

OCTOBER 2026

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

We have had a fantastic start to our program year for 2026-27! Sunday School started for all ages and there is excitement flooding the halls of Bethany on Sunday mornings. The children returned to Worship & Wonder and even started the new worship opportunity of Faith & Friends. You'll be able to find reflections of September, and see what's upcoming for the month of October within this Newsletter! Hear from Pastor Brian on Page 2. The Stewardship Team looks forward to a great stewardship season with you on Page 3. Hear about Music and Youth Ministries on pages 4 & 5. Details about upcoming events and mission opportunities are on pages 6-9.

CHANCES TO MEET PASTOR JUSTIN MILLER!

Pastor Justin Miller's first Sunday with us will be Sunday October 4th! Come prepared for a "yinzer" Sunday to not only welcome him to Bethany, but to his new home in the Pittsburgh area! You will also have a chance to hear him preach at our Bloom Modern Worship Service on Thursday October 8th! We are also asking you to complete a Congregation Member Profile so that we can create a binder for Pastor Justin to get to know each of us and put a face to names.

PASTOR SCHEDULES

Starting Monday October 5th, Pastor Brian will return to his schedule of having Monday as his Sabbath day and working Tuesday-Friday. Pastor Justin will be working Monday-Thursday with his Sabbath day being Friday. This ensures that there is a pastor available at Bethany each day of the week, while also ensuring each pastor has a Sabbath day where rest, joy, delight, and God's abundance is embraced.



FROM PASTOR LARRY AND LINDA RUBY

Pastor Larry and Linda Ruby want to say thank you for the wonderful send off, beautiful roses and your generous gifts and encouraging cards and letters. The last year has certainly been one of the most blessed of our journey in ministry together. Please know that we will always remember and cherish our time with all of you. Bethany will always remain in our prayers and we especially pray for Pastor Justin and his family as they begin their journey with you.

FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

At the time of writing the introduction to our October newsletter I am still recovering from the incredible worship service we enjoyed on September 13th as we celebrated the Blessing of Backpacks, commissioning Sunday School Teachers, and of course the year of ministry we experienced with Pastor Larry. After Sundays like that it is easy to wonder, “well now what?”

But that has always been the amazing thing about the God we worship and love and in whom we have our being. There are always wonderful things on the horizon, new vistas of God’s love and grace open up before us. This is why we called September 13th “Kick Off Sunday.” It is the beginning of a truly wonderful season in the life of our church.

In the pages ahead you will be seeing pictures of the month that has just passed and also lots of information about events and worship upcoming in October that will draw us deeper into the life of God and love of Jesus Christ. The first Sunday of October is World Communion Sunday, which has always been special to me. I have always loved the thought I have on that day as we say the Words of Institution that those same words are being spoken around the world in hundreds of languages, “Jesus took bread and broke it and gave it to them...” These words connect us to our own church’s history and to Christians around the world.

October is also the month we set aside to celebrate our staff — and, just as much, the ministry and mission that you carry out with their help. Beginning October 11th and running through November 1st, our stewardship campaign will take four Sundays to look at the people God has given this church, one area of ministry at a time: our work with children and youth, our worship and music, The house which God has given us, and the care we offer one another. Each week you will hear from a member of this congregation about what one of those ministries has meant to them, and you will see our staff doing the work most of us never see — the Wednesday night rehearsal, the youth room on a quiet afternoon, the walk that gets salted before the early service. Paul told the church at Ephesus that God gives pastors and teachers to a congregation “to equip the saints for the work of ministry.” That is what we will be celebrating. Our commitments for 2027 will be brought forward on November 1st, All Saints’ Day, and I hope you will plan now to be here.

Finally, we cannot wait to welcome Justin Miller and his family into the life of Bethany. I am sure you are all as excited as I am to see the ways in which God uses Justin’s gifts and abilities in ministry to teach, and encourage, and care for the congregation. Stop by during October to say hello to Justin and give him a warm Bethany welcome!

Blessings,
Pastor Brian



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

What does it mean to be the church?

