



BETHANY ROAD

OCTOBER 2026

WHAT'S INSIDE



- PASTOR'S LETTER
- OCTOBER ARTICLE
- NIGHT OF SOUP AND ENCOURAGEMENT
- JUMBLED WORDS
- JUST FOR LAUGHS
- COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- FINANCIAL REPORT
- BLOCK PARTY UPDATE
- BETHANY YOUTH
- MONTHLY LIBRARY BOOK HIGHLIGHT
- YOUNG LIFE UPDATE
- WILLOW DINNER
- WYAM
- EDUNATIONS
- OPERATION SHOE BOX
- PAINT AND SNACK
- OCTOBER CALENDAR

Church Family,

It seems like the topic of spiritual warfare is either never talked about or constantly talked about in Christian circles. I confess that I tend to lean toward the “never talk about it” category. When preaching through the Lord’s Prayer, I was convicted over the call Jesus gives us to pray about spiritual warfare in our lives. He calls us to pray for God to protect us from evil and to deliver us from the evil one.

I wonder if you are like me and have not given this much thought before. My mind immediately rushes to demons, possession, and scary, even crazy, stories about Satan, probably because of Hollywood. Although there are some serious Gospel interactions between Jesus and demons, where He casts them out every time... more often than not, at least in our culture, Satan works in the shadows, through hidden ways, to influence us toward sin.

The 20th-century author and theologian C. S. Lewis captures this well in his book The Screwtape Letters. If you have not read it lately, or ever, I suggest picking it up. It is one of those books I suggest reading every five years or so. We have a copy in our library, if you are interested.

In Matthew 4:1–11, with the temptation of Jesus, we see how Satan twists Scripture to tempt Jesus. He fails, but the lesson should stand out to us. Often, the lies of Satan, the original liar, are half-truths. They affirm part of Scripture but confuse us at the same time. Other times, Satan simply plants lies into our heads: “She doesn’t really love me... Everyone is laughing at me... I am not good enough...” lies of this nature.

(continued on page 2)

These lies when fully matured lead us into sin.

In the original temptation of humanity, found in Genesis 3, Satan questions the character of God and pits Adam and Eve against each other and against God through lies. This is another tactic he uses to destroy families and ministries alike. We can become distracted by things that do not really matter in our relationships and miss the deeper call that God has for us.

We will be spending four weeks studying the Armor of God in October. We do not need to fear Satan, but we do need to respect the reality that he exists and can deceive us. Ephesians 6:11 gives us a clear view of this: “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.” Our defense from evil is not some trick, rosary, or holy water, as Hollywood would suggest. Instead, it is to dive deep into who God is and to pursue Him with all our hearts.

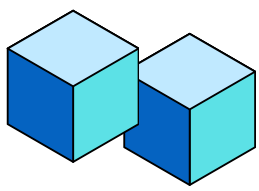
Remember the lessons of Job. Satan can only work within the greater sovereign power of God. God allows Satan to tempt us. He allows the evil of Satan in this world. God is more powerful than Satan in every way. In fact, God created Satan. Scripture is clear that Satan is a fallen angel (Isaiah 14:12–15; Revelation 12:7–9; Ezekiel 28:12–17; and 2 Peter 2:4).

Therefore, if we are going to avoid the traps and snares of Satan, we should put on the armor of God. We should trust and rest in God. Our series on the Armor of God will highlight how to do this!

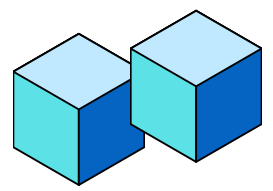
Join us on Sunday mornings starting October 3rd. Why did I feel convicted over the call to pray for protection? Because I realized I rarely do this! I rarely take seriously the ongoing threat of Satan and his demons. Don’t fall into this same trap!! I forget that our battle is not with flesh and blood but a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:12). I have made this change in my life! How about you? Are you taking seriously the power and work of evil in and around your life?

Pastor Bob





Bethany's Annual Block Party



On August 9th, from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M., Bethany's Outreach Team hosted our second annual Community Block Party on the church grounds. As you can see from the photos, everyone had an awesome time enjoying great food and sweet treats, lots of fun and games for the kids, and most importantly, an incredible opportunity to continue building lasting friendships with our Mercer neighbors.

