



BETHANY ROAD

JUNE 2026

WHAT'S INSIDE

- PASTOR'S MESSAGE
- WORK DAY
- FLAG DAY
- FATHER'S DAY
- OUTREACH TEAM UPDATE
- GOLF OUTING
- JUNE: A SEASON OF GROWTH, GRATITUDE, AND GATHERING
- GIRLS ON THE RUN
- SURRENDERING
- JUNE FUNNIES
- ELIJAH BUS TRIP
- CONNECTION LUNCH
- BIG SUMMER PLAYDATES
- VBS
- BETHANY YOUTH
- BAPTISM
- WEST VIRGINIA
- PROPERTY TEAM PROGRESS
- GRIEF GROUP
- THURSDAY PRAYER
- FINANCIAL REPORT
- HIDDEN BIBLE NAMES
- CALENDAR

Bethany Family,

As we embark on the summer season, there is a full list of exciting ministry opportunities to look forward to. Each opportunity is designed to serve our community, share the Gospel, or make disciples. Oftentimes, they accomplish two or even all three parts of our mission at the same time.

The summer kicks off with VBS and the West Virginia mission trip. Then we launch into our Big Summer Playdates, which include our Fourth of July party and foam party. We even have a movie night planned. Later this summer, we have baptisms, the youth music festival, and our block party.

The Haven continues to serve people each month, as well. There is a lot to look forward to! We are always looking for volunteers, so if you are interested in helping, I encourage you to reach out. You can email, text, or call the church office. With that said, I am burdened with another reality: none of these events will matter or be successful without the blessing of God upon our church and our outreach initiatives.

Which brings me to prayer. I have asked myself, "Am I in regular prayer for the lost people of Mercer County and for our outreach efforts?" I am not as consistent as I would like to be. Yet, it all begins with prayer. All of our efforts should begin with prayer.

As we study Scripture, this reality becomes plain. In the Psalms, we see God's people worshiping and crying out to Him for everything. In prayer, we seek God for forgiveness and healing. We pray for strength and guidance. "Blessed be the LORD! For He has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy. The LORD is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him." (Psalm 28:6-7).

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Jesus often retreated into solitude and prayer before God to seek guidance and strength in ministry. One prominent example is before Jesus begins His ministry and selects the disciples. He goes into the desert, where He fasts and prays. Jesus sought guidance and strength from God (Matthew 4:1-11). At the conclusion of this time, He was tempted by Satan but triumphed over him. Another example is when Jesus enters the garden before He is arrested and sent to the cross. He prays to God for strength and guidance for the days ahead (Luke 22:39-53). In the middle of His ministry, we see Jesus follow this same pattern when He is worn out from ministry. Jesus spends the day preaching to a very large crowd. They spend so much time together, hanging on every word of Jesus, that they become physically hungry. Jesus then performs the miracle we call the feeding of the 5,000, where He multiplies a small amount of bread and fish until everyone in the crowd has eaten and is satisfied. Then, in Mark 6:45-46, He does a curious thing: He dismisses the crowd, sends the disciples ahead of Him on a boat, and hikes up a mountain alone. Scripture says He prayed there. He sought God in the silence and solitude between ministry opportunities. We do not know exactly what He prayed, but based on other examples of His prayer life, it is safe to say that He was certainly resting in His heavenly Father while also praying for guidance and strength.

Now, what can we learn from these examples? Simply this: we need to follow the example of Jesus and pray more. As we embark on our own outreach ministries this summer, we need to be praying regularly for these ministries and for the lost people of Mercer County. As we love kids in West Virginia, as we decorate, sing, and serve in our own VBS, and as we welcome hundreds of children onto the church grounds and into the building, we need to be praying. We need to draw strength from God and seek His guidance.

