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The Bible overflows with stories of people experiencing God. Jacob thought he was getting mugged, when a stranger jumped him. But soon he discovered he was actually wrestling with God. Abraham rolled out a royal welcome to a few travelers. Their words revealed not only knowledge of his past, but also of his future. Sara laughed, but Abraham worshipped. God had visited that day.

We call these mysterious encounters “epiphanies.” God visits, and we perceive his presence.

On our church calendar, Epiphany happens right after Christmas. January 6th begins the season. This day remembers the Magi, astrologers from the east. They follow a star and it leads them to God. Not a warrior angel, not a pillar of fire. Instead, God was found in a little house, in a little village, in a Spirit filled tiny child. Jesus broke the mold of how people can experience God.

So, I’m not surprised that my brief, one month, tenure among the believers at Bethany Church has been full of God moments.

Stepping into a congregation just after the first Sunday of Advent usually makes the bottom ten of a pastor’s career highlights. But we did it! The moment I arrived, I felt a strong welcome and presence of Christ among you. You received me, trusting in my profession of faith, and sensing that God had brought us together. And I received you in the same way. God is good. God is here.

What a privilege it is to witness what God has been doing at Bethany Presbyterian Church for the past couple centuries! I am eagerly looking forward to our time together. I get to join you in loving with the heart of Jesus. Your invitation to be part of the inner workings of ministry will create opportunities to hear God’s direction. Our gifts in concert will bless us during this transition time. The seed of our Pastor Nominating Committee will bloom, and bring us God’s called pastor.

Yes, Jesus brings a new era of meeting God. Plain, flesh and blood, imperfect people have become a temple of God’s dwelling place. Our ordinary conversations become prayers and offerings. The labor of our hands are the work of the Spirit. Our worship responds to the Holy One in our midst. Thanks to each of you. You have blessed me.

See you in church,

Rev. Dr. William Youmans

Interim Pastor

January 2020

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1 NEW YEARS DAY- OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:15 AM Quilting 12:00 PM Knitters 6:00 PM AA Mtg 6:30 PM Locking Arms Mens Group 7:00 PM Upward Coaches Training 7:30 PM Dartball	3	4 9:30 AM Upward Cheer Camp
5 8:15 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 6:00 PM Worship	6 9:30 AM Preschool 6:15 PM PW Body Carpenter Workout 7:00 PM Dartball League Meeting 7:00 PM Deacon Meeting	7 7:00 PM Coed Dartball	8 9:30 AM Preschool 6:00 PM Ringers 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Modern Svc Rehearsal	9 9:15 AM MOPS 9:15 AM Quilting 12:00 PM Knitters 6:00 PM AA Mtg 6:30 PM Locking Arms Mens Group 7:00 PM Upward Referee Training 7:30 PM Dartball	10 9:30 AM Preschool 12:00 PM Men's Fri- day Lunch 12:00 PM Preschool Lunch Bunch	11 8:00 AM Cub Scout Pack 860 Pinewood Derby 9:00 AM PW Bible study 11:00 AM Knitters
12 Baptism Sunday 8:15 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 4:00 PM BYG Jr. & Sr. High New Years Party 6:00 PM Worship	13 9:30 AM Preschool 6:15 PM PW Body Carpenter Workout 7:00 PM Session Teams	14 7:00 PM Coed Dartball	15 9:30 AM Preschool 6:00 PM Ringers 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Modern Svc Rehearsal	16 9:15 AM Quilting 12:00 PM Golden Oldies Luncheon 12:00 PM Knitters 6:00 PM AA Mtg 6:30 PM Locking Arms Mens Group 7:30 PM Dartball	17 9:30 AM Preschool 12:00 PM Preschool Lunch Bunch 6:00 PM Kids Night Out	18 7:30 AM Food Bank UPWARD BASKETBALL GAMES
19 Communion Sunday 8:15 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 12:00 PM Youth Parents Meeting 4:00 PM BYG Jr. & Sr. High 6:00 PM Worship	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 5:00 PM MLK Celebration at UMC Bridgeville 6:15 PM PW Body Carpenter Workout 7:00 PM MOPS Steering Mtg	21 7:00 PM Coed Dartball	22 9:30 AM Preschool 6:00 PM Ringers 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Modern Svc Rehearsal	23 9:15 AM MOPS 9:15 AM Quilting 12:00 PM Knitters 6:00 PM AA Mtg 6:30 PM Locking Arms Mens Group 7:30 PM Dartball	24 9:30 AM Preschool 12:00 PM Men's Fri- day Lunch 12:00 PM Preschool Lunch Bunch	25 9:00 AM PW Bible study 9:00 AM Supplemental Diaper Bank UPWARD BASKETBALL GAMES 11:00 AM Knitters
26 8:15 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 12:00 PM Audit Committee- Tenta- tive 4:00 PM BYG Jr. & Sr. High 6:00 PM Worship	27 9:30 AM Preschool 6:15 PM PW Body Carpenter Workout 7:00 PM Session Meeting	28 7:00 PM Coed Dartball	29 9:30 AM Preschool 6:00 PM Ringers 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Modern Svc Rehearsal	30 9:15 AM Quilting 12:00 PM Knitters 6:00 PM AA Mtg 6:30 PM Locking Arms Mens Group 7:30 PM Dartball	31 9:30 AM Preschool 12:00 PM Preschool Lunch Bunch	February 1 UPWARD BASKETBALL GAMES