First and foremost, we want to extend a HUGE SHOUT OUT to the 55 Bethany volunteers (20 more than last year) who joyfully gave sacrificially of their time and talents to make Bethany's second Block Party an amazing God-blessed success! THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!

This truly was a beautiful expression of the Bethany Body of Christ hard at work sharing God's love in very tangible ways. We are very "blessed to be a blessing" to our Mercer community.

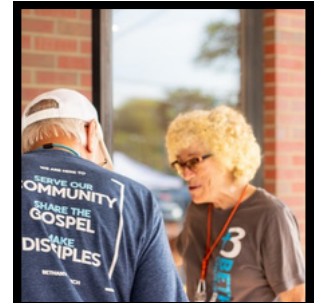
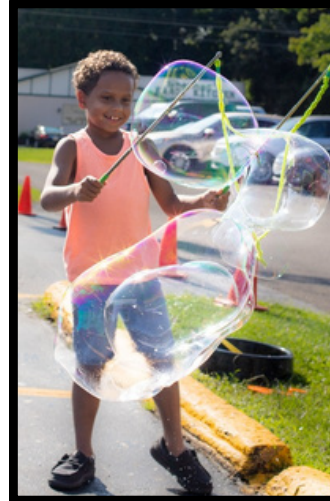
According to more accurate numbers than last year, we welcomed just over 200 people of all ages. Bethany members and guests, some of our youth, and many Mercer neighbors joined the festive party.

The Outreach Team will meet on September 1st to review all comments and suggestions we've received to help us consider improvements for making next year's Block Party an even greater success. We will also talk with Pastor Bob about a date for next years' event and communicate that with everyone as soon as possible to SAVE THE DATE in 2027.

To God be the glory for the GREAT things He has done, is doing, and will continue to do through Bethany Church in the Mercer community.

The Outreach Team: Gloria Podlaski, Linda Wishart, Sue Allen, Katie Allen, and Chrissy Preston.

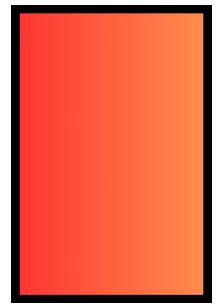
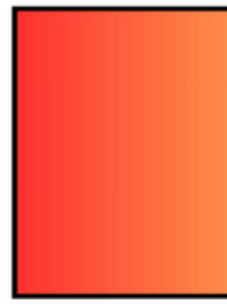
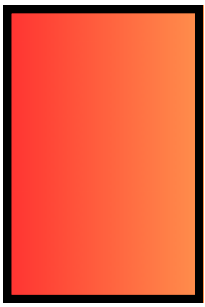
Earl Runcan



A Night of Soup and Encouragement

Soup and Encouragement Night was a heartwarming evening filled with delicious food, meaningful fellowship, and plenty of creativity. Everyone enjoyed the variety of homemade soups, shared uplifting conversation, and had fun making cards to encourage others. One of the evening's most memorable moments came when Liz shared how her coach encouraged her as a young girl by reminding her that she could do anything. Her story touched everyone and served as a beautiful reminder that a few words of encouragement can leave a lasting impact. Debbie Latsko





Linda Davis (left), Instructor

The women of Bethany had a wonderful time painting their Fall masterpieces! Linda Davis was the instructor. Nancy Yesko and Beverly Crawford assisted. Linda did a great job helping the women with step by step instructions. The women also enjoyed a large charcuterie table set up in the next room. Cheeses, meats, and treats were in abundant supply! Every painting was unique and beautiful!



THE LIGHTER SIDE



As a wife, mother and homemaker I like to give my family two choices for dinner every evening - take it or leave it.

The hardest thing to steal from a store is scissors because you're not allowed to run away.

My wife is demanding that we go to counseling due to my obsession with Sylvester Stallone movies...so yea, you could say we're going through a rocky patch.

Dead parakeet for sale, not going cheap.

Police have confirmed that the man who fell from the roof of a night club last evening was not a bouncer.

My therapist says I tend to abandon relationships at the first sign of discord, so I'm probably just going to get a new therapist.

Give a man fish and you'll feed him for a day, teach a man how to fish and he'll flood the internet with pictures no one wants to see.

