

NOVEMBER 2026

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

As we move deeper into the year and look forward to the season of Advent, I always begin to think about the things that are precious to me and that I sometimes take for granted. I was reminded of this recently while watching clips from Antiques Roadshow on YouTube. If you are unfamiliar with the show, people bring in family heirlooms or works of art they have had for years, or have sometimes just found in the attic, and an expert appraises them. Very often, to the owner's surprise, the appraiser will start to breathe rapidly, or even be moved to tears, at what is in front of them. The price of the object is often astounding. In one clip a man brought in what looked like a nondescript blanket.

It turned out to be one of the earliest surviving examples of Navajo weaving, an American treasure now appraised at more than \$1,500,000. The value was hardly the point. The beauty of the thing itself is what mattered. In Matthew 13 Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to one thing after another, and among them is this: "the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:45-46). The sheer beauty of the thing is worth everything he has. The season we are moving into is a season of great beauty, when the world around us, for a few weeks at least, begins to resemble something like the kingdom of God. What would we pay, what would we give, to lay hold of God's kingdom? Could you even put a price on it? The good news is that being a part of it costs us nothing, not because the pearl is cheap, but because the price has already been paid, and not by us. God pursues us and brings his kingdom into being in Jesus Christ, who sold all that he had to buy it. The church is called, at its best, to be a representation of that kingdom.

In Advent the church anticipates the kingdom of God crashing in to remake creation into something its Maker would recognize as what he intended in the beginning. The church at its best is something God can look at and call "good." This is the gift we are given in Jesus Christ, and this is what we experience in the seasons of great beauty in the church. What a time to be alive in the Lord!

Blessings,
Pastor Brian



FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

What a joy it has been to begin ministry with you all here at Bethany Presbyterian Church! In these first two weeks, I've had the opportunity to attend a presbytery meeting, celebrate baptisms, preach at Bloom, visit with some of our members, connect with others by phone, and begin getting to know the staff. I'm sure there are a few other things I've already managed to forget!

As I look back on these first days, I am amazed by God's faithfulness in this new season.

Something some of you may know about me, and others may not, is that I began playing music in church when I was 12 years old. I started on bass guitar with our church band and moved to guitar when I was 13.

Music and modern worship were a significant part of my life and ministry until the beginning of 2024, when I accepted a call to serve as a designated pastor.

That season was a good one for my family and me. Fernanda and I were able to be together as we navigated the challenges of the immigration process (more on that another time!), Lucas was born, and I had the opportunity to grow and develop new skills in ministry. As my designated term approached its conclusion, I spent time discerning where God was leading me next. I came to believe that God had called me to serve there for a particular season and was now leading me into something new.

During that time, I also stepped away from modern worship. At first, I thought I might welcome the break. I didn't realize how much that part of my life had meant to me until I began to feel its absence. While worship is something we share as a community, we also experience it personally. We each have ways of encountering God that renew us, draw us closer to Christ, and nourish our faith.

It is difficult to put into words what I felt during the Bloom Modern Worship service this past week. There was a sense of familiarity, joy, and renewal that I hadn't realized I needed so much. In many ways, it felt like my soul had been longing for this. As a pastor, I spend much of my time preparing to teach, lead, and guide others in their faith. But I need to be nourished by worship, too. I need those moments when I can simply come before God, join in the singing, and allow my own spirit to be renewed.

Psalms 23 gives us this beautiful image: "You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." In these first weeks at Bethany, I have been reminded of that overflowing goodness and mercy. God was faithful in the previous season, and God is faithful in this one, too.

As the leaves begin to change and the seasons shift around us, perhaps we are reminded that our lives have seasons as well. Some seasons bring growth and new responsibilities; others bring unexpected changes, rest, or opportunities to rediscover something we thought we had left behind. One season does not have to be wrong for another to be right. Sometimes God uses each season to prepare us for the next, and sometimes a new season reminds us of gifts and joys that have been waiting to be rediscovered.