As we welcome Mercer into our community, we can only truly serve our community, share the Gospel, and make disciples if we are first on our knees before God in prayer. And so, that is my challenge for each of us this summer, myself included. Will you pray with me? Will you set aside a regular time to be with God and ask Him to build relationships through us and through these outreach opportunities? Will you ask God to bless our initiatives with people who are being prepared by the Holy Spirit to come to faith in Jesus? Maybe you can dedicate just five minutes a day to this prayer. Maybe it should be longer. Whatever you give, whatever you commit to do, God will bless it, God will work through it, and God will move in our community as a result. Please decide what your prayers should look like and commit to them! Together, we will watch how God answers our prayers and brings a wonderful and fruitful summer outreach season here at Bethany.

— Pastor Bob

A big thank you to the Property Team and for the volunteers who helped with some much needed repairs on Work Day.





Honoring Dad

GOD'S SPECIAL GIFT

Father's Day is a wonderful time to celebrate the men who have helped guide, protect, teach, encourage, and occasionally embarrass us in public with their "dad jokes." Whether it's fixing things with duct tape and prayer, grilling hamburgers like they're competing on a cooking show, or falling asleep during the Sunday afternoon nap Olympics, dads have a special way of making life memorable.

A father's role is one of the greatest callings God gives. The Bible reminds us in Proverbs 20:7, "The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him." Godly fathers leave footprints of faith, wisdom, kindness, and strength that can impact generations.

Dads may not always have all the answers, but somehow they still believe they can fix anything with one trip to the hardware store. They teach us valuable life lessons like:

"Money doesn't grow on trees."

"Turn the lights off when you leave the room!"

"Ask your mother."

And the timeless classic: "I'm not sleeping – I'm just resting my eyes."

But beyond the humor, fathers often quietly carry heavy responsibilities. They work hard, pray for their families, encourage their children, and stand strong during difficult seasons. Many sacrifices made by fathers go unnoticed, yet God sees every one of them.

This Father's Day, let us thank the fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, spiritual fathers, and mentors who have been blessings in our lives. Let us also remember those who may find this day difficult and encourage them with the love of Christ.

Most importantly, may we all remember the perfect love of our Heavenly Father – faithful, patient, forgiving, and always present.

And to all the dads reading this: thank you for your love, your leadership, and yes... even your corny jokes. The church family appreciates you more than you know.

Happy Father's Day!



Outreach Update

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD! We stand amazed at how God continues to visibly work in the lives of His people! The advertisement below ran only two times in Bethany's Wednesday Update:

The Outreach Team Needs YOU...

We are looking for several Bethany volunteers, with a passion for cooking and baking, to help us design a beginners Cooking & Baking program for 19 of our Haven Food Pantry clients (male & female) who have expressed an interest in learning to cook and bake.

THE EXCITING NEWS: Four Bethany ladies immediately answered God's call and are eager to begin planning "The Haven Cooking and Baking Program" that was one of the top priority need expressed by our Haven Food Pantry clients from the survey responses we received.

Pam Muhelman has agreed to take the lead as Program Coordinator. Beth Unger has agreed to take on the role of Pam's Program Coordinator Assistant. Beverly Gallagher and Mary McElfresh are also excited to join the team and add their cooking and baking expertise.

All glory, honor, and praise to our Sovereign Jehovah Jireh (God Provides)!

As always, the end goal of all our community outreach efforts is to "earn" an opportunity, built on trust, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all who are willing to listen. Please pray for these talented ladies as they prepare to roll out another God-blessed opportunity to SERVE our community, SHARE the gospel, and MAKE disciples of all who attend this program and express a sincere desire to follow Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.

To God be the glory and His perfect will be done! The Bethany Outreach Team: Sue Allen, Gloria Podlaski, Linda Wishart, Katie Allen, Chrissy Preston, Earl Runcan - Chairman



Girls on the Run

My name is Allyson Rust and I am a coach for the Girls on the Run program along with Korina Yanak at Mercer Elementary School. I wanted to reach out and share a little information about our program and why our girls chose to support the Haven Food Bank as their community service project this season.

Girls on the Run is a 10-week curriculum-based program designed to help girls build self-confidence, develop healthy relationships, make positive choices, set goals, and stay active. Throughout the program, the girls participate in lessons that focus on teamwork, leadership, and giving back to others. At the end of the season, the girls celebrate their accomplishments by participating in a 5K event in Pittsburgh alongside thousands of other participants.

