

JUNE 2022

# CHURCH NEWSLETTER

*Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church*

## *from our Senior Pastor*

It has been a wonderful season both here at church and out in the world. If your family is anything like ours you have probably spent a lot of time mowing grass and mulching flowerbeds, and leaning into the beauty that Spring affords us here in Western PA. It has also been a great season of worship and preaching here at Bethany. We continue to look forward to seeing you all in church.

As I write this, I am working on completing a sermon series on why Questions Matter and will be preaching on the Walk to Emmaus from Luke 24 on May 29th.

Starting on Pentecost we will begin a new Series on the mission of the church entitled, "Called and Sent." Pastor Ellen and I are looking forward to exploring more deeply with you all what being the church in the world looks like in the 21st Century. Spring will soon turn to summer, and we hope that all of you will be getting some time off from work, and school, and maybe get to spend some time out of town and out of doors.

One of my favorite things to do on vacation is read. This is one of those habits that I picked up from my Dad. He would take a bag of books with him to Glen Lake every year and sit out on the beach and read. It is one of those great memories I have from being a child, running past Dad as we headed for yet another swim, and his book in his hand while he sat in a lounge chair. I will do much the same during my time at the lake this year while nieces and nephews run all around. With that I would like to offer some good reading suggestions for you as you head into the summer reading season yourselves.

### ***Everything Happens for a Reason: and Other Lies I've Loved, by Kate Bowler***

I mentioned this book in Church a week ago. It is a wonderful assessment of faith amid crisis, what that looks like for one individual and what it may have looked like for many of us.

### ***Them: Why We Hate Each Other and How to Heal, by Ben Sasse***

Ben Sasse is a Senator from Nebraska. No matter your politics this politician hits the nail on the head about why we are so polarized as a nation and offers sound ways to move beyond the noise and hate. A great quote from the book, "More politics won't solve our politics."

(continued on page 2)

## HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

Page 4 - Birthdays and Member news

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Pages 8 and 9 - Ministry Group News

Page 11 - Calendar

## *from our Senior Pastor continued*

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### ***Watership Down, by Richard Adams***

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of this classic story by reading it for the first time or reading it again. The story centers around a group of rabbits who sense something is wrong in their community and set out on an adventure. It teaches lessons about the dangers of ignorance, authoritarianism, and the beauty of finding heroes in unlikely places.

### ***Hawaii, by James Michener***

Before I visited Hawaii after my Junior year of High School my parents made me read this book. I am forever thankful. The first chapter simply describes the ancient action of volcanoes and how the Islands were formed. The rest of the book tells the stories of people who came to the islands for many reasons, and the impact they had on the place, and how place impacted them.

### ***You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit, by James K.A. Smith***

This incredibly accessible book helps us all understand the fact that we worship what we love, and often our hearts are taught to love rival gods, instead of the one true God in whose image we are created.

### ***The Road to Character, by David Brooks***

How is virtue cultivated? Explore the lives of people in history and the ways they became who they were by not only cultivating a sense of what they wanted to do in life but who they were called to be.

That is six books to get started. Some are long, Hawaii, and some are short, but all are worth the read. Let me know what some of your favorite books are and I will try to get to them this summer. I hope it goes without saying that God's word is always worth diving into. Lastly, if none of these spark your interest read Harry Potter, you simply cannot go wrong with the boy wizard. Have a great summer!

Love, Pastor Brian

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## *Music Notes*

BY: MUSIC DIRECTOR, JOHN HENNINGER

### ***Summer Musicians***

The Choir will be singing this season through the day of Pentecost, which is June 5. During the rest of the Summer months, we are encouraging you to share your gift of music and help lead worship through music.

Perhaps you have a sacred solo you would like to sing, or maybe you are more comfortable singing in a small group.

Please let me know if you have an interest in sharing your gift of music in our worship. Instrumentalists are welcome to help lead our worship as well.

Sing a new song to the Lord!

## from our Associate Pastor



### **New Worship Bags available for Kids**

In Matthew 18, Jesus calls a child to him and places the child among the disciples. He then says, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Here, Jesus calls us to become like children and learn from them, living with childlike trust, faith, curiosity, and hope. Jesus also calls us to welcome children.

