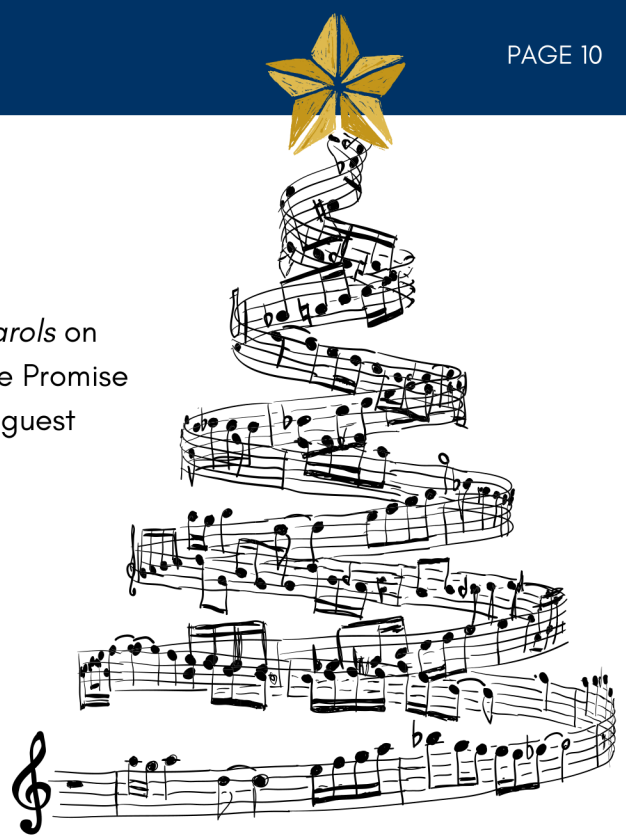
Woman's Ministry - Christmas Gathering



'Woman's Ministry annual Christmas Gathering will be held on Saturday, December 10th from 2 - 4:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. This event will feature a Cookie Exchange and a Favorite Things Exchange. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center for the type of cookie you will be bringing. Once we know how many people will be participating, we'll be in touch with how many cookies to bring. Not sure what a Favorite Things Exchange is? It's LOADS of FUN! Bring 5 of the same items that are *your favorite*, priced \$5.00 or below. Throughout the exchange you'll be able to 'steal' previously exchanged items, learn about the ladies of our church and their special seasonal traditions.

...Music Notes

The choir will celebrate the season with *Advent Lessons and Carols* on Sunday, December 4th during the 10:45 service. The story of the Promise of the Christ Child will be told through scripture and song with guest oboist Renate Sakins.



Divine Virtues

by Doug Bovard

Sometimes when you are searching for something it drops right in your lap.

Lately, I have been in pursuit for... 'What to write about in the November church newsletter...' Then, *Tabletalk's* October addition arrived in the mail and my quest came to an end. Featured in *Tabletalk* was the subject of "Lost Virtues." Virtues that have been marginalized if not flat out forgotten in today's society.

Because virtues come from God, they have deep roots in the Christian church and have formed much of the basis for our Western civilization. Can words be a proxy for attitudes and culture? A study of documents going back 250 years saw a dramatic shift in the use of words in general publications. In 1770, the use of the word virtue far exceeded words like value and morals. This gradually changed over time. In today's lexicon, the use of the word value far exceeds the words virtue and moral. Values, which come from within us, are what is important now. I could go into the origin of this change by elaborating on humanistic religion, expressive individualism, cultural Marxism, pseudo-virtues, etc. but that is not what I want to explore in this series. Instead, let's delve into what the Scriptures teach us about virtues. I'll accomplish that by identifying examples of virtue and embrace the full array of divine virtues exemplified by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Looking ahead, *Honor, Chastity, Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, Justice, Charity, Diligence, Patience, Kindness, Humility and Honesty* are the divine virtues that I aspire to develop in some detail. With the help of the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures, the scholarly writings of others, and your prayers, I hope this series of articles redirects all of us to the blessings, beauty, and practice of divine virtues.



Church Calendar for November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		9AM–PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – Coed Dartball	10AM –Fellowship of Prayer 7PM – Choir 7PM – Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 12PM – Knitters 7PM-Dartball 8PM – AA		11:30AM – Knitters
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
THANK OFFERING Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School 12pm – Prayer Walk	6:45PM – Deacon meeting 7:00 PM– Session Teams 7PM-Body Carpenter Workout	9AM–PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – Coed Dartball 7PM – Budget Meeting	7PM – Choir 7PM – Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 9:15AM - MOPS 12PM – Rotary 12PM – Knitters 7PM– PM MOPS 7PM-Dartball 8PM – AA		11:30AM – Knitters
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
PANCAKE BREAKFAST Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School 3PM – Operation Christmas Child Packing Event	7PM-Body Carpenter Workout 7PM – Session Mtg	9AM–PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 6:30pm – Women's Ministry Mtg 7PM – Coed Dartball	7PM – Choir 7PM – Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 9:15AM - MOPS 12PM – Rotary 12PM – Golden Oldies 12PM – Knitters 7PM-Dartball 8PM – AA		FOOD BANK
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School 11:45AM – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 12:30PM – Christmas Family Decorating Party	7PM-Body Carpenter Workout	9AM–PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – Coed Dartball	7PM – Choir 7PM – Boy Scouts	THANKSGIVING	CHURCH CLOSED	DIAPER BANK 11:30AM – Knitters
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School	7PM-Body Carpenter Workout	9AM–PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – Coed Dartball	7PM – Choir 7PM – Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 12PM – Knitters 7PM-Dartball 8PM – AA		

Construction Junction....



Throughout the season, the roads around Bethany Church will be undergoing numerous phases of new development. It's possible that there will be road and bridge closures. If you are wondering if your route to church will be impacted, please check the Bridgeville and/or South Fayette websites for the latest up to date construction information:

<https://bridgevilleboro.com/>

<https://southfayettepa.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=893>



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