

Committee Meetings

- Deacons
October 2 after church
- Safety Team
October 4 at 6:00 p.m.
- Property
October 4 at 7:00 p.m.
- Christian Ed. Meeting
October 10 at 6:30 p.m.
- Outreach
October 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- Worship & Memorials
October 11 at 7:00 p.m.
- Finance
October 20 at 7:00 p.m.
- Session
October 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Bob White Completes Ordination Exams

On September 17th, the 43rd Stated Presbytery Meeting occurred at Seneca Hills Bible Camp. Our Presbytery is called Presbytery of the Alleghenies and includes congregations from MD, NY, OH, and PA.

There were five candidates for examination; among them was our Pastor Bob. We are glad to report that all five candidates, including Pastor Bob, passed the examination and voting. Congratulations!!



The Presbytery also celebrated Bob Stauffer by having three people tell about their time with him and how he inspired them. Among them were Jon D'Angelo and Gary Koerth, the pastor from Hope for Renewal in the Youngstown area. Hope for Renewal had petitioned to become a Mission Church which the Presbytery approved.

Last but not least, we will have a change in the upcoming year in how churches will support the work on the Presbytery and national level, including World Outreach. Starting in 2023, Percentage-of-Income is replacing the Per-Member Asking (in the PCUSA, it was called Per Capita) calculation. In the past, Bethany Church submitted a fixed amount per member on active roll to the Presbytery and General Assembly. Now, this amount is calculated as 1% of member giving to Bethany. Only member contributions, not rent, not interest, or anything else.

Congratulations again to Pastor Bob for passing the examination.

Bethany Family,

Fall is upon us. It seems like just yesterday my family and I were moving into our house and visiting the church for the first time. We are excited for the future of Bethany Church and now with my official ordination behind me we can begin to focus on that future. I wanted to take a few minutes and help everyone understand the reasons behind the Bible change in the pews.

These new English Standard Bibles (ESV) are being purchased for a variety of reasons. The first reason is simply because it will make everybody's job easier when preparing for the service each week. I can coordinate with the music team, technology team, and elder prayer coordinator without worrying about which version of scripture they might be using. This change will allow people to follow my sermon slides exactly because the slides will match the new ESV in the pews.

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The second reason we are moving to the ESV Bibles is because the old NIV (1984 version) is very hard to find in print and even harder to find online. Which means finding replacement Bibles is a problem. This is because the publishers of the NIV want everyone to buy the new version. They updated the translation in 2011. This is logical of course. When you retranslate and update something you are going to want everyone to use the updated version. The assumption is that the updated version is better. This leads us into our third and most important reason for changing our Bibles.

This third reason is that the ESV Bible is a better translation than the NIV. Now the ESV is also the standard Bible used in many EPC churches. There are three basic categories of Bibles. Word for word translations, thought for thought, and paraphrase. All three categories serve their place and are worth reading. A paraphrase Bible like "The Message" or "NLT" are very helpful in that it is going to be the simplest and shortest version of the Bible you can pick up. The goal of a paraphrase Bible is to summarize the basic ideas of scripture and make it extremely understandable. This has great value. The downside of the paraphrase Bible is that it also has a high level of interpretation that must be done in order to summarize sections of the Bible. No human or teams of humans will translate the Bible perfectly. Therefore, I recommend only using these types of Bibles as devotionals or references when trying to get another perspective on a section of scripture.

Thought for thought translations are the next level up of bible translations. The NIV is in this category. This type of Bible tries to accurately translate not every word but instead every thought of the Bible. They sacrifice exact words for cultural context and clarity. These Bibles are more readable than some Bibles for this reason. These translations will sometimes change words simply because they feel it is more accurate to what was trying to be said. NIV is a great example of this. If you read Psalm 1 in the new NIV It changes the word man to person. This might not sound like a big deal but it can be a slippery slope when you start changing the words of the Bible because you think you know better than God. This type of translation also has a high level of

interpretation that must happen which will leave room for bad interpretation.

I claim that the ESV is a better translation. This is subjective to a degree based on what you value. The ESV is a word for word translation. Which means that the translators will sacrifice readability and clarity in order to stay as accurate to the original language as they can. For all translations, work has some level of interpretation. This cannot be avoided. This should not concern us because all of our English Bibles accurately capture the heart of Gospel and basic theology. Yet Jesus himself says that the very letters and lines of the Scripture are inspired. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished (Matthew 5:17-18)." I therefore do not like a translation that either summarizes or changes the words of scripture. Even if there is seemingly decent reasons, it does not justify changing the Word of God. If God wrote "man" in scripture then we should not replace it with "person". The implication of the translator or team of translators is that they know better and have the right to edit the Word of God. I do not believe this is the case. As Evangelical Presbyterians we hold a very high view of scripture. Scripture is inspired, infallible, and inerrant. If we truly believe this then changing scripture for any reason is a wrong pursuit. There are strict warnings in scripture to anyone who takes away or adds to scripture.

