



BETHANY ROAD

MARCH 2026

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Bethany Family,

I have been pondering a question over the last few weeks. It comes in a few different forms, but basically the question is this: What does it look like for Bethany to be outreach-oriented? If we truly want to reach our community, what changes and sacrifices are we going to have to embrace? It is a tough question. There is no area of the church that is not affected by it.

It begins with our mission: we are here to Serve Our Community and Share the Gospel. These are outreach statements. "Outreach" refers to being externally focused as a church...more concerned about reaching our neighborhood than anything else we do. It is important to remember that this outreach focus is why God has placed Bethany in this community in the first place.

This idea of outreach comes directly from the Apostle Paul. We see him approach people and cultures in a way that is focused on them...on what they need and understand. Not to appease them, but to recognize what we must understand about people who are not like us in order to bring them the Gospel.

In Acts 17:16-34, Paul speaks to unbelievers in Athens. They ask him to explain this new message about Jesus. Paul notices an altar to an unknown god. He then proclaims that this "unknown god" is the one true God revealed in Jesus Christ. In this way, he connects with their culture and their spiritual questions. He affirms what he can while still leading them to the truth of the Gospel.

Paul explains his outreach strategy even more clearly in 1 Corinthians 9:22-23: "To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings."

Notice his motivation. It is for the sake of the Gospel and for the joy of seeing people come to know Jesus. There is nothing more exciting than watching a person, or even an entire community, come alive through the work of the Holy Spirit. It is contagious. It is how revival begins.

(continued on page 2)

Now, applying Paul's example to our lives, what does it mean practically to care more about our neighbors than our own preferences? Some examples might include building a playground on church property that is open to the community. We did this a few years ago, and now we regularly see families using it and leaving messages thanking the church. The Haven is meeting real needs in our community and sends a clear message: We love you. We care about you. You are valuable.

We also have other outreach efforts: Mom's Night, summer playdates, and opening our building for a homeschool group, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts. We are inviting people, many of whom do not attend any church, into our space. This helps them feel comfortable with Christians and with the church building long before they ever walk through our doors on a Sunday morning.

Recently, I heard two non-members make encouraging comments about Bethany. One said we are a place that welcomes families. The other said we are a church focused on the community and outreach. This is how our neighborhood sees us. Are you excited to hear that? I am!

And yet, we must continue to double down on this outreach perspective. It is why we are remodeling our offices into a welcome center space. It is why we have made adjustments in how we worship, so we can be more inviting to those who might otherwise struggle to enter our space.

With God's blessing, I truly believe we can experience real revival at Bethany Church and throughout our neighborhood. But it will require something of us. Are you willing to become "all things to all people"? That is what it will take. I am learning this myself, and it is not easy. Will you join me on this journey and ask: What changes and sacrifices do I need to make in order to reach our community? Some may be personal changes in our own lives. Others may be changes in how we think about ministry and church. But if we are willing, God can use us to bring the Gospel to everyone in our community and the blessing that follows will be great.

-Pastor Bob



The Haven has been incredibly blessed in recent months to receive a generous supply of baby items to distribute to families in need. Donations have included diapers, wipes, baby food, personal care items, and formula—allowing us to help bridge the gap for many young families facing financial strain. Through our partnership with the food bank, we received 100 cases of ready-to-use formula. In January, we hosted a pop-up formula distribution where mothers were served directly.

To ensure this blessing reached as many families as possible, I shared the need through social media and contacted local agencies. The Willow Center and New Beginnings in Mercer were able to connect us with parents who could benefit from the additional formula, and Haven volunteers assisted with deliveries. Additionally, mothers reached out personally requesting support, and we met them at the church to provide multiple cases to each family.

This baby ministry, as an extension of The Haven, continues to be a tremendous blessing to families who are struggling with the rising cost of everyday necessities. -Katie Allen





Here is a photo from our Penn West Young Life placement night on Friday, February 13, 2026. We placed 28 new leaders. Most are Grove City College Students. So now we have 87 volunteer leaders and four staff going to thirteen different ministries across Mercer County and Slippery Rock.

Pray for our Mercer leaders:

Mercer Wyldlife (middle school):

Isaiah, Abi, Chase, Caroline, Leah, Emmaline and Carson

Mercer Young Life (high school):

Katie, Bryce, Jenna, Ben, Hannah, Nick and Lily.

YOUNGLIFE

Our Mission:

- Going where kids are and building personal relationships with them.
- Providing fun, adventurous, life-changing experiences.
- Working in community alongside like-minded adults (volunteer leaders, committee members, donors and staff).

planting seeds

grow

celebrating kids

YL younglife

SAVE THE DATE!