I am grateful for the season that brought me here, and I am grateful for the ways God is already meeting me in this new one. Thank you for the warm welcome you have extended to me and my family. I look forward to continuing to get to know you, worship alongside you, and discover together where God is leading Bethany in the days ahead.

Grace & Peace
-Pastor Justin

MUSIC NOTES FROM NADINA

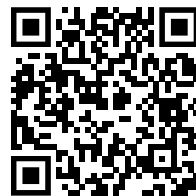
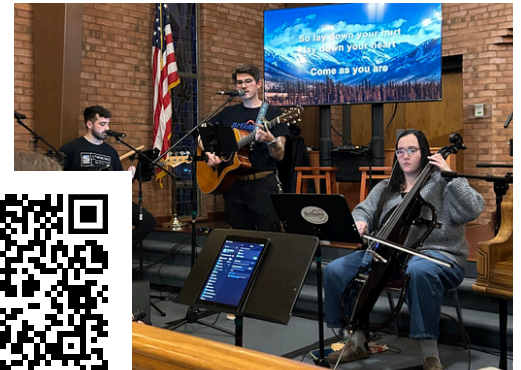
All the fall festivals, the season of harvest, and the season of Thanksgiving bring us all closer together - both indoor and outdoor- for Friendsgivings, large family meals, fire pits and s'mores, spending time admiring God's beautiful creation in the leaves changing....definitely some of my favorite times!

As we draw into the season of Thanksgiving, I look forward to sharing my family meal, based on so many years of traditions. I love thinking about traditions that are passed down, using certain recipes, silverware or dinnerware that are heirlooms, the way the table is set....what a treasure of goodness from our families! It helps me to appreciate and think more about the Last Supper and our Communion Sundays. A special gathering, a time of thanksgiving, a bonding that holds us together in Christian unity, and here at Bethany- a home made Communion bread that I've enjoyed so much, sometimes a few servings a Sunday, haha. It is my understanding that one of our recipes for Communion bread is a recipe from a family church that was used for years- another tradition that is shared now with us.

I am thankful for you, Bethany Presbyterian friends and family. Our time together in music and worship, in community bonding, and especially at the time I am writing this, I am so grateful for the love and support you showed to me in the passing of my Father. So as we give thanks this year, please know that you are all on my heart with GRATITUDE. Thank you for the love you showed to me and my family!

BLOOM MODERN WORSHIP AND CAFE BETHANY IS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH

We will see you on Thursday, November 12th at 6pm for dinner and 7pm for the worship service! Enjoy modern and contemporary worship led by our Bloom musicians! Pastor Justin will be jamming and leading us in a few songs! You can RSVP by filling out the form in the Welcome Center or completing this Google Form by Sunday November 8th!



CANTATA IS SUNDAY DECEMBER 13TH!

Everything is coming together with the guest musicians and all of the music is here- it is time to prepare! (Brand new Cantata to us this year, featuring excerpts from Vivaldi's "Gloria" and Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite"!).



ADULT CHIMES AND HANDBELL TREE

Resuming in November! If you are interested in learning to ring, ding, hit, or hammer a joyful noise in worship - - - please message Nadina for more information about joining us this season.

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES FROM ABBIE

October was full of fall fun for Bethany Youth Group! We had a wonderful pumpkin carving contest at the church, filled with creativity, friendly competition, and plenty of laughs. It's always a joy to see our students come together, build friendships, and make memories along the way!

November has even more exciting things in store! On **November 8th**, we'll be heading to **Urban Air Adventure Park** for an afternoon of adventure, energy, and fun together. Then, on **November 15th**, we'll celebrate **Friendsgiving** with a potluck! Bring your favorite snack, meal, drink, etc. to share! (It does not need to be Thanksgiving themed). We'll have some games and share in the meal together!