When we add up these various reasons it is logical that Session decided to move to the ESV. Now I am not saying that everyone should replace your Bible that is not ESV. I still have the NIV, I still use the Message at times. They have value. For someone who has memorized dozen of verses in the NIV it might not be practical to change to the ESV. Each of you will need to make your own decision. If you still have questions about why we are changing Bibles or about translations in general please feel free to reach out to me.

Pastor Bob

October Mission Partner

CAFÉ OUTREACH MINISTRY

We have been blessed to be able to offer the residents of our neighborhood high end quality brewed coffee and specialty coffee drinks and delicious food that ninety percent is homemade and prepared in the Glenwood Grounds kitchen at a price that affordable to those from our community.



Our menu includes homemade jumbo blueberry and banana muffins, apple and sweet potato pie, brownies, cookies, bread pudding, cinnamon rolls and two breakfast frittatas. In the last few months, we added homemade soups and grilled cheese that are extremely well received. Soon we will be adding grilled coney dogs and a lunch salad. We have

also been blessed with residents of our neighborhood making their favorite recipe in our kitchen to serve at the café. In addition, local art has made the café extremely appealing to all who come in.

The ministry that is happening at the café has already exceeded our expectations. There is literally not a day that goes by without moments for prayer, sharing a crisis, sharing Gods Word and God conversations. We have been blessed to have people from all walks of life come through our doors. All greeted with the love of Christ and with dignity and joy. The fact that we have a church that meets at the cafe on Sundays comes up often. There are too many awesome stories to list them all in this newsletter. Please plan to come for a visit and experience what God is doing on the South Side of Youngstown.

HOPE FOR RENEWAL

2906 Glenwood Ave
Youngstown OH 44511
330-550-9506

e-mail: hope4rnatural@gmail.com



PLAYGROUND

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PICNIC

In June we started our sixth year of weekly summer picnics at the Glenwood Playground. Each year we have been blessed to serve a meal and also meet and fellowship with children and adults from our neighborhood, always serving and accepting and gathering in the love of Christ.



WORSHIPING COMMUNITY

Hope For Renewal Church Plant started to meet for Sunday worship in November of 2019. It has been awesome to finally meet in our new facility. Our structure of worship includes a Call to Worship, Praise, Prayer and the proclamation of God's Word and ends with sharing a common meal together. In August we started a new preaching series on the Ten Commandments. We have been challenged by the commands of God and how we are to live our lives as believers yet stress the grace and love of God in our lives as we strive to be more Christ like each day.

Many of our church family face difficult challenges each day and as a church we strive to help meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs in each precious life that God has given to us. Sunday worship attendance is usually 15 – 28 people.



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As a part of our church, you have free access to +20,000 biblical videos for adults, youth, and kids—now streaming on your favorite device!

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Many of you already have a **RightNow Media** account through Bethany but if you do not, it is free to you. Just contact the office and we will send you a link. This is a great resource for all kinds of Christian content.

World Communion Sunday

Come to the celebration of the Lord's supper on Sunday, October 2, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. Bethany EPC will be united with other Christians around the world as together we break the bread and partake of the cup as a lasting remembrance of Jesus' and His loving sacrifice.

World Communion Sunday began at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1933. The Rev. Hugh Thomson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian Churches, regardless of denomination. Rev. Kerr appropriately chose the sacrament of Holy Communion to symbolize this unity. In 1936, for the first time, the first Sunday in October was celebrated in Presbyterian churches in the United States and overseas. The key word for World Communion Sunday is communion, or unity. It is a day when we mark the almost universal Christian practice of breaking the bread with one another and remembering both the night of Jesus' betrayal – when Jesus instituted what we now call the Lord's Supper as a lasting remembrance – and of Jesus' sacrifice.

Young Life Sporting Clays Fundraiser

Bethany members had a great time shooting, despite the rain at the Young Life Sporting Clays fundraiser on September 11th. The Young Life crew was there and a fun time was had by all.



Willow Women's Center 2022 Banquet



Please join us for an evening filled with JOY, INSPIRATION, GOOD FOOD and SWEET FELLOWSHIP on Wednesday, October 5th or Thursday, October 6th (both nights are the same).