YWAM DEAF WORLD
— Reaching the Unreached —

YWAM DEAF WORLD
Annual Gathering
FOR LOCAL SUPPORTERS

"United we can go further"

Saturday, September 26, 2026
6:00 – 8:00 pm

The Chapel
in Mercer, PA

Come and hear updates from South Korea LTS and future vision for this coming year!

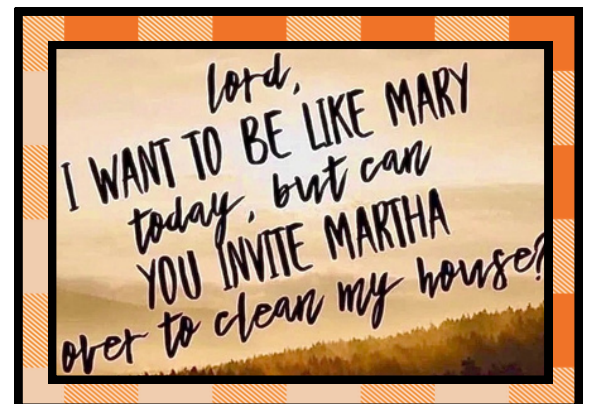
As our locations has changed so has children expectations:
Childcare for 5 years and under will be provided, children 6 and older will be expected to be in service with parents.

Questions, email
info@ywamdeafworld.org

If you are not local, please join us in praying for this event!
We will send out an email update afterwards.

From everywhere to everywhere

DEAF PEOPLE. DISCIPLE-MAKERS IN EVERY NATION.





OCTOBER: SWEATERS, LEAVES, & GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

October has arrived! The month when we wake up freezing, leave the house wearing a sweater, and by lunchtime wonder why we are dressed like we're headed to Alaska.

October is also the month when the leaves put on their annual fashion show. The trees turn red, orange, yellow, and gold...and then, just when we get used to the beautiful scenery, they drop everything in the yard. Apparently, even trees know how to make work for us!

There is something wonderful about this season. The cooler temperatures invite us to slow down a little, enjoy a warm cup of coffee, and appreciate the beauty God has created. Of course, if you are one of those people who enjoys raking leaves, we would be happy to pray for you!

October reminds us that change is a part of God's plan.

The trees let go of their leaves without worrying about what comes next. They simply trust the process. Maybe we could learn something from them.

Sometimes God asks us to let go, too...of worry, fear, disappointment, or things we have been carrying for far too long. When we let go and place those things in His hands, we discover that God is already preparing us for whatever comes next.

So enjoy October! Take a walk, admire the colorful leaves, wear your favorite sweater, enjoy a bowl of soup, and thank God for another beautiful season.

And remember: The leaves may change, the weather may change, and our thermostats may change several times a day—but God never changes!

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."
Hebrews 13:8



JUMBLED WORDS: THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7 and Luke 6:17-49, is a collection of sayings spoken by Jesus that encapsulate His moral teachings. Matthew's version begins with what are called "The Beatitudes"...perhaps one of the most widely quoted sections of the gospels. Test your vocabulary! All eight words below are taken from Matthew 5. Using the clues provided, and the jumbled letters, write the word in the space provided. The first one is done for you.

1. **CLUE: to be made happy**

B L E S S E D
L B S E D S E

4. **CLUE: foretellers of events**

P T S H P O R E

7. **CLUE: someone we love**

E O N R B H G I

2. **CLUE: severely harass**

E P U C R T S E E

5. **CLUE: the quality of having virtue**

E S S U E R G O N T H S I

8. **CLUE: celestial**

E A E L Y V H N

3. **CLUE: commits atrocities**

V O R E I E D L

6. **CLUE: old**

C I T E N A N

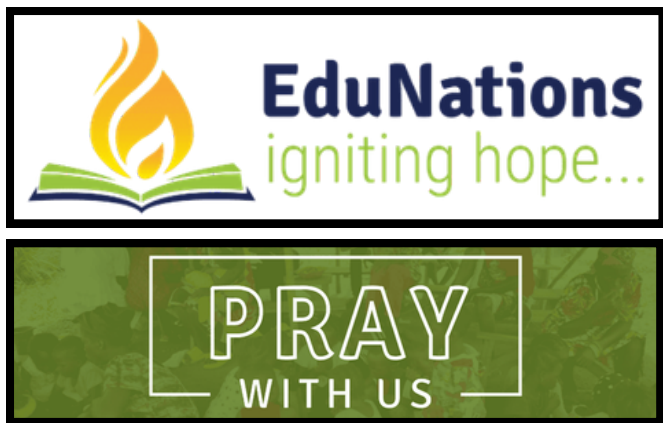
9. **CLUE: to feel deep sorrow**

O R M U N

Answers: 1. Blessed, 2. Persecute, 3. Evil-doer, 4. Prophets, 5. Righteousness, 6. Ancient, 7. Neighbor, 8. Mourn

