



BETHANY ROAD

SEPTEMBER 2026

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Dear Church Family,

Fall has arrived, and if you are like me, you are already missing Summer...although, Fall is my favorite time of year! The kids are in school, the air becomes crisp with the classic fall smells of leaves, pumpkin, and sugar (from all the candy). Don't forget the colors either: bright yellow, deep red, and orange coming together to create a kaleidoscope of beauty all around us.

We have been cruising through our Lord's Prayer series and learning about how we can pray and how Jesus gave us an overall structure for our prayers. Just two weeks ago, we talked about "Give us today our daily bread." This is a reminder to give our physical and spiritual needs to God and that God cares about everything in our lives, both the big and the small. We need our physical needs taken care of, yet we can neglect our spiritual needs if we are not careful. Jesus says this in the Gospel of John:

"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst." (John 6:35)

When we read the Word of God and study it in small groups, and when we listen to sermons about God, we are spiritually fed and we grow. When we serve the people around us who are in need of help, we are spiritually fed. When we praise, worship, and fellowship together, we are spiritually fed.

One way we can encourage each other in fellowship and the study of Scripture is through one of our fall Discipleship Groups. We come together to pray for one another and learn about God. We would love to

(continued on page 2)

see every person at Bethany connect with one of these groups, which is why there are different days, times, and topics to choose from.

- We always have Sunday morning Sunday School available. It is an ideal time to connect if you have kids. We have the nursery and kids' Sunday School at the same time. This class will be studying the Epistle to the Galatians throughout September and October. Pastor Bill will be leading this time.
- On Sunday nights, we have the Sunday Night Gathering. This group will be studying various tools and concepts that help us grow in our faith found in Scripture. We begin the time with snacks and fellowship, followed by worship. Then the kids go with our babysitters, and we close out our time by looking at Scripture. Pastor Bob will be leading this time.
- On Monday nights, we have our In-Home Discipleship Group, studying Romans with Mark Hayes. If you're looking for a warm, friendly, in-home study, then you're in the right place! This is our only in-home group and offers a welcoming atmosphere perfect for meaningful conversation and spiritual growth. Please note: childcare will not be available for this study.
- On Wednesday mornings, we are hosting a women's study on "The Names of God". This study will provide both fellowship and spiritual growth for any woman who desires to attend. We will be meeting at the church in the social room. We will not have childcare for this study. Pat Amsler will be leading this time.

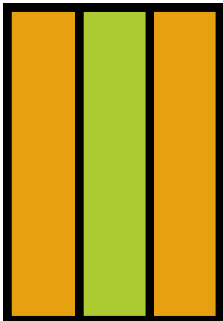
Dates, times, and details for all studies can be found on our website and on the list below. Will you consider joining us for one of these Discipleship Groups? Don't miss this opportunity for fellowship and study that will spiritually feed you!

Much Love,
Pastor Bob

Join a Small Group!

Sunday School Every Sunday 9:15am Studying a Book of the Bible Childcare ☒	Romans Home Study 6:30pm Sept 28th, Oct. 5, 19th, Nov 2nd, 16th, 30th Childcare ☐
Sunday Night Gathering 5:00pm Starting August 30 th Studying tools for growing closer to God. Childcare ☒	Women's Study Wednesdays 9:30am Starting Sept 23 rd Studying the Names of God Childcare ☐





Dear EduNations Family, after more than 12 years of faithful service to EduNations, Isaac Boima and his family will soon begin a new chapter as they relocate to Nigeria.

Isaac first served EduNations as our Financial Officer and later as Program Manager. Throughout his tenure, he has been instrumental in implementing many of the programs and projects that have strengthened our schools and served thousands of students and families across Sierra Leone. His leadership, knowledge, and dedication have made a lasting impact on EduNations, and we are deeply grateful for all that he has contributed over the years.

In Nigeria, Isaac plans to complete his doctorate, while his wife, Josephine, will pursue the completion of her master's degree in social work. We celebrate these exciting opportunities for their family and pray that God will guide and bless them throughout this transition.