As we enter this season of gratitude, we're especially thankful for our students, their families, and our congregation, who continue to support and encourage our youth ministry. Our hope is that Bethany Youth Group will always be a place where students feel welcomed, friendships grow deeper, and faith becomes a meaningful part of everyday life.

Thank you for being part of our journey as we continue to grow together in Jesus. We look forward to all that November will bring!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR BYG

November 1st - Group Night

November 8th - Urban Air Adventure Park

November 15th - Group Night (BYG Friendsgiving!)

November 22nd - Group Night

November 29th - NO BYG - Thanksgiving Break

December 6th - Group Night

December 11th - 13th - Laurelville Mud Weekend!

December 20th - Progressive Dinner

We will not meet December 27th or January 3rd



Upcoming Events

**All events subject to change. Please look on the Bethany website (www.bethanypresby.org/events) for the most up to date calendar of events.*

UPCOMING CHURCH LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

Tuesday, November 10th - Session Teams Meetings
 Tuesday, November 17th - Deacons Meeting
 Tuesday, November 17th - Session Meeting



FRIENDSGIVING ONLINE RSVP

FRIENDSGIVING IS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8TH!

Save the Date! Discipleship Team is hosting the annual Friendsgiving event on Sunday, November 8th. More details to follow, but expect to bring a dish and enjoy the cooking talents of our church family! It's a great time of fellowship, and we will have crafts for the kids this year! We'll see you there! RSVP online or in the Welcome Center by Sunday November 1st.

BLOOM AND CAFE BETHANY - THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12TH

Join us for a wonderful night of fellowship, dinner, and Modern Worship led by our Bloom Musicians! Our Bloom Modern Worship nights have been fulfilling and joyful, and has been a wonderful way to reset in the middle of the week. There will not be one in December!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST HOSTED BY THE BOY SCOUTS - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

The Boy Scouts are hosting their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday November 15th. Please come support the Boy Scouts and enjoy a delicious warm breakfast!

GOLDEN OLDIES LUNCHEON - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

Ready for an afternoon of lunch, fellowship, and entertainment? Join the Golden Oldies on Thursday, November 19th 12pm - 2pm. November's guest is George Gibson who will be singing and playing guitar!

SECRET SISTERS NEWS!

We are starting our Secret Sister operation for the 2027 season and have placed Secret Sister Packets in the Welcome Center. Please pick up one and fill out the questionnaire and place the completed form in the collection bag on the display by **Sunday, November 8th** if you would like to be a part of the Secret Sisters next year. We would love to have you! **December 6th** is our **Reveal Luncheon** at 12:00pm in Fellowship Hall for the 2026 Secret Sisters. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Mishizen at 412-417-3541 or Judy Davidson at 412-343-7530.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - SUNDAY DECEMBER 6TH - 9:30AM

The Discipleship Team is planning a new kind of Christmas Pageant! On Sunday December 6th at 9:30am, join us for a hymn-ful storytelling of The Christmas Story! We are looking for youth readers, singers, and actors.



November Birthdays

Carole Aspinall
 Michal Barbaryka
 Sammi Berton
 Taryn Briggs
 Raymond Browner
 Phillip Carman
 Sean Carman
 Judy Davidson
 Brandon Davis
 JaCoby Davis
 Brandon Dempe
 Heather Dempster

Antonio DePaoli
 Amanda Doty
 Enzo Franchi
 Roman Franchi
 Shelly Gastgeb
 Katelyn Gilmore
 Austin Gossic
 Landon Gossic
 Bill Gray
 Maxwell Hanich
 Aiden Harding
 Bonnie Hendershot
 Brady Kane

Linda Karns
 Logan Leigh
 Steven Lower
 Willa Maggs
 Robert Matusic
 Amy Miklavic
 Garnet Mikush
 Alice Montagna
 Jacob Nelson
 Haley Nicholson
 Sydney Niecgorski
 Ava Orosz
 Malia Padula

Jeanine Rainone
 Katie Regan /
 Jean Roemer
 Sharon Salvini
 Grace Schneider
 Andrew Shrewsbury
 Tawyna Shrewsbury
 Lisa Ann Smith
 Joseph Underwood
 Leo Vighetti
 Becky Yanak
 Tanner Zissis

Where's the date?