At Bethany, our mission statement reminds us of the heart of who we are and what we are called to do: *Trust in Jesus, Love like Jesus, Grow in Jesus, and Bring Others to Jesus.*

This fall, we invite you to join us on a **stewardship journey** as we celebrate the people, ministries, and gifts that help bring this mission to life every day, especially the behind-the-scenes.

Beginning October 11, we will spend four Sundays exploring these four words and the ways they shape our life together as a church.

October 11 – TRUST - Property & Administration

Our ministries begin with trust. Through the faithful work of our Property and Administration team, we are reminded of the importance of stewardship, responsibility, and creating a place where our church family can worship, gather, and serve. Their dedication helps provide a strong foundation for the ministry God has entrusted to us.

October 18 – GROW - Music and Worship

Music has a beautiful way of bringing us closer to God and one another. As we celebrate our Music Team, we will reflect on how worship helps us grow in faith, deepen our relationship with Jesus, and discover new ways to praise God through the gifts we have been given.

October 25 – LOVE - Pastoral Care

To love like Jesus is to show compassion, offer encouragement, and walk alongside one another through every season of life. Our Pastoral Care Team embodies this calling through their ministry of presence, prayer, and care for our congregation and community.

November 1 – BRING - Youth Ministry

Our final Sunday celebrates the ministry of bringing others to Jesus. Through our Youth Ministry, we create opportunities for young people to discover God's love, grow in faith, build meaningful relationships, and share the hope of Christ with others.

As we journey through these four Sundays, we ask that you would prayerfully consider how you could support these, and many other, ministries financially. We are also reminded that stewardship is about more than our financial gifts. It is about offering our time, talents, and resources in response to God's love. Every gift matters, and every person has something meaningful to bring to the life of our church. We invite you to join us each Sunday as we celebrate the ministries that make Bethany special, reflect on how God is calling us to serve and give, and prayerfully consider how we can each take part in this mission.

TOGETHER, LET US TRUST IN JESUS, LOVE LIKE JESUS,
GROW IN JESUS, AND BRING OTHERS TO JESUS.

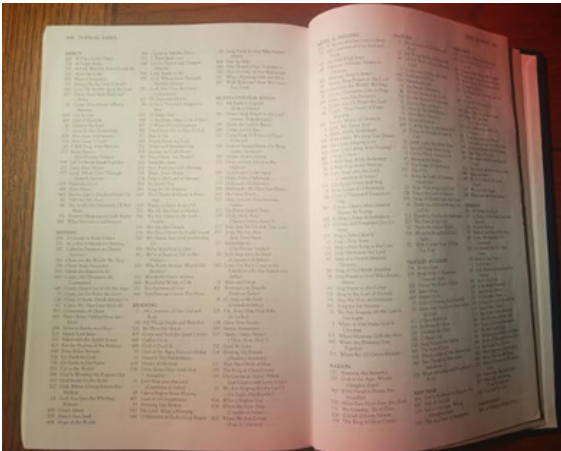
MUSIC NOTES FROM NADINA

October brings all sorts of excitement to worship and music. We will start off with an incredible experience in worship for World Communion; the choir will focus on world music hymns in our worship service.

We also will start our Cantata rehearsals, which is such a joy to prepare with our talented crew here at Bethany! We welcome you to join us, even if you want to only commit to the Cantata portion of the rehearsal- we'd be happy to have you with us!

And Lastly, our other ensembles make their return to rehearsing regularly this month- if you're interested in trying out the adult/youth chime choir or adult/youth ukulele choir, please contact me or Caleb at music@bethanypresby.org or musicassociate@bethanypresby.org

Grace and Peace be with you as you enjoy the falling leaves and season of reflecting on change that the fall seems to stir in each of us. May God lead you in your contemplations and changes that you might be going through!