In the life of the church, we are to welcome children, not just because of the baptismal vows we make to nurture them, but because in doing so we are following the teachings of Christ. During the summer months, we are pausing Worship & Wonder. Worship & Wonder is a program that for kids in Kindergarten through the completion of 2nd grade, and it exists to help teach the scripture lesson in a more child-friendly way. This program allows parents to participate in worship with less interruption from small children who can't quite follow along yet. It was important for us to take a break so that our wonderful teacher and volunteers can rest, prepare for the fall, and themselves enjoy worshipping in "big church" as they call it. It's also a chance for us to reiterate how important it is for kids of all ages to experience the full service of worship during such formative years of their lives.

As a sign of welcome (and a help to parents), the Discipleship Team has put together new Worship Bags. Inside these bags are: a clipboard with crayons, blank papers, a coloring sheet (or two), and a page called "My Worship Notes" that allows for some of the older children to take notes about what they hear during the worship service. The bag also includes a book, some pipe cleaners to play with, and lacing cards. The papers will be changed out week-to-week. Families can grab a bag hanging on the wall by the nursery or outside of the entrance to the sanctuary. The ushers can take the bags from the kids after church or show them where to hang the bags when they are done.

I remember the first time I stood up beside my dad at Chippewa United Methodist Church and I recited the entire Apostles' Creed without looking down at the bulletin. He had encouraged me to memorize it and taught me that it was important to not just recite it myself as a statement of what I believed, but to hear everyone else around me proclaiming it, too. Despite my own restlessness in worship as a kid, (which often translated as complaints and questions and attempts to escape the pew so I could run downstairs and get a donut out of the church's kitchen), I learned. I learned how to follow along with the bulletin. I learned The Lord's Prayer, stories from Scripture and many, many hymns. As a child, tween, and teenager, I learned about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. And, even if I couldn't repeat back the entire sermon on the drive home, I knew that I had heard the Word of God read and proclaimed in worship.

But perhaps most importantly, I learned people's names, I learned that I was part of a community, and I learned that I was not just loved by God, but that I was loved and accepted by the people I saw in church every Sunday.

Young worshippers are full of whispers, yawns, questions, giggles and wiggles. For some of us adults, a child's restlessness during worship can present some challenges. We at Bethany invite the parents, grandparents, and other family members of kids to be assured: we love having children in worship--praying, singing, and moving along with us! We pray the children and their families will all feel welcome, and that these materials will help the Bethany Kids grow as disciples. As they color, read, lace a card or draw a picture, may they also know they are loved.

This summer, if you are in church with us, I invite you to look around and see the kids, get to know their names, and perhaps, even learn something from them.

*Prayers abound, Pastor Ellen*

**If you would like to volunteer to switch out the clipboards on a Sunday morning or during the week, please just email or call Pastor Ellen. If you would like to be a helper for Worship & Wonder one or two Sundays during the fall or spring, please contact Kelly Gilmore.**

# about our members....

Five new members were received  
by Session in May--  
Michael Barbour  
Breana Beltz  
Jason Jarvis  
Erica Restich  
Connie Rucker.

They will be received by and introduced to  
the congregation on June 12

*Did you know that Bethany  
has a Pastoral Care team?  
The team regularly meets  
with shut-ins and handles a  
variety of concerns for the  
broader congregation. If  
you or someone you know  
has a concern or needs  
help, please let us know by  
calling the church office at  
412-221-5132 or email  
prayers@bethanypresby.org.*

## CONDOLENCES

The sympathy of the congregation is  
extended to

- the family of Harry Stefanski on his  
passing on May 2, 2022
- The family of Earl "Bud" Marlett on  
his passing on May 19, 2022.