UPCOMING *events*





We would love for you to come and pray with us on Thursday, October 1 at 8:00 AM (ET) on Zoom (link below).

As our students and staff begin a new school year in Sierra Leone, we're grateful for the opportunity to come together and lift them up in prayer. Together, we'll thank God for His faithfulness and seek His provision and guidance for the ministry of EduNations.

Your prayers are an important part of this ministry and your presence is always an encouragement to us. We hope you'll join us Thursday morning!

ZOOM LINK

EduNations Prayer Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/91275114521?pwd=vIPQQbyfvbFKXFoQfS1rAatwz78XCh.1#success>
 Meeting ID: 912 7511 4521
 Passcode: 308052

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 You are receiving this email because you are subscribed to our mailing list.

Our mailing address is:
 EduNations
 8800 Peebles Road
 Allison Park, PA 15101



This year's Operation Christmas Child Dedication Sunday will be held on Sunday, November 15 during the 10:30 A.M. worship service where we will collect and dedicate all shoeboxes donated by Bethany Church members. The dedication will kick off this year's shoebox collection week!

We at Bethany consider it a privilege and an opportunity to share the Good News of love and saving grace of Jesus Christ through these simple shoeboxes. Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has distributed over 244 million shoebox gifts to children around the world. Bethany Church members and friends have been part of this program for many, many years by donating hundreds of shoeboxes as well as donations towards The Greatest Journey – a 12-week lesson discipleship program for shoebox recipients. Through this program children learn about Jesus Christ, and many have prayed and accepted Him as their Lord and Savior. God is using these children to share the love of Jesus with their families and communities. On our Dedication Sunday you will have an opportunity to donate to this program in addition to the shoeboxes.

Please consider packing a shoebox, including a \$10 donation for shipping, and bringing your shoebox to worship on Sunday, November 15.

We appreciate your prayers for Operation Christmas Child and the children that will receive shoeboxes this year.



STAY THE COURSE

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14



THANK YOU Bethany Church Family for your overwhelming support for Willow Women's Center and the life saving and changing work they believe in and strive to carry out to the Glory of God!

We had thirty-seven members of Bethany and friends sign up to attend the Banquet this year! WOW!

The program was impactful as a young woman shared her testimony about determining at age 14 if she were to become pregnant she would have an abortion (Can you imagine !!) She became pregnant at 18 and did indeed have an abortion. She was told it was just a clump of cells and no big deal....She moved on with her life. Later when she was married and

decided to start a family, the severity and consequences of her earlier decision came to light and she suffered great regret. At one point, she suffered a miscarriage and felt that was God punishing her. She obtained counseling and although she could not change her previous decision, she found peace in Christ. Mandy went on to name her aborted baby Noah and founded a ministry named Noah's Voice. This ministry's mission is to bring hope, healing, and comfort to all women that have experienced abortion, miscarriage, still birth, and infant loss. Through Jesus Christ, there has been redemption and an ongoing commitment to share His Light!

Our groups enjoyed wonderful fellowship, a delicious meal (very generous portions...note the take out boxes) and of course the remarkably delicious cupcakes for dessert!

There was exciting news shared, as on Wednesday night Christylee announced 592 babies had been saved, and by Thursday night the number was 593!

Praise the Lord another choice for LIFE!

Bethany has chosen to STAY THE COURSE along side Willow since before 2018. Please continue to keep this life saving & life changing ministry in your prayers!



**Let us help Willow Women's Center be a
BEACON OF CHRIST'S LIGHT**

to the women of the surrounding communities.

**"Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous,
be strong. DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE."**



BETHANY YOUTH

Our October Schedule!