Please join us in praying for Isaac, Josephine, and their two boys as they relocate and adjust to life in a new country. We ask for special prayers for their youngest son, Isaiah, who is currently facing some health challenges. Please pray for healing, strength, and peace for Isaiah and for the entire family.

While Isaac's presence at EduNations will be greatly missed, we celebrate his many years of service and the lasting legacy he leaves behind. We wish the Boima family every blessing as they begin this new season.

With gratitude,
Dana Kaltenberger
U.S. Director

If you wish to send Isaac a note of thanks and well wishes, please email isaac@edunations.org by Monday, August 10th.



**THANK YOU
FOR BEING
PART OF
THE VILLAGE**

As we close out another school year, we are grateful for all there is to celebrate: students completing their exams, another year of learning finished, and 119 young people reaching graduation day.

Behind those milestones are teachers, staff, families, and people like you who sponsor students, give generously, pray faithfully, and continue to support the work of EduNations.

Thank you for being part of God's work in Sierra Leone.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Paint & Snack: A Fall Night for Local Moms

Grab a friend and join us for a cozy, creative evening of painting, yummy snacks, cider, and connection!

-Wednesday, September 10 | 6–8 PM

-Guided fall painting led by experienced artist Linda

-Delicious snacks & cider

-Free childcare

-A chance to meet and connect with other local moms

No painting experience needed, just come ready to relax, create, and have a fun night out!

This event is completely FREE, but we'll be accepting donations to bless and support our amazing artist, Linda, for sharing her time and talent with us. Come paint. Come snack. Take a break!



Kids Min training

SEPT 13
11:45AM

KIDS' MIN TRAINING

We're asking all of our Bethany Kids volunteers to join us for a volunteer training after church on Sunday, September 13.

We'll enjoy lunch together, review important Kids Ministry policies, and share some exciting changes and updates for the year ahead.

Your time and commitment to our kids means so much to us. Thank you for serving and helping create a safe, welcoming place for kids to learn about Jesus!

Lunch will be provided.



Men's Shoot

SEPTEMBER 26 @ 9:00 A.M.

COST: \$10 per shooter

What's Included: Lunch, Targets, and Bullets
Rifles are provided or you can bring your own.

Directions to Chuck Kite's farm: From the intersection of W North St and 258. Take 258 N approximately 2.2 miles to the driveway marked with red streamers on the right .



Hello Bethany Church!

I am excited to once again announce the start of our middle school ministry, The Bridge! This group is designed specifically for students in grades 7–9 and will meet for 10 Mondays at 6:30 PM, beginning September 14th.

The Bridge is a place for our middle school students to have fun, build friendships, grow in their faith, and find their place in our youth ministry. As students enter the middle school years, they are at an important stage of life—making new friends, discovering who they are, and beginning to take greater ownership of their faith. We want The Bridge to be a place where they can do all of that in a fun, welcoming, and comfortable environment.

Each week will include food, games and activities, time to hang out with friends, and a short lesson or devotional that helps students connect what they are learning about God to their everyday lives. Most importantly, we want The Bridge to be a place where students know they belong.

Whether your student is already involved in our youth ministry or has never attended before, The Bridge will be great for them. We want to give our 7th–9th graders a space to grow together as their own group, while also helping them feel comfortable and connected as they become part of the larger youth ministry.

We Still Need Volunteers!

To make The Bridge the best experience possible for our students, we are still looking for adults who are willing to volunteer. You do not have to commit to every Monday! Whether you can help every week, once or twice a month, or simply jump in when you are available, we would love to have you be part of it.

If you enjoy working with middle school students, playing games, helping with activities, sharing your faith, or simply being someone students can count on, there is a place for you at The Bridge.

If you are interested in volunteering—or if you have a student in grades 7–9 who would like to be part of The Bridge—please reach out to Micah for more information!

Email: mwojnowski@bethany-presbyterian.org

BETHANY YOUTH

Our September Schedule!

Sept. 6th: Sunday School 9:30 A.M. & Youth Group
6:00 P.M.

Sept. 11th: Youth Movie Night 6 P.M.

Sept. 13th: Sunday School 9:30 A.M. & Youth Group
6:00 P.M.

Sept. 14th: MS Program 6:30 P.M.

