

JUNE 2021

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

Pastor Update

BY: PASTOR BRIAN JANSSEN

It is that time of year, and what a time it is! With Memorial Day Weekend upon us, and school winding down, summer is here. I think it is shaping up to be a wonderful season. We have our West Virginia mission trip coming soon, the Bethany Golf outing is on the way, we will be recognizing both our high school and college graduates on June 6, and VBS is back! Please continue to check our website, your calendars, and e-mails for more information. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the events, please do not hesitate to contact us, we will make sure you have what you need to enjoy doing the ministry to which God is calling you.

Summer 2021 looks like it will be a more "normal summer." There will be more traveling and more vacations taken, people will be out on boats and enjoying their barbecues. Lisa and I will be headed to the Outer Banks in early June and Northern Michigan in early July. We are looking forward to a time of rest and relaxation and getting to see family, some of whom we have not seen in over a year! Many of you may have similar plans and situations.

This all got me thinking about how much Jesus traveled and how often Jesus sought places of rest. Now, we know from Scripture that sometimes, even when he was seeking rest, Jesus was surrounded by crowds. The feeding of the 5,000 was one such instance. At the very least we know that Jesus valued time away. He knew he needed his energy restored, and that rest is a good thing. I have no doubt that after he rested, Jesus was ready to get back at it, so to speak. I have always noticed, that even as much as I love vacation, I am always reminded by the end of it, how joyful it is to have meaningful work to engage in when I return, that I am a part of helping effect God's will in the world, and that I get to do this with the wonderful people of Bethany Presbyterian Church!

I pray that all of you have a fun, restful, God-filled summer. We hope to see you in church and share our stories of what God is up to in our lives.

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

**2 - MUSIC NOTES,
WORSHIP UPDATES**

3 - BE A LIVING DONOR

4 - TEAM UPDATES

**7-12 - UPCOMING EVENTS,
MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE,
BIRTHDAYS**

Music Notes

BY: JOHN HENNINGER

SUMMER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Bethany is looking forward to once again filling the church with music. It has been a constant prayer that as restrictions begin to lift, our Music Program will once again flourish.

BELLS: We will be starting a handbell group this summer - we are hoping to have it going by mid-June. Please let me know if you are interested.

VOCAL MUSIC: If you are interested in helping lead our worship services through the gift of song, please let me know. New singers are always welcome - and we can arrange to have you sing with a group if you don't like singing alone. Sing a new song to the Lord!

Watch for details over the summer for more information about resuming choir practice and other musical activities this fall.

Worship Updates

Guest Preacher - May 30

We are welcoming Michael Arrington, Chaplain of The Neighborhood Academy, as a guest preacher for both worship services. The Neighborhood Academy is a faith-based, college preparatory, independent school whose mission is to break the cycle of generational poverty by empowering youth and preparing them for college and citizenship.

The Neighborhood Academy, comprised of a middle school and high school, is designed to remove every barrier that prevents young people from thinking about their futures and the steps needed to achieve their goals. Our holistic set of programs ensures that all issues affecting young people are addressed. Students who cross our threshold enter into a tight-knit network of concerned adults who constantly evaluate their progress; in return they commit to valuing their education, setting new habits of heart and mind, and growing into adults with character who will contribute to their communities.

Guest Preacher - June 13

The Rev. Bill Gracey will lead both worship services on June 13.

Be a Living Donor

BY: MARK RACKLEY

"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves." Malachi 4:1-2

Until that day when everything will be made right, we must live in this world. On my blog, I have written many times about my wife and her health problems. She is now in the end stage of kidney failure as many of you know. She is on dialysis, but her life expectancy will double, roughly, if she can get a kidney transplant. In the Pittsburgh area, there is about a five-year wait for a suitable donor, meaning someone that matches the same blood type (with some variations), leukocyte antibodies and leukocyte antigens.

And sadly, as my wife approaches the top of the list, we enter into the hope / despair cycle. We are excited to get a "ready mode" call but disappointed when the space is filled with someone else. What can end that cycle, and provide a normally scheduled surgery, is if there is someone who will be willing to donate a kidney.

This life-saving gift can be given by registering at <https://livingdonorreg.upmc.com>. Be sure to identify the person that you are donating for as **Catharina Rackley**, and please get the spelling correct. Things you should know:

- Testing to see if you are a match takes about 3 days.
- The expenses for the tests are paid by the recipient's insurance, not the donor's insurance.
- Kidneys can be donated without letting the recipient know who is donating.
- If you are not a match, you may be a match for another person in the area and a "Paired Donor Exchange" may be possible (aka kidney swap) with two recipients and two donors all going into surgery at the same time. That assumes that the other person has a donor that is a good match.
- The surgery takes only four hours and recovery takes 1-2 days. There are rarely complications afterwards and no donor has ever died at UPMC. Dying by donating a kidney is rare (0.03% nationally), less than three deaths in 10,000 donors.
- Through the National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC), the donor and the donor's caregiver can be reimbursed for travel expenses and living expenses (hotel and food) up to a certain limit.
- Normal activity (such as, lifting more than 10 pounds) may be resumed in six weeks after surgery. If at a light duty job, maybe a little sooner.