October 4	Sunday School 9:30 A.M. & Youth Group 6:00 P.M.
October 5	MS Program 6:30 P.M.
October 11	Sunday School 9:30 A.M. & Youth Group 6:00 P.M.
October 12	MS Program at Iron Mill 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
October 18	Sunday School 9:30 A.M. & Youth Group 6:00 P.M.
October 19	MS Program 6:30 P.M.
October 25	Sunday School 9:30 A.M. & Youth Group 6:00 P.M.
October 26	MS Program 6:30 P.M.



Hello Bethany Family,

September has been an exciting and busy month for us in Bethany's Youth Ministry. It was our first month back to school. It was goodbye to our summer schedules of sleeping until we felt like it and doing whatever we wanted, and it was back to being at school by 8:00 A.M. and all the extra-curriculars and homework.

In the youth group, we have started our series on surveying through Genesis. We talked about the creation, the fall, and Cain and Abel. Looking forward to October, we will hit the stories of Noah and the flood, the tower of Babel, and start some of the stories of Abraham.

Similarly in Sunday school, we started a journey into the book of John. We are going slow and taking our time going through what this Gospel says, means, and how it applies to us.

We also started our new middle school program "The Bridge". This is meant to be a place for teens in grades 7th-9th to come, hang out, play games, eat food, connect, and grow together. We started off with 4 teens, and seem to be sitting around that area of 4-5 teens. We plan to have six to eight by the end of the semester. The teens have all given positive feedback, so we look forward to them inviting more and more friends!

"See You At the Pole" was held this past month (September 23rd). This was a time for students to gather around at the school's flagpole and pray together for their school, classes, teachers, administration, and activities. This year's devotion came from Joshua 1:9, reminding us to be strong, courageous, and stand up for our faith within the schools.

We are looking forward to a great October and things to continue on as normal.

Please keep our teens in your prayers as we continue through school. Pray that they stay bold and firm in their faith in a place that might be as accepting of their faith. Pray for our seniors as they go through the struggles of senior year, finishing strong, planning about college/trade school, or going into the workforce. Pray for our younger teens that they get acclimated to high school. Pray for our teens in after-school activities and that at work they stay safe and don't get burnt out.

Micah Wojnowski

BETHANY CHURCH LIBRARY

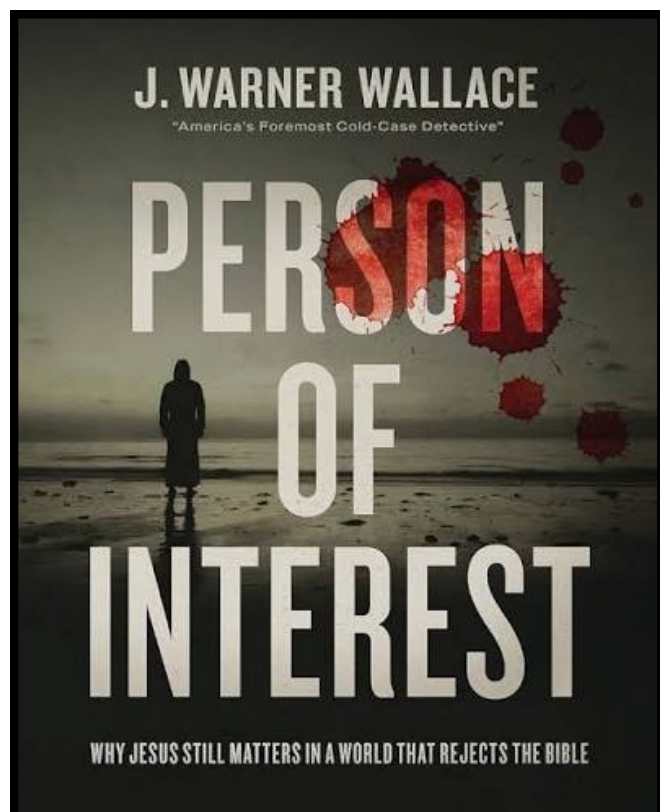
Monthly Book Highlight

PERSON OF INTEREST

(Why Jesus Still Matters in a World
That Rejects the Bible)

By J Warner Wallace

Bethany has this book available in our library. It is a great read to understand how impactful Jesus has been upon our world. The author suggests that we can understand, know, and believe in Jesus even if the New Testament was somehow lost forever. Of course it has not been lost at all but it highlights just how powerful the evidence for Jesus is. Check it out today!