Sept. 20th: Sunday School 9:30 A.M. & Youth Group
6:00 P.M.

Sept. 21st: MS Program 6:30 P.M.

Sept. 27th: Sunday School 9:30 A.M. & Youth Group
6:00 P.M.

Sept. 28th: MS Program 6:30 P.M.

STAY THE COURSE

Sunday, August 23, Bethany welcomed Christylee Roose, the Advancement Director for Willow Women's Center, to speak at our service. Christylee brought us updates from Willow. The MOST EXCITING was a picture of many precious babies, and she announced that 591 decisions for life have been made by women who have visited and have been counseled at Willow!! PRAISE GOD for His power and mercy!

After Christylee spoke, our very own Bethany children, led by Evelyn Dickinson, Director of Children's Ministries, sang "MY LIGHTHOUSE" accompanied by our wonderful worship band. The image of a Lighthouse and STAY THE COURSE are the theme for this year's Willow Fundraising Banquet.

I Corinthians 16:13-14 "Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong, do everything in love."

As the sweet children sang and did the hand motions to My Lighthouse, one could not help be reminded that THEY are why we so strongly believe in supporting Willow Women's Center. EVERY BABY deserves the right to be born, be cherished, and someday sing MY LIGHTHOUSE!

Please prayerfully consider attending this year's Willow Women's Center Fund Raising Banquet. There is no cost for the dinner or parking. You will be given an



opportunity to make a donation to the Willow Center. All the information is available on the bulletin board at Bethany.

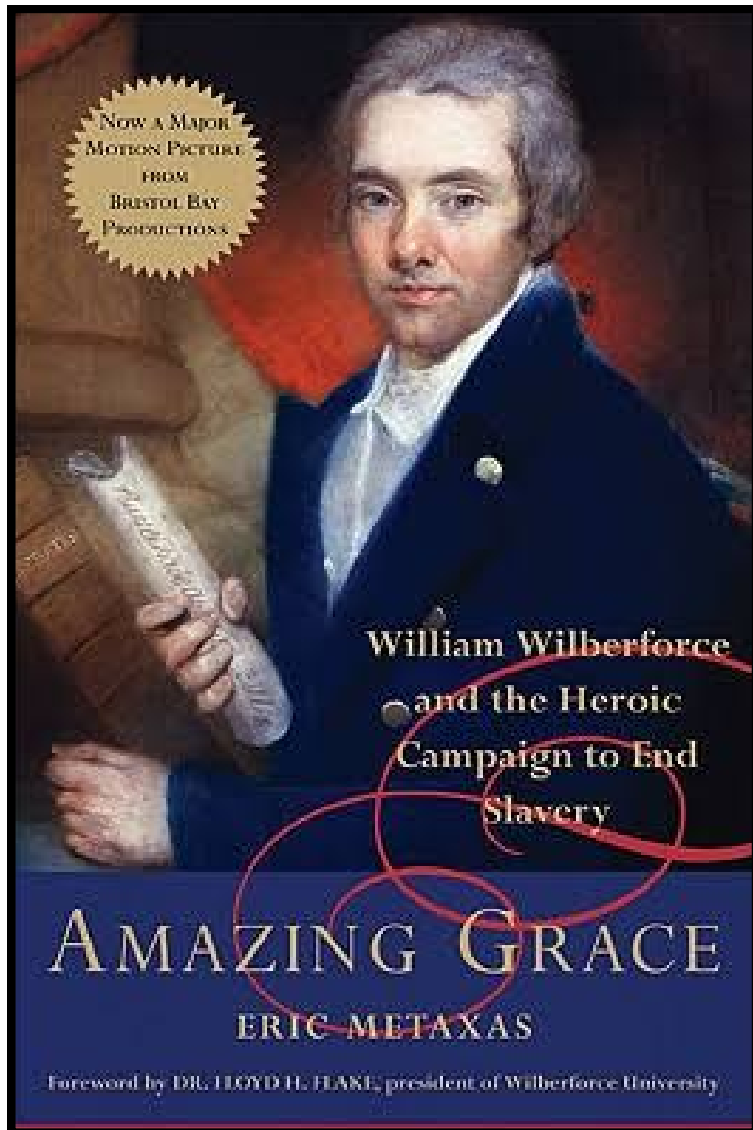
If you are unable to attend but would choose to financially support Willow you may send donations to: Willow Women's Center 295 Kerrwood Dr. Suite 106, P.O. Box 1864, Hermitage, PA 16148.

