

MAY 2022

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

from our Senior Pastor

Happy Easter Season! As I have mentioned in church, words cannot express how delighted I am to celebrate Easter with all of you here at Bethany. So many of us, including Pastors, sometime forget that Easter is an entire season of the church's life. How easy it can be after the lillies are put away (or planted), after the eggs have been dyed and hidden (and hopefully found), that Easter isn't over. Forty whole days Jesus walks with, talks with, and eats with his followers. They see him, they know him, but something is changed. How wonderful it is to have a savior who simply does not quit on us but conquers even death to be with us. Jesus is always Immanuel, God with us, not just at Christmas but for all time.

We all wish we could be in the presence of the resurrected Jesus. It is the stories of Easter that compel many of us to commit to a life of faith. What would it be like to be walking along a road with Jesus and have the scriptures explained to us, as happens on the road to Emmaus? That would have certainly been the best Bible study ever!

We do not have that. We have the unique and authoritative witness of the Scriptures. We have our lives of faith as they have been lived out in the church. The season of Easter is not a time when we say because Jesus has been raised we have it all figured out. It is, rather, a time to say even when things seem to be going differently than the way we expected them to go, we have a God who, in Jesus Christ, is relentless in his pursuit of being in community with us.

Our response to this is a renewal of the call of the church to demonstrate what being in loving community looks like. That is good, difficult work. It is the work the church is called to primarily. It is work that is grounded in the love that God has for each and every one of us.

In Christ,
Pastor Brian

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

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from our Associate Pastor

The weather is getting warmer. The grass needs to be cut. Winter coats are put away, and graduation party invitations are being sent out. Even though it seems as if we just sang "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" on Easter Sunday, it's pretty clear: Summer is upon us!

For many individuals and families, summer is a time to slow down, take a break, and enjoy time with family and friends. The staff and leaders at Bethany realize that this is a season when many people are traveling and calendars are full of weddings, vacations, camps, and other celebrations - most of which happen out of town. So, I wanted to offer some resources for our members to stay connected and nurture their faith even as they soak in the sun.

"Not Consumed" is a ministry that offers resources for families, including daily prayer cards and a free downloadable Family Bible Study.

We particularly recommend a journal called "I Speak Life" available for girls or boys (ages 8-12) and for teens (13+).

Go to the website at www.notconsumed.com to find some great resources to use with your kids as you gather at the dinner table or before you tuck them in to bed.

"Pray as You Go" is a downloadable app that millions of people use every day. The daily prayer session is 10-12 minutes long, and includes music, a scripture reading and guided prayer. Based on Ignatian Prayer, the daily reflections aim to help you become more aware of God's presence, listen and reflect on God's word, and grow in your faith. The app is free.

The Bible Recap is a popular podcast hosted by Tara-Leigh Cobble, creator of D-Groups.

In this daily podcast, she walks you through a one-year chronological Bible reading plan and explains each day's passage in an easy-to-understand way. You can go to <http://www.thebiblerecap.com/> start and see the step-by-step instructions on how to jump in to the plan. A book by the same name is also available to order.

This summer, you are also encouraged to consider taking part in other opportunities for discipleship, fellowship, and service when you are home. Register for the Bethany Men's Retreat (May 20-21), Vacation Bible School (June 13-17), or the WV Summerville Mission Trip (August 14-20). These resources and events are just a few ways that you and/or your family can be equipped and be a part of "... building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12b-13).

Prayers abound,
Pastor Ellen

Note: Several members asked about the book I referenced in my sermon on April 24th. The book is *The Chief Witness: Escape from China's Modern-Day Concentration Camps* by Sayragul Sauytbay and Alexandra Caelius.

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!



05/01 Joseph Mizia	05/17 Dylan Nock
05/01 Alice Eiszler	05/17 Kathryn Evans
05/02 Jackson Gullo	05/17 Denise Leigh
05/02 Helena Brickner	05/17 Maximilian Nagy
05/04 Bethany Orosz	05/18 Susan Witwicki
05/04 Phyllis Matthews	05/18 Melina Robinson
05/06 Brenda Woleslagle	05/18 Carolyn Morelock
05/06 Ann Doty	05/18 Elaine London
05/07 Russell North	05/18 Judy Vietmeier
05/08 Tom Harold	05/19 Patricia Frye
05/08 Timothy Gastgeb	05/20 Joseph Szallar
05/08 Valeria Lorenzi	05/20 David Verduci
05/08 Jody Romanelli	05/20 Peter Wolstoncroft
05/08 Jenna Foltz	05/21 Connor Schultz
05/08 Kara Julius	05/21 Linda Manzini
05/09 Alex Harbison	05/22 Logan Smith
05/10 Brandon Orosz	05/22 Faith Ruehle
05/11 Larry Gastgeb	05/22 Lara Bizzack
05/11 Jacquelyn Nixon	05/23 Katelyn Morelock
05/11 Kaycee Nelson	05/24 Samantha Hartnett
05/11 Roberta Gerstacker	05/25 J. D. Cellone
05/12 Jim Davidson	05/25 Ian Suppo
05/13 Alyssa Padula	05/25 Wendi Duffill
05/13 Karen Talerico	05/26 Peggy Walsh
05/13 Brittany Edney	05/26 Margaret Bolam
05/14 Sandra Gastgeb	05/27 Rebecca Findley
05/15 Amy Gastgeb	05/28 Robert Montagna
05/16 Liam Edney	05/29 Emily Lambert
05/16 Colleen Heasley	05/29 Sara Sunderlin
05/16 Susan Nagy	05/29 Cindy Lamberti
	05/29 Terri Berton

about our members....