04-16-2026

PENN WEST YOUNG LIFE

Fundraising Banquet
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Keystone Events Center
317 Erie St., Grove City, Pa 16127

MARCH FUNNIES

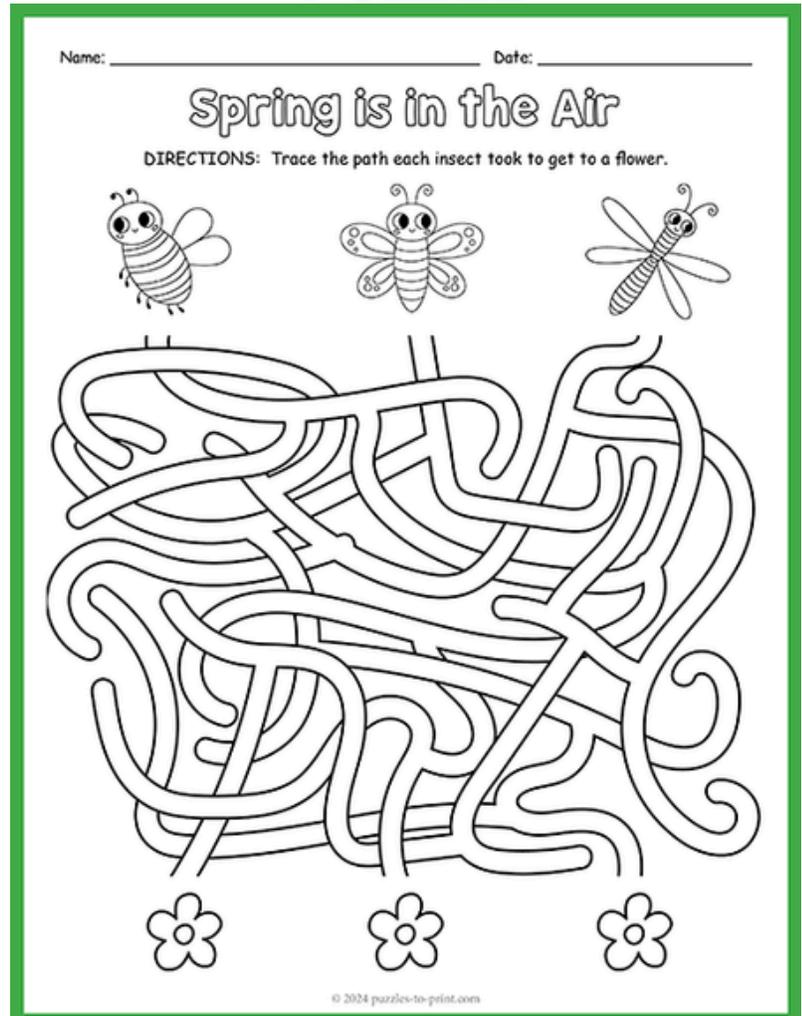
1. I was disappointed to find that Dunkirk wasn't actually a biography of William Shatner.

2. Slowly, Waldo's wife and Mr. San Diego started putting the pieces together.

3. A friend of mine broke up with his girlfriend because she liked Starburst too much - apparently he did not support a woman's right to chews.

4. My wife and I, both being animal trainers in the circus, continue to struggle in our marriage mostly, I feel, because we refuse to talk about the elephant in the room.

A "MAZE" ING PUZZLE



TIMELY THOUGHTS

Measure your words, for in doing so you experience more joy and less sorrow.

When character is placed on a higher plane, sober thought will increase and evil will wane.

Cease minimizing your blessings and exaggerating your misfortunes.

There will be fewer incorrigible children when we have more disciplined parents.

Smiles and frowns cost nothing, but the difference in effect is enormous.

Hasty decisions often bring lifelong regrets.

Advice sought and wisely given will always prove profitable.

