



BETHANY ROAD

JULY 2026

WHAT'S INSIDE



- PASTOR'S LETTER
- BUS TRIP "ELIJAH"
- VBS
- JULY FUNNIES
- SUMMER EVENTS
- YOU MIGHT BE A CHURCH MEMBER IF...
- CELEBRATING FREEDOM
- LOST & FOUND
- WORD SEARCH
- 250th BIRTHDAY OF THE USA
- THE HAVEN
- KAPPA CHI EVENT
- MEN'S BREAKFAST
- JULY EVENTS
- AUGUST EVENTS
- FINANCIAL REPORT

Bethany Family,

Life can get so busy. We spend so much time doing everyday things like running from activity to activity for our kids and grandkids. Many of us have to work, and for others, keeping up with our health can feel like a full-time job. We volunteer and serve at Bethany and in many other places as well. And that's only scratching the surface. We all have many other commitments.

Through all of this, it can be a challenge to make time for prayer. Even when we do have time, we can become discouraged and neglect to pray. Sometimes we may not even know how to pray.

For all of these reasons and more, our next sermon series is going to be all about prayer. Starting Sunday, July 19, we are going to take a deep dive into the Lord's Prayer. During this series, we will learn the principles behind the Lord's Prayer, where it comes from, why so many churches recite it every week, and much more.

(continued on page 2)

It is my hope that this new series on prayer will challenge us to pray with greater intentionality, focus, and consistency. Prayer is how we communicate with God. It is a powerful gift that God has given us, and prayer changes lives.

As James 5:16 reminds us, "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working". Prayer should be our first line of defense. Yet, too often it becomes our last resort. When we pray, we hear from God.

As we begin this new series, it is a great opportunity to invite others to church. Do you have friends, family members, neighbors, or coworkers who don't have a church home and need to hear the Gospel? Invite them!

Pastor Bob





VBS



RAINFOREST FALLS

We had our Vacation Bible School just a few weeks ago, and it was a great opportunity to learn about God and connect with families in our community. We enjoyed worshipping together, celebrating God's love and our need for Jesus. We played silly games, made crafts, memorized Bible verses, and learned about God each day through the Psalms. Thank you to everyone who volunteered! Without your help, we could not have made this wonderful week possible!



Morning Prayers

Good morning, Lord!

Today's a new day, a chance for a new start. Yesterday is gone, and with it, any regrets, mistakes, or failures I may have experienced. It's a good day to be glad and give thanks, and I do, Lord. Thank you for today, a new opportunity to love, give, and be all that you want me to be. Amen.

(Rebecca Barlow Jordan)

A Daily Prayer of Rejoice

Father, thank you for intervening in my life and allowing me to have a personal relationship with you. Thank you for your love for me today and forever. Thank you for the blessings you've given me and my family. Help us use those blessings to bless others. May I live a life of true joy as I see you at work around me today! In Jesus's name. Amen.

(Ron Moore)

Fill Me With the Spirit Today

As believers, we are filled with power through the Holy Spirit. We can call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us throughout the day. A simple prayer in the morning to be filled with the Holy Spirit can help us stay grounded and centered.

Let's take a moment to invite the Holy Spirit to fill us with wisdom, strength, and peace, so we can approach each moment with His discernment and grace. Here's an example morning prayer for Holy Spirit power:

Dear Lord, as we rise to meet each new day, please let us be filled with Your spirit. Let us spread love, joy, peace, goodness, and faithfulness wherever we go. Let us desire to become more like you and to worship you in all we do. Help us desire these things so much more than the sin that entices us. Thank you for always going before us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

(Dr. Charles Stanley)

JULY FUNNIES

A telepathically controlled air freshener makes scents when you think about it.

Electric Slide: great dance, horrible water park ride.

When I comforted my wife by encouraging her to learn to embrace her mistakes, she gave me a big hug.

SUMMER EVENTS



&



1. Ice Cream Social and Corn Hole

Join us on Wednesday, July 15th at 6:30 P.M. for some summer fun!



2. Soup and Encouragement

Come warm your hands and your heart. Join us for an evening of hot soup, fresh bread, and uplifting encouragement. September 22nd at 6 P.M. in the social room. Liz Hodgkinson will be doing a devotion for the ladies' soup night. A sign will be at the Welcome Center in August.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income	340,488
Expenses	216,363
Difference	124,124

★ Kappa Chi Sunday School gathering May 16, 2026 at Jim & Jane Deitrick's home, fire pit, and beautiful lake! ★





BETHANY BUS TRIP TO OHIO STAR THEATER TO SEE THE MUSICAL “ELIJAH”



A group from Bethany went on a bus ride to the Ohio Star Theater in Sugar Creek, Ohio. They saw the musical “Elijah”. They also were able to relax on the rocking chairs, shop at the gift house, and enjoy a great smorgasbord. A bag lunch was also provided. Thank you Frank and Joyce Carolas for arranging and guiding this tour.