Most importantly, PLEASE PRAY for the staff and the life saving work they do and the women and men that are lead to call and walk through the doors of Willow.

If you have any questions about Willow or attending the Banquet, please reach out to Mark(724-699-2581) or Pam Muehlman(724-699-2589)

Thank You Bethany Family! BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!

BETHANY CHURCH LIBRARY Monthly Book Highlight



Amazing Grace is about a man who fought to end slavery in England. This book tells the incredible story of William Wilberforce, a Christian, a human rights activist, and member of Congress who spent twenty years of his life working to abolish slavery. His biography is available in our library downstairs outside of the offices.

A New School Year, A New Beginning

There is something exciting about the beginning of a new school year. New notebooks, sharpened pencils, fresh shoes, full backpacks, and the hope that this might be the year everyone actually remembers where they put their homework!

But a new school year is about much more than supplies and schedules. It is a new beginning. For children, teachers, parents, and grandparents, it is a season of new opportunities, new friendships, new challenges, and sometimes a few nervous butterflies.

As a church family, we have the wonderful privilege of praying for our students and teachers as they begin another year. We can pray that our children will be kind when kindness is difficult, courageous when they feel afraid, and wise when they face difficult choices. We can pray for teachers who pour so much of themselves into their students each day. And we can pray for parents and grandparents as they encourage, guide, and occasionally search the house for that missing permission slip!

Most importantly, let us remind our children that God goes with them wherever they go. "For the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9

The classroom may be new. The teacher may be new. The schedule may be new. But God's presence is not new; it is constant.

So as backpacks are filled and school bells begin ringing again, let's send our children and teachers off with more than school supplies. Let's send them with our prayers, our encouragement, and the assurance that their church family is standing behind them.

A new school year is a new beginning, but with God beside us, we never begin alone.

A Prayer for the School Year

Dear Heavenly Father, watch over our children, teachers, administrators, and school staff as they begin this new year. Give them wisdom, patience, courage, and kindness. Keep our students safe, help them make good choices, and remind them that You are always with them. May our schools be places where children learn, grow, and feel valued. In Jesus' name, Amen.



*Tuesday, September 22
6 P.M.*

Come warm your body and heart during a fun evening of soup, fellowship, and encouragement!

Liz Hodgkinson will share an encouraging testimony and devotion. Liz has been a member since 2023, serves as a Deacon, and is on the Mission Committee.

We'll enjoy a variety of delicious soups, along with bread and dessert. You'll also have an opportunity to select and assemble an encouragement card.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Boy Scout Auction

Benefiting Mercer Troop 83
At the Mercer County 4-H Park
Saturday, September 12, 2026
4:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Items Include: new and used merchandise, numerous gift certificates from local businesses, auction baskets, firewood, bales of straw, books, etc.

Food will be available at the concession stand.

Committee Meetings

Worship & Memorial

SEPTEMBER 1

9:00 A.M.

Christian Ed Committee

SEPTEMBER 1

5:00 P.M.

Missions Committee

SEPTEMBER 1

6:30 P.M.

Safety Team

SEPTEMBER 1

6:30 P.M.

Outreach Team

SEPTEMBER 1

6:30 P.M.

Property Meeting

SEPTEMBER 1

7:00 P.M.

Deacons

SEPTEMBER 6

11:45 A.M.

Finance Committee

SEPTEMBER 17

7:00 P.M.