06/02 Bruce Carman	06/12 Charlotte Joesbury
06/02 Debra Grossi	06/12 Andrea Prohaska
06/02 Gianna Ramous	06/12 Christina Morse
06/02 Stacey O'Connor	06/13 Lorenzo Talerico
06/03 Emilee Quinn	06/13 Robert Krek
06/03 Landon Muraco	06/13 Wayne McGinnis
06/05 Dennis Dunn	06/14 Paul Demnyan
06/05 Patricia Browner	06/14 Donald Platt
06/05 Edgar Shaffer	06/15 Grace Faulkner
06/05 Matt Ryan	06/15 Mary Jane Schafer
06/06 Elissa Hamilton	06/15 Amanda Evans
06/06 Sean Doty	06/15 John Yanak
06/06 Elaine Gray	06/16 Clayton Wilhelm
06/06 Devin Nock	06/16 Scott Yanak
06/07 Thomas Unghajer	06/16 Clare Bizzack
06/07 Erica Restich	06/18 Lucinda Naples
06/07 Vince Lamberti	06/19 Edward Kopach
06/07 Daniel Eichler	06/19 Ashley Farabaugh
06/07 Rachel Schinosi	06/21 Madison Smith
06/08 Angela Conley	06/21 Darlene Shaffer
06/08 Jeffrey Smith	06/22 Brittany Kikta
06/08 Charles Woleslagle	06/23 Thomas Casciola
06/08 Brandon Edwards	06/24 Dolly McCrea
06/09 Ryan Wolstoncroft	06/24 Robert Sunderlin
06/09 Carol Grendys	06/24 Kayla Cellone
06/09 Lisa Janssen	06/24 Jamie Hamilton
06/09 Mark Morelock	06/25 Kimberly Gullo
06/10 Remington Gibson	06/25 Kip Padgelek
06/10 Makenzie Briggs	06/25 Bryan Matusic
06/11 Robert Pulice	06/25 Luciana Romanelli
06/11 Landon Mendenhall	06/25 Luca Romanelli
06/11 Cara Salerno	06/28 Nicole Loebig
06/11 Brenna Mours-Gibson	06/28 Taylor Knapp
	06/28 Courtney Ramous
	06/29 Christopher De Rose
	06/29 Connie Segeleon
	06/30 Patricia Slack
	06/30 Bella Sharp
	06/30 Robert Julius
	06/30 Capri Matusic
	06/30 Addison Gastgeb
	06/30 Debra Pyle
	06/30 Jonathan Miklavic



## Worship News

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Summer Worship hours began on Sunday, May 29th. Sunday morning services will be at 8:15AM and 10AM from Memorial Day through Labor Day

### ***Sunday, June 5th is Pentecost***

On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world.

### ***Sunday, June 12th***

Reception of new members

### ***Sunday, June 19th is Father's Day***

Join us for a free casual picnic lunch following the second service.

### ***Sunday, June 26th***

The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated

A reminder that you can find our weekly bulletins and a replay of our worship services each Sunday on our website. The replay is posted immediately following the second service each week [www.bethanypresby.org/sermons](http://www.bethanypresby.org/sermons).

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## Worship and Wonder

**A huge THANK YOU to Debby Hayes for leading our Worship and Wonder program.**

Worship and Wonder is an interactive worship time for our children during the second service.

Worship and Wonder will be taking a summer hiatus and will resume in the Fall - but we will be spending the summer searching for more adults to help as leaders and assistants.

Please consider giving some time to help us to provide this important ministry for our children - Contact Kelly Gilmore, Debby Hayes, or the church office for more information.



# Upcoming Events



## Bethany Presbyterian Annual Golf Outing Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> Calling All Golfers



You're invited to attend Bethany's annual golf outing on Saturday June 25<sup>nd</sup> at Fort Cherry Cherry Golf Club. Whether you're a foursome, pair or single player – all are welcome. Please join us for a great day of fellowship and golf. We're excited to once again offer a modified shotgun start @ 8:30 and scramble format, leaving you much of the afternoon and all evening available!

Where: Fort Cherry Golf Course

When: Sat June 25<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am: Modified Shotgun Start

Why: **Great time with friends!**

What: \$ 82 gets you Golf, Snack @turn, BBQ Lunch and **Bethany Golf Hat!**

**Don't delay – sign up online TODAY!**

Registering your team and/or paying is easy! You can write a check to Bethany Golf outing for \$82 or register/pay online [www.Bethanypresby.org](http://www.Bethanypresby.org) via 'Upcoming Events' for \$85.

If you have any questions - please contact one of the below Golf committee members:

Bill Paviol	paviol@yahoo.com	412 722 – 3102
Ed Stewart		412 818 – 7895
Bill Just	bjust@chubb.com	412 417 – 0089

**Your Registration/Payment is needed by Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup>**

# Upcoming Events continued..

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 13 - JUNE 17

# Get Ready...



## For a Howlin' Good Time!

**Register online on our website**

For children ages 4 through entering 5th grade

THERE IS NO COST FOR OUR CHILDREN THIS YEAR - VBS is Free!

### **VBS SET UP -**

***Please consider staying after the 10am worship service on Sunday, June 12th, to help set up for VBS. We have lots of decorating to do and would greatly appreciate your help!***

### **JUNE SPECIAL OFFERING - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

The special offering envelope for June supports Vacation Bible School.

Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting "Vacation Bible School" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for VBS on your check or a pew envelope.

Thank you for your contribution to this great program for the youth of Bethany and the community!



# Ministry Group News

## **MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS)**

Bethany MOPS has TWO groups to serve ALL our mamas.

The morning group meets from 9:15-11:15am on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

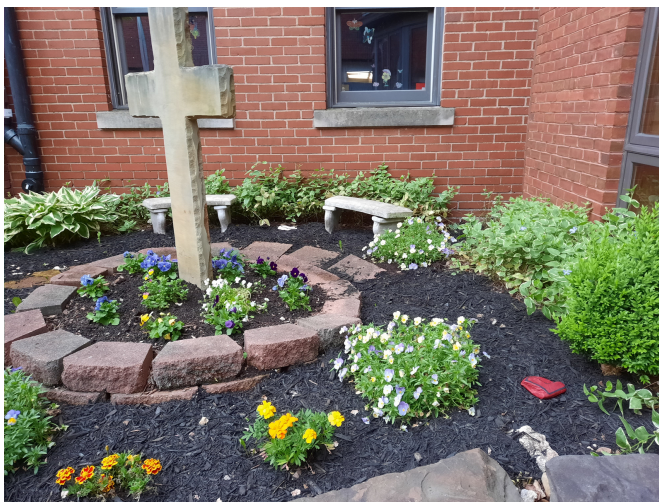
The evening session meets from 6:30-8:30pm on the second Thursday of the month, and also includes MomsNext (Mothers of school age kids).

For more information, please call the church office or email the Bethany MOPS Team -

**[mops@bethanypresby.org](mailto:mops@bethanypresby.org)**



*a special THANK YOU to our MOPS groups for the Spring cleanup of our McDivitt Garden, and to PW for donating 8 beautiful hanging baskets that were planted in the garden.*





# Ministry Group News continued...

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## GOLDEN OLDIES

### WHO ARE WE?

A group of active seniors who enjoy having a good time with longtime friends and new friends.

### WHAT DO WE DO?

We go on day trips, overnight trips, hear programs that are entertaining, informative, listen to wonderful musical programs or play games. Sometimes they simply visit with their friends.

### IS THERE A MEAL OR SNACK?

Every lunch is a fresh cooked balanced meal with yummy desserts.

### IS THERE A MEETING?

We begin with a welcome and prayer then enjoy a tasty lunch, a devotion, short meeting and a program.

### DO YOU HAVE TO JOIN?

Becoming a member is NOT required but it is preferred. Why? Members only pay \$3 each month for their meal. Non-members pay \$5 a meal. Best of all "Paid in full" members get a discount on trips. Paying a membership fee of \$20 helps us provide good meals and better programs.

### WHO MAY JOIN?

Yes, Anyone may join. Golden Oldies is part of Bethany Presbyterian Church's outreach ministry. We have members from many communities and from many different churches. Ages from 55-100 younger or older are welcomed.

### TRIP TO SUGAR CREEK, OHIO

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

There are still a few spots left for the trip -

- Contact Carole Aspinall ASAP  
at 412-833-8114

to sign-up or for more information.

### TRIP TO CHAUTAUQUA/MAYVILLE /JAMESTOWN NY

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Transportation by deluxe motor coach  
Cruise on the Chautauqua Belle Steamboat  
BBQ lunch

Stop at Webbs Candy Factory

Lucy Town Tour

Dinner at Shakespeare's Restaurant and  
more...

LAST DAY TO SIGN UP IS FRIDAY, JULY 8

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## TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

DRIVERS NEEDED - Our transportation ministry, led by our Deacons, provides a means of transportation for all who are in need and desire to come to worship at Bethany. We need people to help us provide safe and convenient transportation to our members who are unable to drive themselves. Please consider signing up as one of our team members by contacting Bill Pitzer or the church office.

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# The Love of God

by Doug Bovard

"God's love is the most awesome thing about Him. It is not His justice, nor His majesty, nor even His blazing holiness, but the fact that He has made and keeps a covenant of personal commitment and love to His people." – Sinclair Ferguson

"Sinners are attractive because they are loved; they are not loved because they are attractive." – Martin Luther

"To live up above with those that we love will be a great glory; But to live down below with those that we know, now that's another story." – unknown poet.