Celebrating 250 Years of God's Faithfulness to Our Nation

This year marks a remarkable milestone...250 years since the birth of our nation. As we celebrate America's semiquincentennial, we have an opportunity not only to remember our history but also to reflect on God's faithfulness throughout these two and a half centuries.

Our country has experienced seasons of triumph and seasons of trial. We have witnessed wars and peace, prosperity and hardship, unity and division. Yet through every chapter, the Lord has remained constant. Scripture reminds us, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

The freedoms we enjoy today were purchased at a great cost by courageous men and women who believed in the ideals of liberty and justice. Among those freedoms is the precious privilege of worshiping God openly, reading His Word freely, and gathering together as His people. These blessings should never be taken for granted.

As Christians, patriotism and faith go hand in hand when our love for country inspires gratitude and prayer. The Apostle Paul urged believers to pray "for kings and all those in authority" (1 Timothy 2:2). As we commemorate our nation's 250th anniversary, may we commit ourselves anew to praying for our leaders, our communities, and future generations.

Anniversaries are times for remembering, giving thanks, and looking ahead with hope. Let us thank God for His abundant blessings upon our nation and ask Him to guide America in the years to come. May we be faithful citizens of both our country and God's Kingdom, shining the light of Christ wherever He has placed us.

Happy 250th Anniversary, America! May God continue to bless our nation and may our hearts always turn to Him with gratitude, humility, and hope.

JULY EVENTS



Happy Birthday USA
BIG SUMMER PLAYDATE
JULY 2ND 10AM-NOON



Foam Party
BIG SUMMER PLAYDATE
JULY 9TH 10AM-NOON



Puppy Appreciation Day
BIG SUMMER PLAYDATE
JULY 16TH 10AM-NOON



2026
BAPTISMS
JULY 19TH
TALK TO PASTOR BOB IF INTERESTED



Cooking Class 101
10:00 A.M.
JULY 21st



Groovy Tie Dye Party
BIG SUMMER PLAYDATE
JULY 23RD 10AM-NOON



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
@ BETHANY CHURCH
JULY 24TH, 8:30PM
POPCORN, TREATS, & FREE FAMILY FUN IN DOWNTOWN MERCER!



Mad Science Day
BIG SUMMER PLAYDATE
JULY 30TH 10AM-NOON



Celebrating Freedom This Fourth of July



As we gather with family and friends this Fourth of July, we are reminded of the many blessings that come with living in a nation founded on the principles of liberty and justice. Independence Day is a time for cookouts, parades, fireworks, and patriotic songs, but it is also an opportunity to pause and reflect on the freedoms we often take for granted.

The freedoms we enjoy as Americans are precious gifts that have been protected through the sacrifices of countless men and women throughout our nation's history. We are thankful for those who have served in our military, those who continue to serve today, and all who have worked to preserve the liberties we enjoy.

As Christians, however, we recognize that there is an even greater freedom available to us. While political freedom is a tremendous blessing, spiritual freedom through Jesus Christ is life-changing and eternal.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 5:1, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." Through Christ, we are freed from the burden of sin, guilt, and fear, and we are given the hope of eternal life.

The Fourth of July reminds us that freedom is never free. Just as our nation's freedom came at a great cost, our spiritual freedom was purchased through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. His love for us provides a freedom that no earthly circumstance can take away.

So, as the fireworks light up the night sky and the aroma of hamburgers and hot dogs fills the air, take a moment to thank God for the blessings of this nation and for the greater gift of salvation through His Son. Pray for our country, our leaders, our military personnel, and our communities. Ask God to help us be good stewards of the freedoms we have been given and to shine His light in a world that desperately needs hope.



Found: A man's wedding ring. See Main Office and describe lost ring.

Men's Breakfast

THURSDAY, JULY 2 AT 7:30 A.M.

THE HAVEN

Community Food Pantry at Bethany Church

Food Distribution
4th Saturday of each month 10:00-11:30am




A huge THANK YOU to all who donated food to the Haven during VBS! As you can see below, our donation shelf was pretty bare before VBS and now, thanks to you, it is full and ready to go!

You are the BEST!



AUGUST EVENTS



Water Day

BIG SUMMER PLAYDATE
AUGUST 6TH 10AM-NOON



COMMUNITY
BLOCK PARTY
@ BETHANY CHURCH
AUGUST 9th, 5-7PM
BBQ, TREATS, GAMES,
& FAMILY FUN IN
DOWNTOWN MERCER!



BETHANY
THURSDAY
MORNING
PRAYER
TIME
9:00 A.M.
IN THE CHAPEL

THE HAVEN

Community Food Pantry at Bethany Church

Food Distribution
4th Saturday of each month 10:00-11:30am






You Might Be a Church Member If...

(With apologies to every church member who is about to recognize themselves!)

You might be a church member if...