Session

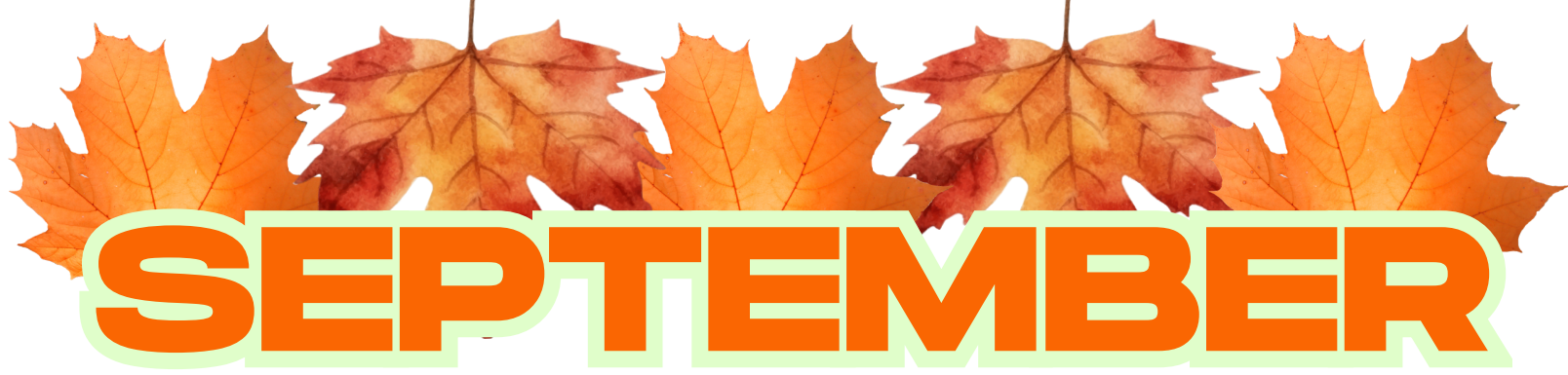
SEPTEMBER 24

6:00 P.M.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through July 2026

Income	\$ 440,992
Expense	\$ 314,201
Difference	\$ 126,791



A SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS

September has a way of reminding us that life is always changing. Summer begins to fade, children head back to school, routines return, and the leaves slowly begin to change. Even though September marks the approach of autumn, it can also be a beautiful reminder that God is always doing something new in our lives.

Sometimes we resist change. We like what is familiar and comfortable. But God often uses new seasons to get our attention, strengthen our faith, and lead us into places we never expected to go.

Isaiah 43:19 says, “Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? What a wonderful promise! We don’t have to be afraid of a new season because God is already there waiting for us.

Perhaps this September you are beginning something new. Maybe you are facing a change in your family, your job, your health, your ministry, or simply your daily routine. You may not know exactly what lies ahead, but you can know Who holds the future.

September also gives us an opportunity to “reset.” We can look at our spiritual lives and ask ourselves some simple questions: Have I been spending enough time with God? Have I been encouraging others? Is there someone who needs a phone call, a prayer, or a helping hand? Am I making room for God to work in my life?

As our schedules become busier again, let’s be careful not to become too busy for the One who gives us every day. So, as September arrives, let’s welcome this new season with open hearts. Let’s trust God with the changes, embrace the opportunities He places before us, and remember that every season has a purpose.

And if September brings cooler temperatures, changing leaves, and shorter days, that’s okay. God’s faithfulness doesn’t change with the seasons.

May this September be a month of fresh faith, renewed hope, and new opportunities to serve the Lord.

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”
Ecclesiastes 3:1



Just for Fun



- Using the wrong medical tool during surgery can be heart wrenching.
- Putting an escalator outside a prison exit is condescending.
- Everyone knows of Karl Marx for his political doctrine but not so much his sister Onya, who invented the starting pistol.
- I had a piece of Carefree Sugarless gum and I was still worried; it never kicked in.
- One time a guy handed me a picture of himself, and he said, "Here's a picture of me when I was younger"...every picture of you is of when you were younger.
- I had a piece of Carefree Sugarless gum and I was still worried; it never kicked in.
- My wife asked for 'something with diamonds' for her next birthday, so I bought her a deck of playing cards.
- I read an article that said it actually takes three sheep to make one sweater and I didn't even know they could knit!
- Every year, hundreds of kids are shipped off to mime school never to be heard from again.
- Together, I can beat schizophrenia.
- I'll never forget my grandpa's heartfelt last words, spokeN directly to me, "Stop shaking the ladder - you idiot".
- I go to the gym so infrequently, I call it the James.
- FOR SALE: Lightly used chewing gum - still in mint condition.
- It's been an odd morning, first I found a hat full of money, then I got chased by a guy with a guitar.