Committee Meetings

Worship & Memorial

OCTOBER 6

9:00 A.M.

Missions Committee

OCTOBER 13

5:00 P.M.

Safety Team

OCTOBER 6

6:30 P.M.

Outreach Team

OCTOBER 6

6:30 P.M.

Property Meeting

OCTOBER 6

7:00 P.M.

Deacons

OCTOBER 4

11:45 A.M.

Finance Committee

OCTOBER 15

7:00 P.M.

Session

OCTOBER 22

6:00 P.M.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through August 2026

Income \$456,283

Expenses \$357,527

Difference \$98,755



PENN WEST YOUNG LIFE **SPORTING** **CLAYS '26**

The Young Life Sporting Clays event was successful in raising about \$20K for Penn West Young Life! We had 67 shooters attend. Even though it was overcast and rained some throughout the day, shooters were able to complete the course and enjoy a BBQ dinner and have fun!



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Silver Bridge





In August, our college leaders had an overnight retreat to regroup and get ready for the school year. Please be praying for them as they attend college full-time and do other activities, as well as, go “all in” with the ministry of Young Life to care for kids in our area and share the love of Jesus with them. We have 13 ministries across Mercer County and Slippery Rock in six school districts. We also had an “All Area Club” at Brandy Spring Park with a paint war. Local Young Life, WyldLife Club, and Campaigners are starting up! If you’d be interested in supporting us by making a snack for the leadership meetings, please contact Jen Wamboldt at 724-813-3795. This is a simple way to get involved and support our ministry. Thank you!



October 2026

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

4

9:35 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHURCH
10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
11:45 AM DEACONS' MEETING
5:00 PM SUN. NIGHT GATHERING
6:00 PM YOUTH GROUP

11

9:35 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHURCH
10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
11:45 AM CONNECTION LUNCH
5:00 PM SUN. NIGHT GATHERING
6:00 PM YOUTH GROUP

18

9:35 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHURCH
10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
11:30 AM MEMBERSHIP CLASS
5:00 PM SUN/NIGHT GATHERING
6:00 PM YOUTH GROUP

25

9:35 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHURCH
10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
11:30 AM MEMBERSHIP CLASS
5:00 PM SUN. NIGHT GATHERING
6:00 PM WORSHIP NIGHT

5

6:30 PM MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM
6:30 PM ROMANS HOME STUDY

12

12:00 PM SENIOR LUNCH
5:00 PM MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM AT IRON MILL
6:30 PM PERSONNEL

19

6:30 PM MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

26

6:30 PM MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

6

9:00 AM WORSHIP & MEM.
10:00 AM COOKING CLASS
6:30 PM OUTREACH COMM.
6:30 PM SAFETY TEAM
7:00 PM PROPERTY COMM.

13

4:30 PM MASTER GARDENERS
5:00 PM MISSION COMMITTEE

20

4:30 PM CUB COMMITTEE
4:30 PM MASTER GARDENERS
7:00 PM BOOK CLUB
7:00 PM TROOP COMMITTEE MEETING

27

4:30 PM MASTER GARDENERS

7

9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
4:30 PM SCOUTS
6:00 PM WORSHIP BAND

14

9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
6:00 PM WORSHIP BAND
6:30 PM MILITARY PRAYER
7:00 PM WORSHIP & MEM.

21

9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
4:30 PM SCOUTS
6:00 PM WORSHIP BAND

28

9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
6:00 PM SCOUTS' CEREMONY
6:00 PM WORSHIP BAND

1

7:30 AM MEN'S BREAKFAST
9:00 AM MORNING PRAYER
6:00 PM FAMILY FUN NIGHT

8

9:00 AM MORNING PRAYER

15

9:00 AM MORNING PRAYER
12:00 PM ROOTED H.S.
6:00 PM MOMS' GROUP
7:00 PM FINANCE COMM.

22

9:00 AM MORNING PRAYER
12:00 PM ROOTED H.S.
6:00 PM SESSION

29

9:00 AM MORNING PRAYER
12:00 PM ROOTED H.S.

2

9

16

23

30

3

10

17

8:30 AM WOMEN'S FALL BRUNCH
4:00 PM CHILI COOKOFF

24

10:00 AM THE HAVEN

31

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