In an effort to protect our members' personal information, we will no longer be publishing the dates on our monthly birthday lists in print or online. We thank you for your understanding.



During the **October 17th** Food Bank distribution, **119** families were assisted which included **45** children, **79** adults and **94** elderly.



BETHANY DEACONS BACKPACK DRIVE

The Bethany Deacons are hosting another backpack drive to gift to the Southwood Boy's home. These bags will be gifted to every new admission throughout the 2027 year. We will be collecting donations starting Next Sunday, November 1st until November 29th. You will be supporting the purchasing of the backpack and the essential items we provided them with: socks, towels, toothbrush, shampoo, a Bible and more! All items are purchased and put together by the Deacons. Cash or checks made out to Bethany Presbyterian Church with "backpack" in the memo are accepted. You can drop an envelope with cash or a check in the collection bag on the poster in the Welcome Center, place it in the offering collection plate or give to Edgar Shaffer.

CONDOLENCES

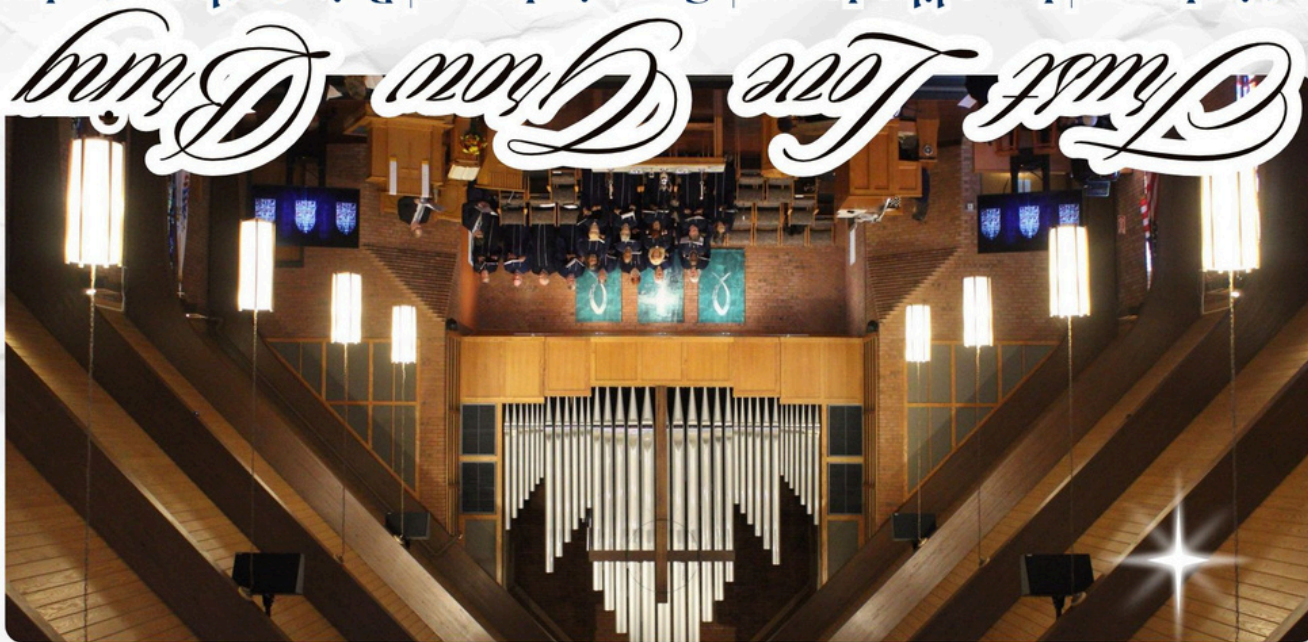
The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Jason and Meagan Smith, Jennifer Smith and Joshua Smith and their families on the passing of Cheryl Smith, their beloved mother and to Mike Suchoza and family on the passing of his beloved sister-in-law, who joined the Church Triumphant on October 9, 2026.



NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 COMMUNION Commitment Sunday 8:15 AM Worship : Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 5:00 PM BYG Group Night	2 9:30 AM Preschool 4:30 PM Body Carpenter Workout 6:00 PM Youth Basketball Practice 6:30 PM Mens Huddle Group	3 10:00 AM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Notes in the Margin 7:00 PM ALANON	4 9:30 AM Preschool 10:00 AM Fellowship of Prayer 11:30 AM Wednesday Knitters 12:00 PM Oldies Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Troop 2 Scouts	5 9:00 AM Quilters 12:00 PM Rotary 6:30 PM Bloom 7:00 PM Dartball 7:30 PM AA	6 9:30 AM Preschool 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch	7
8 8:15 AM Worship : Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 12:00 PM Friendsgiving Lunch 5:00 PM BYG Urban Air	9 9:30 AM Preschool 4:30 PM Body Carpenter Workout 6:00 PM Youth Basketball Practice 6:30 PM Mens Huddle Group	10 10:00 AM Choir Practice 6:45 PM Session Team Meetings 7:00 PM ALANON	11 9:30 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Staff Hand Bell Choir 11:30 AM Wednesday Knitters 6:30 PM Troop 2 Scouts 7:00 PM Choir practice	12 9:00 AM Quilters 9:00 AM MOMco. AM 12:00 PM Rotary 6:00 PM Bethany Cafe 7:00 PM Dartball 7:00 PM MOMco Evening 7:00 PM Modern Worship 7:30 PM AA	13 9:30 AM Preschool 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch	14 11:00 AM Saturday Knitters
15 Pancake Breakfast 8:15 AM Worship : Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 12:00 PM Intercessory Prayer 5:00 PM BYG Friendsgiving	16 9:30 AM Preschool 4:30 PM Body Carpenter Workout 6:00 PM Youth Basketball Practice 6:30 PM Mens Huddle Group	17 10:00 AM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Notes in the Margin 7:00 PM ALANON 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM Session Meeting	18 9:30 AM Staff Hand Bell Choir 10:00 AM Preschool Thanksgiving 11:30 AM Wednesday Knitters 6:30 PM Troop 2 Scouts 7:00 PM Choir practice	19 9:00 AM Quilters 12:00 PM Golden Oldies Luncheon 6:30 PM Bloom 7:00 PM Dartball 7:30 PM AA	20 7:30 AM FOOD BANK 2:00 PM Piano Studio Kids Recital	21
22 8:15 AM Worship : Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 11:45 AM Congregational Meeting 5:00 PM BYG Group Night	23 4:30 PM Body Carpenter Workout 6:00 PM Youth Basketball Practice 6:30 PM Mens Huddle Group	24 10:00 AM Choir Practice 7:00 PM ALANON	25 9:30 AM Staff Hand Bell Choir 11:30 AM Wednesday Knitters 6:30 PM Troop 2 Scouts 6:30 PM Women's Volleyball 7:00 PM Choir practice		27 Offices Closed	28 9:00 AM SUPPLEMENTAL DIAPER BANK 11:00 AM Saturday Knitters
29 1st Sunday of Advent 8:15 AM Worship : Traditional Worship Service 10:45 AM Worship 5:00 PM BYG Group Night	30 4:30 PM Body Carpenter Workout 6:00 PM Youth Basketball Practice 6:30 PM Mens Huddle Group	Dec 1				

Trust in Jesus | Love like Jesus | Grow in Jesus | Bring others to Jesus



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