- You have a favorite pew, and everyone else knows it.
- You can tell who brought which casserole without looking at the name tag.
- You arrive 15 minutes early for worship and leave 45 minutes late because you're still talking.
- You've ever said, "The thermostat is too cold," and "The thermostat is too hot," in the same service. You know where every light switch is located, but have no idea who installed them.
- You can navigate the church basement in complete darkness.
- You've taken home a casserole dish and forgotten who it belongs to.
- You know which families always sit in the same place every Sunday.
- You've ever volunteered for something because you accidentally made eye contact with the pastor.
- You've attended a committee meeting that lasted longer than expected because someone said, "Just one more thing..."
- You've ever searched for your glasses while they were on your head during Bible study.
- You can sing verses of a hymn without looking in the hymnal with complete confidence.
- You've ever said, "We don't do it that way," and then realized nobody remembers why.
- You know that fellowship dinners are a spiritual gift.
- You've ever stayed after church so long that the parking lot was nearly empty.
- You know the church prayer chain can move faster than the internet.
- You've ever volunteered for nursery duty and emerged needing a nap.
- You know that "brief announcements" is one of the most optimistic phrases in church life.
- You've ever thought, "I'll just stop by the church for a minute," and left two hours later.
- You know that the real fellowship often happens after the closing prayer.
- You've discovered that some of the best ministry happens around a table with coffee and cookies.

Most importantly...

- You might be a church member if the people sitting around you have become more than friends—they've become family. Through worship, prayer, service, laughter, and even the occasional committee meeting, God has woven us together into a community of faith.
 - And if you laughed at more than a few of these, congratulations—you definitely belong here!
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LET FREEDOM RING !

BEVERAGES SDWWNCMCITPA
XLPJMXPLEDGENKYKUXIA
FCZWAKIAPUNCLESAMRCS
IFDROTKFEGBHOTDOGSNK
RLRNSXEIFCLFJWCORNIO
EAELAOTRFRUXGXHXWXC
WGUOCJHHKPEPCUJHNL
SHOCUGRXAYGACXSTARS
RRROYWIHNRKRAPATRIOT
FBKOKBFQKEEASTEZIMY
HRRSKISIHFDADSSPDLI
GAEUOOEYCAUZTEASPL
BXXMEAUIUJEENLBVSRT
KAXQPBDDBLTQOXWNHE
PORSXFRQCQUOONMJV
UHEDFNLIAABKNRMK
VAQQKISLQKEPTMYALG
SEIVXPDTSZJGSETITN
REXPGEML EEBYDUZSD
LITIRRF TSAHHWLKR
UHTDYISXSPSKYJ
EYZTSPXRMBQNNANQR

THANKFULNESS	CASSAROLES	HAMBURGERS	RED
FIREWORKS	SPARKLERS	BEVERAGES	EAT
FREEDOM	UNCLESAM	PATRIOT	
SACRIFICE	COOKOUT	PICNICS	
STRIPES	FAMILY	PARADES	
HOTDOGS	WHITE	PLEDGE	
BLUE	FLAG	CORN	
STARS	ANTS		



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>9:15 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Worship Service 10:30 A.M. Children's Church 6:00 P.M. Youth Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 P.M. Worship & Memorial 5:00 P.M. Christian Ed. Comm. 6:30 P.M. Missions Comm. 6:30 P.M. Outreach Comm. 6:30 P.M. Safety Committee 7:00 P.M. Property Committee</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Worship Band</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:30 A.M. Men's Breakfast 9:00 A.M. Prayer 10:00 A.M. Summer Playdate 6:00 P.M. Garden Club</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 A.M. Prayer 10:00 A.M. Summer Playdate</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 A.M. Prayer 10:00 A.M. Summer Playdate</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:15 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Worship Service 10:30 A.M. Children's Church 6:00 P.M. Youth Group</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Personnel Committee</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Corn Hole and Ice Cream 6:00 P.M. Worship Band</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Corn Hole and Ice Cream 6:00 P.M. Worship Band</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 A.M. Prayer 10:00 A.M. Summer Playdate 7:00 P.M. Finance Committee</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:15 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Worship Service 10:30 A.M. Children's Church 1:00 P.M. Baptism & Picnic 6:00 P.M. Youth Group</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Cooking 101 Class 7:00 P.M. Boy Scout Committee 7:00 P.M. Book Club</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Worship Band</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00 A.M. Prayer 10:00 A.M. Summer Playdate 6:00 P.M. Session</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 A.M. Prayer 10:00 A.M. Summer Playdate 6:00 P.M. Session</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 A.M. The Haven</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:15 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Worship Service 10:30 A.M. Children's Church 6:00 P.M. Youth Group</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Cooking 101 Class</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Worship Band</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00 A.M. Prayer 10:00 A.M. Summer Playdate</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00 A.M. Prayer 10:00 A.M. Summer Playdate</p>	<p>31</p>	

4th of July

July 2026



Bethany Presbyterian Church

100W. VenangoStreet

Mercer, PA 16137



Non-Profit Organization

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Mercer, PA 16137

PERMIT No. 39

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Fax: 724-662-1080

Prayer Chain:

bethanyprays@yahoo.com

Web: www.bethany-presbyterian.org



TO: or current resident

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