Fellowship begins at 6:30 p.m., dinner and program at 7:00 p.m. at the Avalon at Buhl Park.

For further details call Pam Muehlman 724-699-2589 or

Nancy Heckathorn 724-748-3069.

There will be a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center.

TITHE & OFFERING GIVING OPTIONS

Bethany is very blessed to have faithful givers and we appreciate and thank you.

We want to make you aware of
the various ways you may continue to support Bethany and its ministries.

Worship Service

Cash or checks are accepted in the offering boxes at each worship service. You may also drop your giving in the slot across from the church office or mail it to the church. NOTE: Please let Beverly Gallagher know if you would like to have personal weekly giving envelopes, or if you currently get envelopes but no longer care to receive them (724-269-7155).



Automatic Bank Draws

You can work with your bank or financial institution to have a certain amount automatically sent regularly to the church on a certain date. There is generally no fee to you or to the church.

Online Giving

You can set up one-time or regular giving by going to the Bethany website and clicking "GIVE" at the top of the page. As you scroll down you will see a donation form and the option of setting up a giving account.

Qualified Charitable Distributions

If you are required to withdraw funds monthly or annually from an IRA, you can request your financial institution to make all or a portion of the funds payable to Bethany Presbyterian Church and mailed there if you prefer. Any funds paid directly to the church, or a charitable organization do not count towards your annual income and therefore will not be taxed.

Operation Christmas Child

It's not too soon to start praying for the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box collections. As you are doing your 'back-to-school' shopping it would be a good time to think about your shoe boxes. Start now collecting exciting things for the children that will receive your Christmas shoebox.



This year's Operation Christmas Child Dedication Sunday will be held on November 20th. During the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service we will collect and dedicate all the shoeboxes collected. 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 198 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, include a \$10 donation for shipping, then bring to Worship on Sunday, November 20th. If you are unable to shop and would like to participate you may pack a shoebox online. Visit our website at www.bethany-presbyterian.org and follow the link to build a shoebox (The cost is \$25).

We appreciate your prayers for Operation Christmas Child and the children that will receive shoeboxes this year. If you are interested and would like to volunteer to help pack the shoeboxes after Worship on November 20th, please let me know.

Sincerely,

John Inman





October is Pastor appreciation month. Please let Pastor Bob, Pastor Bill and our worship leaders know that they are appreciated by sending them a card and/or gift with words of encouragement. We want to thank all the staff and volunteers for all their time, energy, and commitment to the pursuit of the mission that we wish to accomplish at Bethany Church.

Rev. Robert White
550 N. Maple Street
Mercer, PA 16137

Rev. Bill Woodman
48 Staffordshire Court
Grove City, PA 16127

Josiah Forton
1312 Smithfield St. Apt. 4
East Liverpool, OH 43920

Jon & Ashley D'Angelo
114 W. Venango Street
Mercer, PA 16137

Attention All Seniors

The Senior Luncheon will be held on Saturday, October 15th at noon. The program will consist of devotions, recognizing our 50 year members, fun facts of autumn, and entertainment. There will also be great food. Please call the church office at 734-662-4340 to RSVP by Wednesday, October 12th. Hope to see all of you "Seniors" there!



Bethany's 2022 Financial Statement through September

Income \$383,249

Expenses \$322,807

Difference \$60,442

From the Finance Committee:

If anyone is interested in learning more about our Endowment Fund and how it is administered, Michael Bonnett will be attending the Finance Committee meeting on October 20 at 7:00 p.m. Michael is the Investment Advisor of the fund and will have a report and will answer any question folks have about the fund.

MOPS (moms of preschoolers) launched Thursday, September 22, 2022.

What is MOPS? A ministry for young/seasoned moms from all walks of life to meet together, grow together, learn about Jesus together and be there for each other in the good times and bad times.

If you have any questions or if you would like to get involved with this ministry in any capacity, please talk to Ashley D'Angelo or Becky White.

What we need:

-help in childcare

-mentor moms (women who are seasoned in life and want to pour into the lives of young moms)

-prayer moving forward, specifically for the ministry as a whole, the steering team that will be leading the moms, the people working with the kids, and most importantly that God grows His kingdom through this ministry at Bethany Church.

*There will be sign up at the welcome center/coffee counter.



UPDATE!

** TTT is 4 weeks in October, on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7:30pm. We need small group leaders and extra volunteers, if interested please see Ashley D'Angelo.