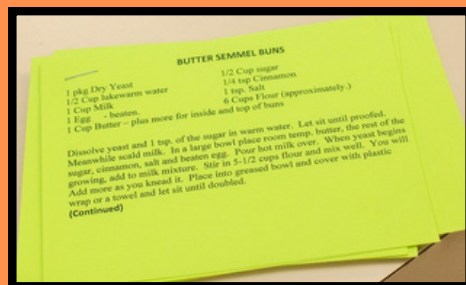
Oh, what a blessing! Our first class started July 14th, and we held a total of four classes on four consecutive Tuesdays. The participants (registered Haven clients) learned hands-on cooking techniques while preparing various foods... from a one-pan main dish, Goop (a versatile dressing), to yeast sweet rolls, and so much more!

The members of Bethany that have volunteered to share their love of cooking and their individual gifts to lead these classes are: Beverly

Gallagher, Mary McElfresh, Pam Muehlman, and Beth Unger. Each woman has their own unique skill set that adds immense benefit to each class, and we are all blessed to work together for God's Glory!



The church kitchen is perfect for the class. We meet as a group (7 or 8 participants) for a welcome and overview of our recipes for the day. We then break into individual groups, with a team leader for each group to prepare that lesson's recipe.



God's fingerprints are all over this exciting program! He took four willing hearts & knit them together and brought men and women from our community to Bethany who wanted to learn more about cooking. God splashed it with a supportive church, seasoned it with the JOY of cookING, stirred it all up, and we have an AMAZING program!

Our participants (they are now our new friends) are so much FUN and extremely appreciative. On any given Tuesday, they receive spices, recipes, cook books and a voluntary opportunity to ask for prayer. Our very own Mary McElfresh designed and hand sewed beautiful cloth baskets filled with helpful kitchen accessories, as a gift for each of our participants. They were given these baskets at their last cooking lesson, and they truly loved them! We believe they are feeling most welcomed and genuinely cared for by Bethany Church and the Haven Program.

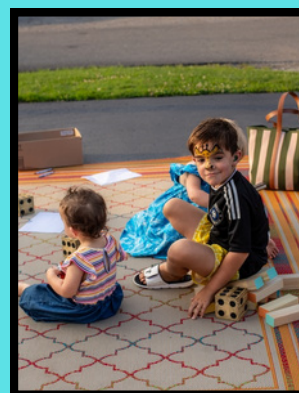
Their last week they were also given the voluntary opportunity to receive another gift... to hear about the GIFT of SALVATION. Praise God for the opportunity to share God's love, answer questions and pray with our new friends. Please be in prayer for the members of this class to accept the gift of salvation and to make Jesus, Lord of their lives. A new class will be starting on Tuesday September 22. We would appreciate prayers for our team as we make plans for future classes and all those that will attend. May all we say and do glorify God, the Author of all good things!





BLOCK PARTY

2026



TWO DEFINITIONS – SAME WORD

Directions: A homonym is a word that sounds the same and is spelled the same but have different meanings. Find the pair of meanings and write the homonym in the center box. Draw lines from each meaning to the box. One is done as an example.