As part of one of our lessons, the girls work together to choose a way to give back to their community. After discussing different ideas, the Mercer Elementary Girls on the Run team decided they wanted to help support the Haven Food Bank because they understand how important it is for families in our community to have access to food and support.



Our team collected canned goods and non-perishable food items, and we also love the opportunity to help pack food bank bags. The girls were excited to learn more about serving others and making a positive impact in the community. Thank you for everything the Haven Food Bank does for local families. We appreciate the opportunity to support your organization and look forward to working together.

Allyson Rust
K-6 School Counselor
Mercer Elementary School



WEST VIRGINIA MISSION TRIP NEWS

Circleville, West Virginia • June 20–27, 2026



2026 WV TEAM MEMBERS... PLEASE READ THIS:

**Team Meeting: MONDAY JUNE 1st 6:45 P.M. in the Social Hall
and YES, it's important to be there!**

- Find out which VBS group you will be helping with! Oooh, The suspense!
 - Learn more about the VBS curriculum
 - Team building & introductions
 - Personal Testimonies overview
 - Turn in any paperwork that you still have & payments/scholarship forms
 - OVER 18?? - Bring your driver's license so it can be photocopied.
-

Team Meeting: MONDAY, JUNE 8th 6:45pm YES, you should attend this meeting, too!

- More VBS planning time
 - Packing instructions
 - Tenting/sleeping arrangements confirmed
 - Travel arrangements need confirmed
-

Packing Day: Friday, June 19th

- Time: 7:00 pm
 - Location: Bethany Church
 - Bring your clothes in your tote, sleeping bag, & camp chair. We will be packing all VBS supplies into the trailer.
-

Final Send-Off Gathering:

- Date: Saturday, June 20th
- Time: 8:30am
- Location: Bethany Church parking lot
- Prayer, commissioning, and final reminders

2026 Team Member Info:

meetings so we can plan transportation, meals, and VBS roles accordingly.
Thinking about this Mission Trip? We'd love to have you join us! Please come to the

WEST VIRGINIA MISSION TRIP NEWS

How You Can Help -without going to WV:

Prayer Support:

Pray for the team, the children, and the community of Circleville. Please pray for open hearts to hear the message of God. Prayers for safety, good weather, and good health of the team is always appreciated, too!

Transportation:

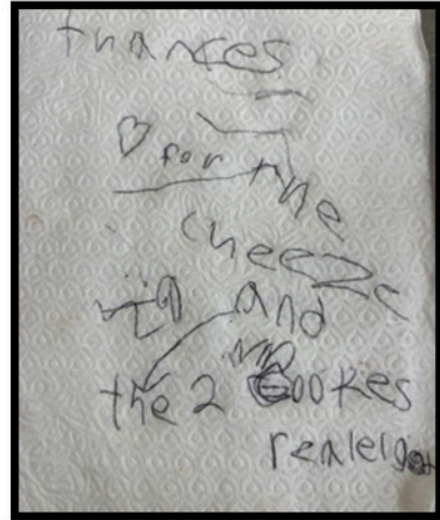
- Pick up and/or return rental vans on 6/19 and 6/27.
- Clean rental vans once we return to Mercer at end of our trip.

Encouragement:

- Write notes for team members.
- Send homemade cookies or desserts to be enjoyed that week.

Local Support:

- Help pack and organize supplies on 6/19.
- Assist with gathering, packing, and prepping food prior to the trip.



A young child attending the WV VBS wrote this on a napkin at lunch time. It says "Thanks for the cheese and the 2 cookies."

FOOD DONATIONS

The WV Mission Trip team prepares all of our meals throughout the week, including a hot lunch each day for the children and volunteers at Vacation Bible School. To make this possible, we're asking for your help. A donation sign-up sheet is available in the Welcome Center in the back lobby of Bethany Church. There are still several items needed. We especially need packages of store-bought cookies. Examples are Oreos, Chips Ahoy, Sugar Wafers, Chocolate Chip, etc. If you're able to donate any of the items on the printed list, please write your name beside the item to help prevent duplicates. Donations can be placed in the labeled box in the lobby any time before Sunday, June 14th.