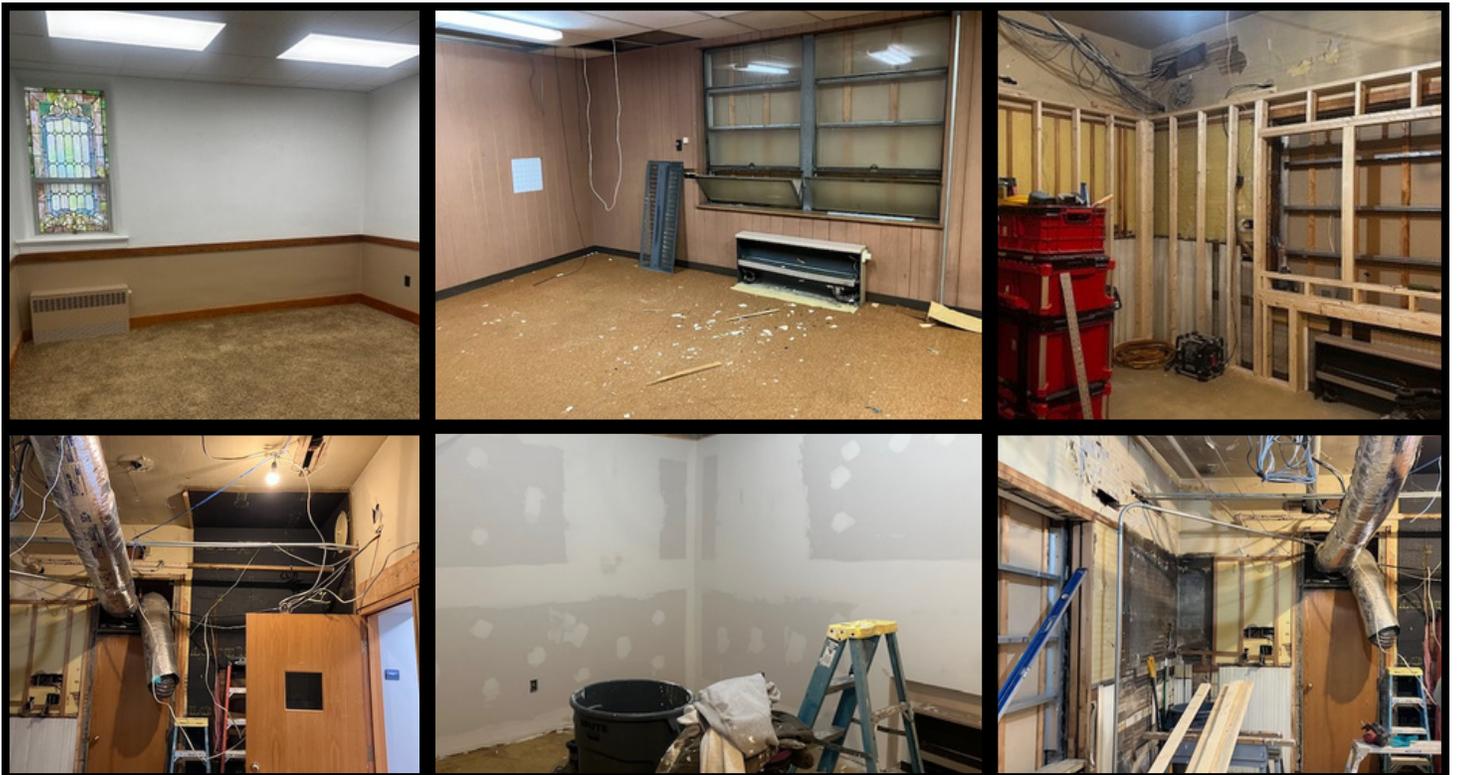
Human conduct reaches its zenith when patterned after Christ.

Salvation is offered to you and me, and all may accept because it's free.

Be tolerant of another's shortcomings. Human perfection is not of this life.

RENOVATIONS HAVE BEGUN!

Renovations have begun for the new administration offices. Clearing out, cleaning up, removing wallpaper, painting, framing in, ripping out, installing new... it's going to be awesome!





SCOUT SUNDAY

On Sunday Feb. 8th we had around 40 visitors as part of our Scout Sunday. We hosted Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Troop 83. The kids volunteered in various ways around church including greeting at the doors, handing out bulletins, and helping with the call to worship and scripture reading. Thank you Bethany Church for giving them a warm welcome!



MARCH

A SEASON OF TURNING TOWARD GOD

March often feels like a month caught between seasons. Winter lingers, yet signs of spring begin to appear—longer days, brighter light, and hints of new life pushing through the cold ground. Spiritually, March mirrors this same tension. It is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal as we journey through Lent and move steadily toward the hope of Easter.

Lent invites us to slow down and turn our hearts toward God with intention. It is not merely a season of giving something up, but a time of making room—room for prayer, for Scripture, for repentance, and for deeper dependence on Christ. Jesus Himself withdrew to quiet places to pray, and Lent reminds us that spiritual growth often begins in stillness and surrender. This season calls us to examine our lives honestly. Are there distractions pulling us away from God? Are there habits, attitudes, or fears that keep us from fully trusting Him? Psalm 51:10 captures the heart of Lent: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” God’s desire is not condemnation, but transformation.