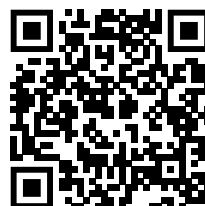
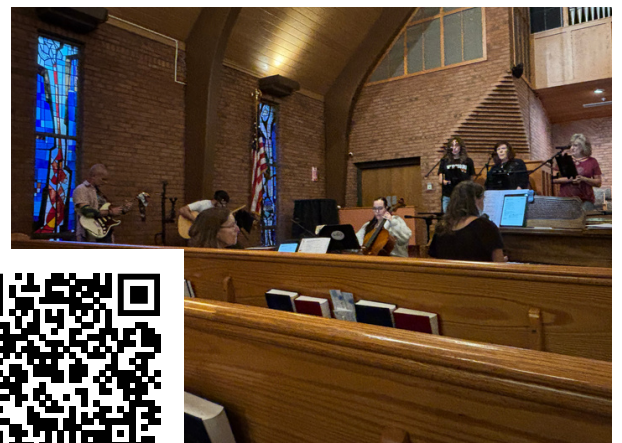
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 4TH

To honor and celebrate with churches worldwide, music ministry will feature music from different cultures again this year. Hoping you can join us to celebrate this amazing feast of unity, grace, and eternal love!

Fun factoid: Did you know our hymnal has an index section of multicultural hymns? Check it out in your hymnal for additional cultural hymns at your fingertips!

BLOOM MODERN WORSHIP AND CAFE BETHANY IS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

We will see you on Thursday, October 8th at 6pm for dinner and 7pm for the worship service! Enjoy modern and contemporary worship led by our Bloom musicians, and a message from Pastor Justin! You can RSVP by filling out the form in the Welcome Center on October 4th or by completing this Google Form!



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES FROM ABBIE

September was a wonderful start to our youth ministry year! We welcomed new faces, introduced worship into our Sunday gatherings for the first time (pictured to the right), tackled an escape room, and enjoyed some meaningful discussions as we continue to grow together in faith and friendship. It has been exciting to see our group come together, and we can't wait to see what God has in store for the months ahead!

October is bringing some fall fun! On October 11th, we'll gather at my house for pumpkin carving and a fire. It's the perfect opportunity to enjoy the season, spend time together, and make some great memories!



Looking ahead, there's still time to sign up for Laurelville Mud Weekend, December 11th–13th! This is always a memorable opportunity for our youth to step away from the busyness of everyday life, build friendships, and grow in their faith. If you haven't signed up yet, be sure to reach out!

As we head into another exciting month, we're grateful for all the ways our youth ministry is growing. Whether you're a familiar face or brand new to the group, there's always a place for you at Bethany Youth Group. We hope to see you soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR BYG

October 4th - Group Night

October 11th - Pumpkin Carving & Fire

October 18th - Group Night

October 25th - Group Night

November 1st - Group Night

November 8th - Outing TBD (will be voted on October 4th)

November 15th - Group Night

November 22nd - Group Night

November 29th - NO BYG - Thanksgiving Break

December 6th - Group Night

December 11th - 13th - Laurelville Mud Weekend!

December 20th - Progressive Dinner (no caroling this year 😊)

WE WILL BE DOING A LOCK-IN
AT THE CHURCH IN JANUARY!
WE WILL SEND OUT A SURVEY
TO FIND WHICH NIGHT WORKS
BEST FOR EVERYONE!

Upcoming Events

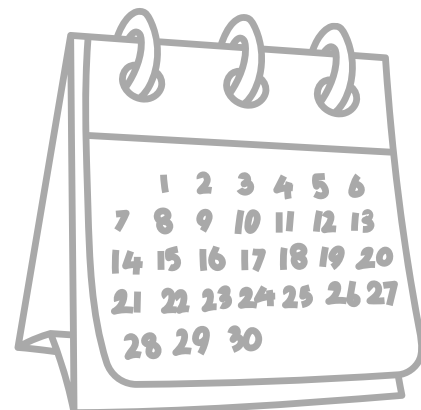
**All events subject to change. Please look on the Bethany website (www.bethanypresby.org/events) for the most up to date calendar of events.*

UPCOMING CHURCH LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 13th - Session Teams Meetings

Tuesday, October 20th - Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, October 27th - Session Meeting



BLOOM AND CAFE BETHANY - THURSDAY OCTOBER 8TH

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. Save the Date for the next one; November 12th! There will not be one in December!

GOLDEN OLDIES LUNCHEON - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

Ready for an afternoon of lunch, fellowship, and entertainment? Join the Golden Oldies on Thursday, October 15th 12pm - 2pm. October's guest is Bethany's very own SINGING SISTERS! You won't want to miss it.