Thank you for your generosity and support. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Cameron at acameron@windstream.net or 724-854-3056.



FOUR WAYS “SURRENDERING” CAN RADICALLY CHANGE YOUR LIFE: EMBRACE GOD’S PLAN

Surrendering is often associated with giving up something against our will. But Biblical surrender is thankfully the opposite. The Biblical definition of surrender is relinquishing our own\ desires and embracing God’s plan for our lives. 2 Corinthians 3:17 says, “Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom.” So, let’s say we surrender our right to feel happy 100 percent of the time and accept God’s leading to stay and fight for our marriage. Oh, we may decide to surrender to unhealthy eating or drinking habits. When we really say to the Lord, “Okay, I’m willing to try things your way now,” there’s always a sweet feeling of relief, despite the initial resistance and difficulty. When the fight to do or not do something against God’s will is over, the Holy Spirit takes over, enabling and empowering us to walk in His freedom.

1. When We Surrender Something To God, We Receive Something Better In Return

God never asks us to relinquish something or someone that isn’t for our good. God intentionally created each of us with a divine, perfectly timed plan in mind.

Psalms 23:6 says that God’s goodness and mercy will follow you all the days of your life. He’s faithful, kind, and trustworthy. So, if God’s asking you to give up your co-parenting power struggle with your ex, or surrender a financial venture you just can’t let go of, remember that God sees the big picture.

2. Surrendering Will Increase Your Trust in God

When standing on the other side of surrender, in victory, we profoundly experience a new level of God’s faithfulness and goodness that ultimately leads to a more intimate relationship with Jesus. This is important because when our trust increases, our ability to obey and surrender naturally grows, leading to a more fruitful and powerful life with God. Our faith rises every time we say yes to God when feeling doubtful, scared, or resistant. And a faithful life is always abundant.

We can experience every wonder with Jesus. We can experience safety and refuge with Jesus. We can experience strength and power through Jesus. In such a disconnected and discontent world where anxiety swarms us, things fight for our attention, and real help is needed in the craziest of seasons, Jesus is the real answer, and healing and intervention are a real possibility!

3. Surrendering Can Cure Anxiety

The opposite of Biblical surrender is resisting or refusing to yield one’s will to God’s authority. When resisting God’s leading, we often cling to control, prioritizing personal desires over God’s will, and ultimately, experience a feeling of distance from the Lord.

Anxiety and stress can rear their ugly heads in our lives, often without our awareness. When operating out of God’s will, we become dependent on our strength and wisdom, and ultimately, we become stressed, anxious, and burned out.

In my opinion, the single best perk to surrender is peace. We can truly let go of fearing and worrying about the future, and trust that God always honors and rewards obedience...even if it comes in a different form than we imagined or takes longer than we hoped.

4. Surrendering Can Avoid Disaster

We can likely think of a time we “did things our way” instead of God’s, and watched our plans nearly implode. I’ve lived through enough misadventures now to know that when God asks us to surrender, He’s usually just trying to prevent heartache, health issues, wasted time, etc. When God asks us to lay something on the altar, it’s always so we can live abundantly. John 10:10 says, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life and have it fully." This verse emphasizes that Jesus’s purpose is to provide a life of fullness and abundance, contrasting with the thief’s destructive nature. The enemy keeps us distracted and spiritually neutralized by vices, bad habits, wasteful endeavors, and shallow pursuits. God wants to free us from everything that holds us back so we can live more fully.

BETHANY YOUTH

Hello Bethany Friends and Family!

We are officially wrapping up the 2025-2026 school year! I wanted to take a second and give a shout out to all of our wonderful teens! They have been busy from one end of the school year to the other. They have been in soccer, volleyball, cross country, theater, band, choir, academic games, track and field, baseball, student council, working and keeping up their academic rigor! I am so proud of all that they have done and accomplished! So when you see one of the teens, congratulate them on completing another school year!

As we head into summer, our Youth Ministry is getting excited for all that God has in store! Summer is always a great time for students to grow in their faith, build friendships, and make lasting memories together. We are currently finalizing our summer schedule, which will include events, activities, and times for fellowship throughout the season.