March also encourages us to look outward. As Christ moves toward the cross, His love for others is unmistakable. Lent is an opportunity to practice acts of compassion—serving those in need, extending forgiveness, offering encouragement, and living out our faith in tangible ways. When we fast from self-centeredness and feast on God’s grace, our lives begin to reflect Christ more clearly.

Even in its solemnity, Lent is never without hope. The journey toward the cross is also a journey toward resurrection. Just as the earth begins to awaken in March, God is always at work bringing new life to weary hearts. No matter where we find ourselves spiritually, God meets us with mercy, patience, and unfailing love. As we walk through this month together, may we embrace March as a sacred invitation—a time to pause, reflect, and renew our commitment to follow Christ more faithfully. Let us prepare our hearts, trusting that the God who brings spring from winter will also bring renewal to our souls.

THANK YOU BETHANY FAMILY

To my Bethany Family,

It was a hard January for my family and me. Thank you for all your prayers, cards, and words of encouragement. Not knowing what March will be like, with up coming doctor visits, I know the Holy Spirit will be surrounding us.

Sam, Renee, and Jarrett

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through January 31 2026

Income \$44,505
Expenses \$35,860
Difference \$8,644



FUTURE BLOOD DONOR
HOPE begins with you.

Blood Drive
Rooted Homeschool Coop
Bethany Presbyterian Church

Social Room
100 W Venango St
Mercer

Monday, March 16
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Rooted to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

 Give in March for a \$15 Gift Card by email & successful donations get A1C testing: rcblood.org/March



**LENTEN
LUNCH**
JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY
FOR A MEAL AFTER CHURCH!
FEBRUARY 22ND - MARCH 29TH

**SOUP COOKS NEEDED
FOR MARCH 8TH
LENTEN LUNCH**

MOM'S NIGHT
March 19th 6-8pm

 "Faith in Real Life:
Everyday Rhythms for Busy Moms"

 Breakfast for Dinner

WEST VIRGINIA
Missions Trip



Join Us!!
June 20-27



**RAINFOREST
FALLS**
Exploring The Nature of God

Vacation Bible School
June 15th-19th



BACKPACK PROGRAM

Bethany Church is participating in the "Backpack Program" for Mercer Elementary School. Sixty-one children are in the program. Backpacks are filled and go home with the children on the weekends. Bethany Church participated in packing the backpacks in February and will continue in March.

MARCH 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Lenten Lunch 6:00 PM Youth Group 6:00 PM Sunday Night Gathering	2 6:30 P.M. Romans Home Study	3 5:00 PM Christian Ed. Committee 6:30 PM Missions Committee 6:30 PM Outreach Committee 6:30 PM Safety Team Meeting 7:00 PM Property Team Meeting	4 4:30 PM Cub and Girl Scouts 6:00 PM Worship Band	5 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Thursday Prayer 10:00 AM Holy Land Bible Study 12:00 PM Rooted 6:30 PM Garden Club	6	7
8 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Lenten Lunch Youth Group 6:00 PM Sunday Night Gathering	9 6:30 PM Personnel	10	11 6:00 PM Worship Band 6:30 PM Military Prayer 7:00 PM Worship & Memorial Committee	12 9:00 A.M. Thursday Prayer 10:00 AM Holy Land Bible Study 12:00 PM Rooted	13	14
15 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Lenten Lunch Youth Group 6:00 PM Sunday Night Gathering	16 8:00 A.M. Blood Drive 6:30 PM Romans Home Study	17 6:00 PM Cub Committee 7:00 PM Book Club	18 4:30 P.M. Cub and Girl Scouts 6:00 P.M. Worship Band	19 9:00 AM Thursday Prayer 10:00 AM Holy Land Bible Study 12:00 PM Rooted 6:00 PM MOMS Groups 7:00 PM Finance Committee	20	21
22 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Lenten Lunch Youth Group 6:00 PM Sunday Night Gathering	23	24	25 4:30 PM Pack Night 6:00 PM Worship Band	26 9:00 AM Thursday Prayer 10:00 AM Holy Land Bible Study 12:00 PM Rooted 7:00 PM Session	27	28 10:00 A.M. The Hauen
29 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Lenten Lunch Youth Group 6:00 PM Sunday Night Gathering	30	31				

Bethany Presbyterian Church

100 W. Venango Street

Mercer, PA 16137

Regular Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

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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
Bill Woodman

TREASURER
Kathleen Daley

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR
Steve Amsler

FINANCIAL SEC.
Kim Watson

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.
Beverly Crawford

PIANIST
Jane Deitrick

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES
Micah Wojnowski

ORGANIST
Denny Horkey

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
Evelyn Dickinson