THE CHOSEN SEASON 6 EPISODE 1 VIEWING PARTY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

We have early access to the first episode of Season 6 of The Chosen! The Membership Team is hosting a catered dinner and viewing party in the Welcome Center on Sunday, October 25th! Dinner will be at 6pm and the viewing will start at 7pm.

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 return it to the Church Office by **Sunday, November 8th** if you would like to be a part of the Secret Sisters next year. We would love to have you! Also, please **"Save the Date" of December 6th** for 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.



UPWARD BASKETBALL

Upward Basketball **Registration will open October 1st**. Practices will start on January 11th, and the first game day will be January 23rd! The cost will be \$140.



MOMCO - MORNING GROUP

Hello Mama! Our Thursday morning group is meeting October 8th & 22nd at 9:15am. We will be sharing all things MomCo so the burden to lead for an entire year is not on 1 person. We would love to see you join us! Call Bonnie @ 412-863-2100 or just show up and meet a group of great, supportive moms who get it!

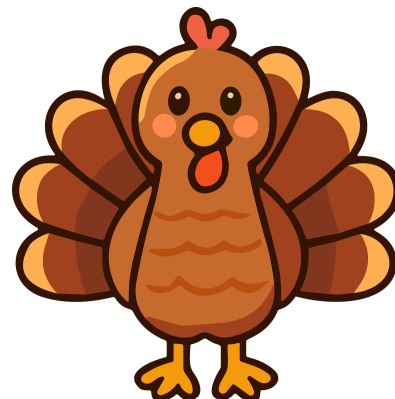


MOMCO - EVENING GROUP

The evening Momco group is going pumpkins! On October 8 from 7 to 8:30 in the youth lounge, the moms will be making this adorable and easy pumpkin craft, enjoying pumpkin desserts, and learning how to adjust to the many seasons of change that moms experience. All moms are welcome, even if you have never come to a Mom Co meeting. It is a great opportunity to refresh, rejuvenate and have good company.

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!



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"!).

Cantata Choir practice will start on October 7, 2026 from 6:45pm – 7:30pm, and each Wednesday following (exception the week of Thanksgiving). Any instrumentalists that would like to share their gifts are welcome! Please see Nadina or email music@bethanypresby.org for more details.

BETHANY MISSION NEWS & UPDATES

ANGELS' PLACE COLLECTION

The Mission Team is going to be collecting "Wish List" items for our Mission Partner, Angels' Place during the month of October. Angels Place is a family cooperative community and home away from home with childcare and early childhood education for low income single parents. Their goal is to provide a clean, safe, fun and comfortable environment where families are free to play, grow and learn. The "Wish List" includes the following: Paper Towels, Paper Plates, Small Dixie Cups, 13 Gallon Kitchen Trash Bags, Hand Soap and Non-perishable snacks for Children. The collection box will be located outside of the nursery!

WE HAVE A NEW CITY MISSION COLLECTION BIN!

The City Mission, one of Bethany's Mission Partners, has installed a new Blue donation collection bin located on the side of the church next to the red shed in front of the extended parking area. They advised that they would be making collections *every Monday*.

COMMUNITY MISSION UPDATES

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

FMSC would like to thank all of the volunteers from our Bethany Congregation that participated in packing meals for starving children around the world on Saturday, September 12th. We had a great turnout from Bethany and hope to increase our number of volunteers next year.

ROTARY COMMUNITY PROJECT

The Rotary of Bridgeville-South Fayette is initiating a Community Service Program for Bridgeville and South Fayette families (limited scope). The Rotary will assess every request; however as they have a limited number of members and limited skills, they would welcome any individuals who would be able to help. If you would like to volunteer, *please contact Bill Paviol at 412-722-3102*. Please keep the Rotary and this Project in your prayers.



Bethany's Mission Team has been busy this summer with many different opportunities to volunteer at Sojourner House and Washington City Mission! They have sorted through clothes, painted tires and refreshed outdoor spaces. All in an effort to impact our surrounding communities! If you would like an to help in future vounteer opportunities, keep an eye on your email and the bulletin for future outings!