Be on the lookout for the full summer calendar coming soon! We can't wait to spend the summer together and see how God moves in the lives of our students.

If you have any interest in helping with our Youth Ministry, we are always looking to add volunteers and friends to our team! We are happy to work around any schedule. Whether you can help once a month, every other month, or whenever you are available, we would love for you to join us as we invest in the lives of our students!

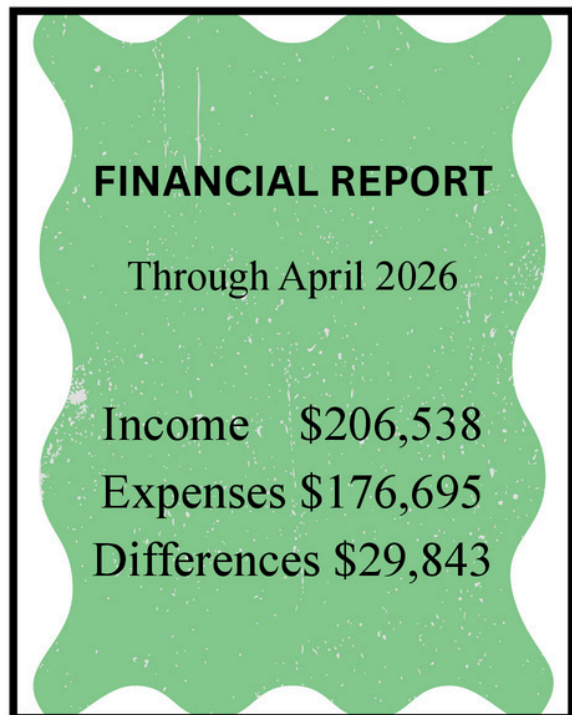
Please continue praying for our youth, leaders, and families as we prepare for a fun, meaningful, and Christ-centered summer!

Micah Wojnowski



JUNE Funnies

1. **Being an electric car mechanic is a tankless job.**
2. **I saw an ad for burial plots and thought to myself this is the last thing I need.**
3. **Someone stole the toilets from the precinct and here - three days later - the cops still have nothing to go on.**
4. **The worst part about going bald is that when I find hair in my food now I know it's not mine.**



FINANCIAL REPORT
Through April 2026

Income	\$206,538
Expenses	\$176,695
Differences	\$29,843

June

A SEASON OF GROWTH, GRATITUDE, AND GATHERING



As the days grow longer and the sunshine warms our spirits, June arrives, bringing with it a vibrant sense of renewal and opportunity. It's a month that invites us to step out, embrace the brightness, and reflect on the blessings around us.

For our church family, June is a wonderful time to cultivate growth, both individually in our faith journeys and collectively as a community. We see this growth in the blossoming of new friendships, the deepening of our understanding through worship and study, and the continued dedication to serving those in need.

This month, let's also take a moment for gratitude. Gratitude for the beauty of creation, for the fellowship we share, and for the unwavering love of God that sustains us through every season. It's a perfect time to appreciate the many hands and hearts that contribute to making our church a welcoming and thriving place.

Looking ahead, we have several opportunities to gather and connect. From special services celebrating significant moments to community events designed for fellowship and fun. June offers a chance to strengthen our bonds and share in the joy of our faith. Keep an eye on our event calendar for details, and we encourage you to join us as often as you can.

May this June be a time of refreshing for you and your family, filled with moments of peace, joy, and spiritual growth. We look forward to sharing this beautiful season with all of you at Bethany Church.



June Events at Bethany



ELIJAH PROPHET OF FIRE

BUS TRIP JUNE 3RD
SIGN UP & PAY BY MAY 10TH



CONNECTION LUNCH

Come Get to know us better!
June 7th Just after Church!



KICKOFF
JUNE 11
10:00AM

RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring The Nature of God

Vacation Bible School
June 15th-19th



2026
BAPTISMS
JULY 19TH

TALK TO PASTOR
BOB IF INTERESTED

WEST VIRGINIA Missions Trip



Join Us!!