Upward Basketball practices are Monday-Thursday beginning at 5:30 PM.

Upward Cheer practices are on Thursday at 6:30 PM.

JANUARY Birthdays

01/01 Jordan Cercosimo
 01/01 Jaden Cercosimo
 01/01 Payton Jackson
 01/04 Stephen Snyder
 01/04 Matthew Colton
 01/04 Martha Del Conte
 01/05 Jake Casto
 01/05 Richard Radzik
 01/05 Jacob Fabus
 01/06 Huck Julius
 01/06 Raymond Gilmore
 01/06 Nathaniel Goff
 01/06 Tammy Dady
 01/07 Jane Vennum
 01/07 William Miller
 01/08 Richard Tessmer
 01/08 Kathryn Boehmer
 01/10 Patricia Nowak
 01/10 Randall Wilkerson
 01/11 Eda Woodward
 01/11 Nolan Walsh
 01/11 Shanan Goerd
 01/12 Gladys Kennell
 01/13 Diane Dal Bon
 01/14 Jamie Casto
 01/14 Michael Ruehle
 01/15 Marilyn Richards

01/15 Joan Kerlin
 01/15 Devin Lacek
 01/16 Erica Wilkerson
 01/16 Emily Pyrdek
 01/16 Timothy Nagy
 01/17 Judith Wolstoncroft
 01/17 Owen Morse
 01/18 Donna Thrasher
 01/18 Gunnar DeRoss
 01/19 Karin Nass
 01/19 Barbara Mours
 01/20 Carol Visser
 01/21 Abigail Byers
 01/21 Patricia Chilton
 01/22 Pamela Postler
 01/22 Tyler Evans
 01/22 Jason Smith
 01/22 Debra Hayes
 01/22 Lucy Joesbury
 01/23 Jerri Davis
 01/23 Lorrie Just
 01/23 Daniel Gillis
 01/23 David Krieger
 01/24 Terrence Kohlmyer
 01/24 Joseph Findley
 01/25 Joseph Verduci
 01/25 Jenna Valentine

01/25 Cynthia Richards
 01/26 Roland Drugmand
 01/26 Eric Gregory
 01/26 Collin Galbraith
 01/26 Matthew Powell
 01/27 Shalyn Muraco
 01/28 Richelle Sommerfield
 01/28 Lisa Schultz
 01/28 Cathy Smith
 01/28 Peggy Daube
 01/28 Alexander Just
 01/30 Hudson Vennum
 01/30 Robert Dal Bon
 01/30 Lisa Jo Colwell
 01/30 Philip Gossic



Welcome to the world Baby Luke!
 Our Associate Pastor Jae Cho and his wife Esther welcomed Baby Luke on December 13th. Pastor Jae has been on parental leave and is planning to return in January.



Evangelism Thought for the Month:

1Peter 3:15— “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”

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Remember 20 years ago when everyone was concerned technology would stop when the calendar changed from 1999 to 2000? Think about celebrating the beginning of a new year and a new decade with **Bethany Golden Oldies**. Join us on **Thursday, January 16 at noon in Fellowship Hall** for a tasty Food, some lively music with time to Fellowship and share holiday stories with longtime Friends and while making new Friends. How time Flies when everyone is having Fun!

Trip money for Esther will be collected. Currently our trip to Lancaster in late March is filled. We often have last-minute cancellations. A substitute waitlist is needed. Everyone going needs to purchase the travel insurance at \$28. More details at the meeting.



It's Party Time for BYG as they welcome Pastor Jae back at their 2020 New Year's Party next Sunday, January 12 from 4-6pm. You don't want to miss this fun time to meet together again.