October Birthdays

JoAnn Alexy
Bruce Barnhart
Zachary Beattie
Matthew Bizzack
Wanda Chilleo
Alex Conley
Becky Cook
Ronald Coulter
Jessica Dempe
Alan DePaoli
Rachel Dunlap
Layla Edney
Noah Edney
Laurie Edwards
Hannah Farabaugh

Paul Gastgeb
William Gray
Heather Hunter
Janet Jones
Elizabeth Just
Frank Katrin
Nancy Krek
Eva Lacher
Audrieanna Lambert
Robert Lytle
Dawn Manzini
Eleanor McCausland
Donna Miller
Koda Miller
James Mours

Tenley Muraco
Lindsey Myers
Logan North
Gary Phillips
Virginia Platt
Caroline Poiche
Rebecca Quinn
Amy Rush
Chelsea Schultz
Cathy Schulz
Caleb Schwotzer
Lacey Schwotzer
Edward Silassy
Virginia Silassy
Kellie Stewart

Ashley Strouse
Isabella Sysak
Kathryn Teller
Gerrie Turnbull
John Turnbull
Brayden Underwood
Tammy Underwood
Beckham Valentine
Karen Verduci
Alan Witwicki
Henry Young
Hayden 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 **September 19th** Food Bank distribution, **117** families were assisted which included **40** children, **80** adults and **89** elderly.



CONDOLENCES

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to

Connie and Mike Segeleon and family on the passing of Connie's beloved brother, Robert Nolte, who joined the Church Triumphant on August 30, 2026.

Elizabeth Onyabe and her family on the passing of Elizabeth's beloved mother.

Mark Zinger, David Zinger and Steven Zinger and their families on the passing of their mother, Dolores "Dolly" Russell, a beloved member of Bethany, who joined the Church Triumphant on September 19, 2026



October

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 6:30PM – Bloom 7:00PM – Dartball 7:30PM – AA	2	3
4 HERITAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM – Sunday School	5 4:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	6 10AM – Choir Practice 6:30PM – Bible Study 7PM – ALANON	7 10AM-Fellowship of Prayer 11:30AM-Knitters 7PM – Choir 7PM – Troop 2 Scouts	8 9AM – Quilters 9:15AM- Morning MomCo 12PM – Rotary 6PM – Bloom and Café Bethany Catered Dinner 7PM – Evening MomCo 7:00PM – Dartball 7:30PM – AA	9	10 11:30AM – Knitters
11 WORSHIP AT 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM – Sunday School 5PM – BYG Outing	12 4:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	13 10AM – Choir Practice 6:45PM-Session Teams 7PM – ALANON	14 11:30AM-Knitters 7PM – Choir 7PM – Troop 2 Scouts	15 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Golden Oldies 6:30PM – Bloom 7:00PM – Dartball 7:30PM – AA	16 FOOD BANK	17
18 WORSHIP AT 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM – Sunday School 5PM – BYG	19 4:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	20 10AM – Choir Practice 6:30PM – Bible Study 7PM – ALANON 7PM – Deacon Meeting	21 11:30AM-Knitters 7PM – Troop 2 Scouts 7PM – Choir Practice	22 9AM – Quilters 9:15AM -Morning MomCo 12PM – Rotary 6:30PM – Bloom 7:00PM – Dartball 7:30PM – AA	23	24 DIAPER BANK 11:30AM – Knitters
25 WORSHIP AT 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM – Sunday School 5PM – BYG 6PM – The Chosen Dinner & Watch Party	26 4:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	27 10AM – Choir Practice 7PM – Session 7PM – ALANON	28 11:30AM-Knitters 7PM – Troop 2 Scouts 7PM – Choir Practice	29 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 6:30PM – Bloom 7:00PM – Dartball 7:30PM – AA	30	31 HALLOWEEN





SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30AM

WORSHIP
SUNDAYS 8:15AM & 10:45AM



BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
740 Washington Avenue
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Phone: 412-221-5132
Fax: 412-220-9107
office@bethanypresby.org
www.bethanypresby.org

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