** We launched pre-AMPED, which is a new ministry at Bethany Church for 4th and 5th graders, this ministry will bridge a gap between TTT and AMPED (our youth group). Pre-AMPED will be the 3rd Friday of the month (Sept-June 2023) from 6-8pm in the social room of the church.

** Our children's area is getting updated, be on the lookout for a makeover of the kid's hallway-more to come in the near future!!

** We are growing, children's church and the nursery are growing and more kids have been coming! This is so exciting and great!!! This also means we need more volunteers! If interested in helping in the kid's Ministry, nursery or children's church please come see me-Ashley D'Angelo! I'm normally in the kid's area on a Sunday morning, come visit!

** As a kids ministry team, we are meeting the last Sunday of every month after church (lunch included) to have a time of fellowship and discipleship and also will be a way to keep you all up to date on all things Kid's Ministry at Bethany Church! If you're interested in serving in Kid's Ministry-this is a great starting point to learn what we do and help me learn where you would best serve.

Bethany Friends to Remember

Throughout the year, please remember our members and friends who are homebound or in nursing homes, in a senior living community, or in a personal care home.

Fran Bish
680 N. Stone Base Road
Mercer, PA 16137

Joyce Cuyar c/o Keith Cuyar
113 Majestic Drive
Mars, PA 16046

Mae Shaffer
Lakes at Jefferson
7271 West Market St.
Mercer, PA 16137

Dorothy Maxwell
231 S. Otter Street
Mercer, PA 16137

Virginia Miller
1341 Mercer New Wilmington Road
New Wilmington, PA 16142

Becky Pears
148 Courtney Road
Mercer, PA 16137

Lee Ramsey
133 Center Church Road
Grove City, PA 16127

Bruce Shannon
38 Shannon Drive
New Wilmington, PA 16142

Susan Shawgo
301 S. Broad Street Apt 601
Grove City, PA 16127

Elizabeth Shillito
Whispering Oakes Room 325
260 Buhl Farm Drive
Hermitage, PA 16148

Mary Thompson
202 N. Otter Street
Mercer, PA 16137

Janice Vinroe
Quality Life Services
8221 Lamor Road
Mercer, PA 16137

Dorothy Wester
3107 James Buchanan Blvd
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Brooke Huston
250 W. North Street
Mercer, PA 16137

Becky Beck
341 E. Jamestown Rd. Unit 20
Greenville, PA 16125

Russ Smith
Greystone Country Estates
424 Delaware St.
Fredonia, PA 16124

Charlotte Moon
919 Butler Pike
Mercer, PA 16137

Judy Thompson
Quality Life Services
8221 Lamor Road
Mercer, PA 16137

Sherri Faulconbridge
3536 Silver Ridge Ct.
Hermitage, PA 16148

Sally Nelson
377 Fairview Rd.
Fredonia, PA 16127

Dan and Arlene Weikal
33 Wright Street
Mercer, PA 16137

Old Tables

We have five old eight foot tables we would like to give away. They are heavy and beat up, but if you would like one, contact Steve Amsler.

Bethany Presbyterian Church
100 West Venango Street
Mercer, PA 16137

Regular Office Hours

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

(724) 662-4340

Fax: 724-662-1080

Prayer Chain: bethanyprays@yahoo.com

Web: www.bethany-presbyterian.org



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PERMIT No. 39

TO: Or Current Resident

Elders & Deacons

Elders:

Frank Carolas, John Inman, Chuck Kite, Ed Lindey, Valerian Moeller, Joe Phillips, Earl Runcan

Deacons:

Amy Cameron, Sue Horkey, Madalin Huff, Ken Knechtel, Lynda McQuown, Delores Palmer, Ed Pears, Lynn Runcan, Betsy Rust, Kim Watson, Carol Wiggins

Bethany Staff

Senior Pastor

Pastor Bob White

Visitation Pastor

Pastor Bill Woodman

Church Administrator

Mr. Steve Amsler

Youth Director

Mr. Jon D'Angelo

Children's Director

Mrs. Ashley D'Angelo

Music Director

Mr. Josiah Forton

Organist

Mr. Denny Horkey

Pianist

Mrs. Jane Deitrick

Financial Secretary

Mrs. Kim Watson

Treasurer

Mrs. Bev. Gallagher

Office Assistant

Ms. Lois Metelsky

Sound Engineer

Mr. Dave Ruhlman

Maintenance Supervisor

Mr. Dayle Wilkins

Custodial Engineer

Mr. Jarrett Smith

Kitchen Coordinator

Mrs. Amy Cameron

Technical Intern

Ms. Bri Dunlap