HE GOT UP



ROSE

THE AMOUNT OF BUTTER
YOU MIGHT BUY

A DIRECTION ONE MIGHT TURN

OLIVE OIL IS CREATED
WHEN SUBJECTED TO THIS

TO ATTEMPT TO HIT A BALL

A SIGHTLESS, NOCTURNAL
MAMMAL THAT FLIES

AN INCENDIARY STICK

THE BLOSSOM OF A
FLOWER WITH THORNS

A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

AMOUNT OF CELERY YOU
MIGHT BY

QUEEN ELIZABETH WAS ONE

YOUR PILLOW MIGHT BE
FILLED WITH THIS

A HAMMER IS USED TO DO THIS

FOR EXAMPLE, A TENNIS
CONTEST

REPEATEDLY FOLLOW SOMEONE

YOU MIGHT USE ONE AS A
STRAIGHT-EDGE

A TASTY TREAT FROM SOME PALM TREES

A SPECIAL EVENING WITH
YOUR INAMORATA

DIRECTION A STONE FALLS WHEN DROPPED

TO BE CORRECT

JOURNALISTS MIGHT ALSO BE KNOWN AS
THIS

AN OTTER MIGHT SLIDE
DOWN ONE

A SINGLE PIECE OF GRASS

THE PART OF A KNIFE THAT
CUTS

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 6 9:05 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHURCH 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45 AM DEACON'S MEETING 5:00 PM SUNDAY NIGHT GATHERING 6:00 PM YOUTH GROUP		1 8:00 AM WORSHIP & MEMORIAL 9:00 AM CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE 9:30 AM MISSIONS COMMITTEE 9:30 PM OUTREACH COMMITTEE 10:00 PM SAFETY TEAM 10:00 PM SOCIETY COMMITTEE	2 6:00 PM WORSHIP BAND	3 7:30 AM MEN'S BREAKFAST 9:00 AM PRAYER 12:00 PM ROOTED	4	5
13 9:05 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHURCH 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 5:00 PM SUNDAY NIGHT GATHERING 6:00 PM YOUTH GROUP	7	8	9 6:00 PM WORSHIP BAND 6:30 PM MILITARY PRAYER 7:00 PM WORSHIP & MEMORIAL COMMITTEE	10 9:00 AM PRAYER 12:00 PM ROOTED 6:00 PM MOMS' GROUP	11 6:00 PM YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT	12
20 9:05 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHURCH 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 5:00 PM SUNDAY NIGHT GATHERING 6:00 PM YOUTH GROUP	14 10:00 AM ROOTED MEETING 6:30 PM MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP 6:30 PM PERSONNEL COMMS	15 6:00 PM CLUB COMMITTEE 7:00 PM TROOP COMMS	16 4:30 PM SCOUT FIELD DAY 6:00 PM WORSHIP BAND	17 9:00 AM PRAYER 12:00 PM ROOTED 7:00 PM FINANCE COMMS		19
27 9:05 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHURCH 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 5:00 PM SUNDAY NIGHT GATHERING 6:00 PM YOUTH GROUP	21 6:30 PM MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP	22 10:00 PM COOKING CLASS 6:30 PM MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP	23 9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:00 PM WORSHIP BAND	24 9:00 AM PRAYER 12:00 PM ROOTED 6:00 PM SESSION	25	26 10:00 AM THE HAVEN
27 9:05 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHURCH 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 5:00 PM SUNDAY NIGHT GATHERING 6:00 PM YOUTH GROUP	28 6:30 PM ROMANS HOME STUDY 6:30 PM MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP	29 10:00 PM COOKING CLASS	30 9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:00 PM WORSHIP BAND			

Bethany Presbyterian Church

100W. VenangoStreet

Mercer, PA 16137

Regular Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

(724) 662-4340

Fax: 724-662-1080

Prayer Chain:

bethanyprays@yahoo.com

Web: www.bethany-presbyterian.org



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Elders and Deacons

Elders:



Dave Allen, Steve Amsler, Dan Cameron,
Ken Knechtel, Gary McElfresh, Valerian
Moeller, Earl Runcan, Bob White, Bill
Woodman (Teaching Elder)

Deacons:

Samantha Faloney, Amy Hayes, Liz
Hodgkinson, Sandra Hostetler, Madelin
Huff, Tami Iman, Alex Lindey, Lynda
McQuown, Betsy Rust, Rita Thompson,
Linda Wishart

Bethany Staff

Pastor, Dr. Bob White



Visitation Pastor

Pastor Bill Woodman

Treasurer

Kathleen Daley

Church Administrator

Steve Amsler

Music Director

Mike Peterson

Administrative Asst.

Beverly Crawford

Organist

Dennis Horkey

Financial Secretary

Kim Watson

Pianist

Jane Deitrick

Director of Student Ministries

Micah Wojnowski

Director of Children's Ministries

Evelyn Dickinson