*Scripture Readings: 1 John 4:7; John 17:20-26; John 3:35; John 10:11; Rom. 5:5, 8; Deut. 7:7 and 30:9; Isa. 64:4, 1 John 4:19, Jer. 31:3 and Eph. 1:4-5*

Personally, there is a natural inadequacy I feel when writing about God's love. Please understand my efforts will invariably fall short. Now love is a word that is frequently thrown around without consideration of what it truly means. Love has derivative forms of meaning and discussions of that could quickly make this article too lengthy. In this article we start with God's love as the exemplar and standard for all derivations. Our focus will be on God's deep, sacrificial love known as agape love. This agape love is rooted deeply in the one who loves and, amazingly, it is bestowed upon us!

First, God's love is Intra-Trinitarian. The love the Father has toward His son Jesus and toward the Holy Spirit is a perfect love. This same perfect love God gives to believers. As the Father loved the Son, even so He has now loved believers (John 17:6). It is one thing to love someone who is attractive such as Jesus, it is another thing to love unattractive sinners such as you and me. There is nothing in us to attract God. Therefore, the object of God's love is the unattractive and unlovely sinner. Now that should humble us and get our attention!

God's love is infinite. When Christ comes to live inside Christians, He brings the Father's infinite love with Him. The same infinite love that the Father has for the son is extended to you and me! God fills our hearts with His love (Rom. 5:5).

God's love is sacrificial. True love is a love that gives. The Father's giving of His only Son to redeem sinners is the most powerful example of sacrificial love (Rom. 5:8). Just as the good shepherd lays down His life for His sheep, Christ laid down His life for the lost (John 10:11).

God's love is a choice of His will. He chose His people not because of something inherently worthy of love in them (Deut. 7:7). God is the seeker, initiator and pursuer in His relationship with individuals. We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

God's love is eternal. There is no beginning or end to His love (Jer. 31:3). In love He predestined us... (Eph. 1:4-5). Predestination expresses the greatest love that there has ever been. It is the love of the Father for His chosen ones as He eternally loved and elected. This love extends from eternity past to eternity future – there is no end! Can you comprehend and process that love?

Finally, God's love is passionate. God's heart is full of affection for His people (Deut. 30:9; Isa. 64:4). How can we reflect God's self-giving love in our relationships with others? Contrast the Bible's view of God's love with those who see love as just a feeling. Are there other religious or cultural groups that we sometimes fail to treat lovingly, implicitly or explicitly? How can we correct that? Reflect on God's love for the lost and passages of Scripture that come to mind.

## JUNE 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Worship at 8:15am & 10:00am	30 MEMORIAL DAY	31 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	1 10AM – Fellowship of Prayer	2 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA	3 9AM – PW Seated Workout	4
5 PENTECOST Worship with Communion at 8:15am & 10:00am	6 7PM – Deacon Meeting 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	7 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice	8 7PM- Boy Scouts	9 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA	10 9AM – PW Seated Workout	11 11:30AM – Knitters
12 Worship at 8:15am & 10:00am	13 VBS 7PM – Session Teams 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	14 VBS 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice	15 VBS	16 VBS 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Golden Oldies 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA	17 VBS 9AM – PW Seated Workout	18 FOOD BANK
19 FATHER'S DAY Worship at 8:15am & 10:00am 11am – Father's Day Church Picnic	20 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	21 GOLDEN OLDIES TRIP 6:30PM – PW CT Meeting 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice	22	23 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA	24 9AM – PW Seated Workout	25 ANNUAL GOLF OUTING DIAPER BANK 11:30AM – Knitters
26 Worship at 8:15am & 10:00am	27 7PM - Session	28 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice	29	30 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA	1 9AM – PW Seated Workout	2



# Mission News

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## **MISSION TEAM SARRIS CANDY SALES FOR JUNE**

Proceeds from the sale of Sarris Candy for the month of June will benefit Guardian Angel Dogs. Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs work through their incredible dogs to make a difference in the lives of those struggling with a variety of disorders including PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, Seizure Disorders, Mobility Issues and more.

Candy can be purchased on Sunday mornings in the Welcome Center, or on weekdays from the office.

*Save the date*

Adult Mission Trip to Summerville, WV

August 14 -19

Contact the mission team for more information

[mission@bethanypresby.org](mailto:mission@bethanypresby.org)

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