CONDOLENCES

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to

- Angela Conley and family on the passing of her father, Ross Mascellino, on April 3, 2022

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Confirmands presented their Statements of Faith on Monday, April 4, and they have been received into the membership of the church.

Katelyn Gilmore – Daughter of Kelly and Donny Gilmore

Rylie Mendenhall – Daughter of Jessica and Todd Mendenhall

Quinn Miller – Daughter of Laura and Scott Miller

Logan Smith – Son of Michele and Joshua Smith

**A NEW MEMBER/INQUIRERS CLASS
is beginning on May 8.**

**Contact the
Membership Team at
membershibebethanypresby.org
for more information.**

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.

Worship News

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

Bulletins and Past Worship Services can be found on our website at www.bethanypresby.org/sermons

Sunday, May 1st is Youth Sunday

Michael Swanson will be our guest preacher as our BYG Youth help to lead our worship.

Sunday, May 8th is Mother's Day

The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated. Traditional Communion elements of shortbread and grape juice are back, and our church leaders are once again serving communion to the congregation. The individual serving cups will still be available for anyone who prefers that option.

Sunday, May 15th is Education Fund Sunday

High School Seniors who are members of our church will be celebrated with a gift from our Bethany Education Fund.

Sunday, May 22nd is the last day of Sunday School.

Children's Sunday School classes will resume on September 11.

News about our facility



SPRING CLEAN UP DAY – May 14 from 8am to noon

Join us, along with the Boy Scouts of Troop 2, on Saturday 5/14, to spruce up our gardens with mulch.

If you are able to come before 5/14 to pull weeds and prepare the gardens for mulch, we would love to have your help. Feel free to show up at your convenience. If you will need gardening tools, contact Bill Stephan before you come so that he can have them ready for you.

Ministry Group News

Bethany Presbyterian Women

For the PW Spring Mission Project, we are going to collect items for Sojourner House, another of our Presbytery and Mission groups. The mission of Sojourner House, located in East Liberty, is to provide compassionate, faith-based recovery services to women and their children. They can provide housing for up to 14 families that enables mothers in recovery to stay with their children while receiving the help they need and enable them to eventually transition back into the community.

They are currently in need of the following critical items:

Towels - Bath towels, hand towels, wash cloths and Kitchen towels

Baby Wipes and Cleaning Supplies

Collection baskets will be in the area outside of the Nursery.



Please help us make the month of May a month of new beginnings for the mothers and families at Sojourner House.

THANK YOU FROM THE BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN -

The Bethany Presbyterian Women want to thank everyone who donated in March to our collection for the City Mission Veterans and the Mission from Mars.

The results were awesome and we were able to provide both organizations with numerous boxes of critical supplies.

Join Bethany PW for Flower Bingo!

Please bring a potted plant or flower, and go home with a different one! Then join us for a fun afternoon of fellowship!
(Light refreshments provided)

When: May 21 @ Bethany Presbyterian Church from 2:00-4:00pm

Just in time for
Mother's Day!



**Annual Hanging
Basket Flower Sale**
May 5th - May 8th
or while supplies last

Baskets are
\$25 each

Ministry Group News continued

Men's Ministry



The Men's Ministry hosted their Annual Lenten Breakfast again this year. It was a very successful day! The men cracked and scrambled 30 dozen eggs, sliced 40 lbs of ham, and served enough biscuits to feed a congregation. Even the daughters and granddaughters pitched in to help.

Thanks for all who helped prepare, serve and cleanup.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR
ADVENT BREAKFAST IN
DECEMBER!**

Ministry Group News continued...

Golden Oldies

TRIP TO SUGAR CREEK, OHIO

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Transportation by deluxe motor coach.

Lunch at Farmstead Restaurant

Admission to the show at the Amish Country Theater

Shopping time in the Village of Berlin, and at Walnut Creek Cheese and more...

LAST DAY TO SIGN UP IS AT THE
GOLDEN OLDIES MEETING ON
THURSDAY, MAY 19.

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

MISSION TEAM SARRIS CANDY SALES FOR MAY

Proceeds from the sale of Sarris Candy for the month of May benefit Bethany Helping Hands.

Helping Hands falls under the direction of our mission team and is available to help members of our church and the surrounding area with items like painting, grass cutting, small projects, etc.

If you or someone you know is in need, please do not hesitate to ask. If there is something we can help you with we will certainly do our best to achieve it.



Save the date

Bethany Golf Outing
June 25

Adult Mission Trip to Summerville, WV
August 14 -19

MAY SPECIAL OFFERING- YOUTH MISSION FUND

The special offering envelope for May supports future Youth Mission Trips.

Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to these special offerings either by selecting "Youth Mission Trip" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for the Youth Mission Fund on your check or a pew envelope. Thank you for your prayers and support for the youth of Bethany!

Get Ready...



For a Howlin' Good Time!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 13 - JUNE 17

Register online on our website

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