June 20-27



Grief Support

A safe, supportive group for those walking through grief.

Starting April 14th 10:30am

Join us as we find comfort, healing, and hope together.



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



HIDDEN BIBLE NAMES

Fill in the blanks to reveal a name in the Bible, and write the name, as well as, the word in which it was hidden in the spaces provided. One has been done for you.

CLUE	BIBLE NAME	WORD
1. NOVO_ _ _ _ E	CAIN	NOVOCAINE
2. _ _ INF _ _		
3. WHAT _ _ _ R		
4. ZEA _ _ _		
5. M _ C _ _ _ _ I		
6. FAT _ _ _ HO _ _		
7. E _ CR _ _ C _		
8. D _ _ APPE _ R _ N _ E		
9. B _ _ BO _ ZLE _		
10. B _ _ _ EF		
11. BL _ _ _ U _ LLY		
12. _ _ CL _ _ URES		
13. L _ _ _ _		
14. _ _ SON _ _		
15. RE _ _ _ _ ABLE		

Answer Key: 1. Cain, novocaine; 2. Paul, painful; 3. Eve, whatever; 4. Lot, zealot; 5. Aaron, macaroni; 6. Herod, fatherhood; 7. Noah, encroach; 8. Issac, disappearance; 9. Amos, bamboozles; 10. Eli, belief; 11. Anna, biannually; 12. Enos, enclosures; 13. Abel, label; 14. Mary, masonry; 15. Mark, remarkable.

June: Sunshine, Picnics, and “Who Left the Thermostat on 62?”

June has officially arrived. The birds are singing, the grass is growing faster than the church budget meetings, and somewhere in our congregation, at least one person has already declared, “It’s not the heat, it’s the humidity.”

June is a wonderful month in church life. It’s the season when calendars fill up with graduations, weddings, family reunions, vacation Bible school planning, cookouts, and enough potato salad to feed a small nation. It’s also the time when many of us begin our annual search for the perfect pew—close enough to hear the sermon, but far enough from the air-conditioning vent that requires a winter coat.

But beneath all the humor and busyness, June reminds us of something important: God designed seasons for renewal. Longer days and warmer evenings invite us to slow down a little, enjoy His creation, and reconnect with people we love. Sometimes the most meaningful moments happen during simple summer conversations on the church steps, around picnic tables, or while handing a child an extra popsicle during VBS.

Scripture reminds us in Ecclesiastes that “He has made everything beautiful in its time.” June is one of those beautiful times—a season filled with sunlight, laughter, and opportunities to share Christ’s love in ordinary moments.

So as summer begins, may your iced tea stay cold, your sunscreen actually work, and your casserole dish return home with the correct lid for once. Most importantly, may your heart stay centered on the goodness and faithfulness of God through every joyful moment this month brings. Happy June from all of us at Bethany Church!

June 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 9:00 AM Worship & Mem. 10:30 AM Grief Group 5:00 PM Christian Ed. 6:30 PM Missions Comm. 6:30 PM Outreach Comm. 6:30 PM Safety Team 7:00 PM Property Comm.	3 9:45 AM Elijah Bus Trip 6:00 PM Worship Band	4 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Thursday Prayer 6:30 PM Garden Club	5	6
7 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Deacons' Meeting 11:45 AM Connection Lunch 12:00 PM VBS Meeting 6:00 PM Youth Group	8 6:30 PM Personnel	9 10:30 AM Grief Group 5:00 PM Rooted	10 6:00 PM Worship Band 6:30 PM Military Prayer 7:00 PM Worship & Memorial	11 9:00 AM Thursday Prayer 10:00 AM Summer Playdate	12 8:00 AM VBS Decorating	13
14 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Youth Group	15 VBS	16 VBS	17 VBS	18 VBS	19 VBS	20
21 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Youth Group	22	23	24 6:00 PM Worship Band	25 9:00 AM Thursday Prayer 6:00 PM Session	26	27 10:00 AM The Haven
28 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Youth Group	29	30				

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



Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Mercer, PA 16137

PERMIT No. 39

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