Team Updates

BYG UPDATE

It's hard to believe that another BYG season has come and gone. The month of May was an exciting and busy month in the life of Bethany Youth Group. We kicked off the month by leading the congregation in worship with Youth Sunday. In keeping with tradition, Abby Sysak gave a senior testimony. We wish Abby well as she moves forward in her faith through her college life.

On May 16, it was Messy Game Night. There was a LOT of sibling rivalry going on there! Finally, we ended with our BYG Picnic at Joan's house. It was a hot day, but never too hot to eat and have fun! We recognized those crossing from junior high to senior high, and invited the upcoming 6th graders. We will be taking off the month of June, but stay tuned for some events in July and August!



MEN'S RETREAT

The Bethany Men's Ministry held their Annual Retreat in Oglebay, WV. Between enjoying a few rounds of golf, the group had wonderful discussions on what it's like to be a Christian man in today's world and created a bond of brotherhood..



Team Updates

MISSION TEAM CITY MISSION OUTING

On Monday, May 10, Barb Crawford, Bonnie Miller, Robin Miller, Deb Pyle and Laura Dugan volunteered to help sort various goods at the City Mission Warehouse in Washington. The warehouse contains donated items including but not limited to clothes, shoes, books, records, games, toys, dishes, glassware and furniture. These goods are then sent to their various thrift stores for sale and/or become items for their quarterly warehouse sale.

Robin loves to fold clothes and took her folding board so she and Bonnie sorted clothes, Barb worked with the dishes, glassware and clothes while Deb and Laura sorted toys. Sorting toys sounds easy; however there are so many types of toys with various parts that sorting them into categories was a little difficult and would have been easier with a couple of preschoolers or elementary students. Deb and Laura suggest that if you donate any toys, it is a good idea to include all parts that go together in a single bag to make it easier for future toy sorters.

In addition to our group, there were a few couples and individuals who were also volunteering that day and our contact indicated that some of them volunteer one or two days every week. We hope to schedule more days of sorting at the warehouse and hope that more members of Bethany can join us; however, if you have any free time the City Mission would be more than happy to have you volunteer for them either periodically and/or on a scheduled basis. Although the warehouse is huge and requires many hours, days and weeks for sorting, we all felt very blessed and satisfied with our morning of work and hope you can join us on the next outing.



CITY  **MISSION**
HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS

Team Updates

MISSION TEAM FIDGET BLANKET NEEDS

The Bethany Mission Team is on a mission. We are working to create fidget blankets through this mission of love to keep the hands and minds of patients going through Dementia and Alzheimer's busy. These blankets are an approximate finished size of 16" x 20" and are for the residents in the memory unit at Country Meadows. Anyone is welcome to join us and be a part of something truly awesome.



SESSION UPDATE

Session has signed a contract with a local vendor to clean and repaint our church steeple. Work should begin soon.

Work will also begin soon on the PennDot project to widen the bridge on Rt 50. There will be times when access and parking to the church will be restricted during the construction. We will do our best to notify the congregation of changes and restrictions as they happen.

Session has officially begun the process of finding someone to help as our Associate Pastor. The pool of available candidates is narrow, so we have opened the search to include candidates for both a "generalist" Associate Pastor position or an Associate Pastor for Youth and Discipleship position. If the final decision is to move forward with a candidate to assume the role of generalist Associate Pastor, then we will hire a separate position to handle the Youth and Discipleship responsibilities. Interim pastors, Covenant Pastors and Temporary Supply pastors are contracted positions for which the hiring decisions are handled by Session, not the congregation. The sub-committee of Elders from Session who will be leading the Associate Pastor Search are Ryan Wolstoncroft (chair), Tom Aspinall, Kara Julius, Jackie Nixon, and Peggy Walsh

A search for the new Administrative Assistant position has begun. In the meantime, Beckie Price will continue to provide office coverage and secretarial support.

We have also begun a search to find a new Nursery Director. As we continue this search, we would appreciate your help in providing volunteer coverage for our nursery on Sunday mornings. Please consider helping with this important ministry - to volunteer or learn more about this role, please contact Pastor Brian.

Upcoming Events

**All events subject to change. Please look on the Bethany website for the most up to date calendar of events.*

CHURCH LEADERSHIP MEETINGS FOR JUNE

- Deacons – June 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
- Session Teams – June 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
- Session Meeting – June 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

SUMMER KICK-OFF NIGHT - JUNE 13

Start your summer with Bethany! Everyone is invited to gather and mingle together after a year of being apart. The team will also be collecting gently used books, games and puzzles in a box at the back of the church. Don't miss this relaxing evening of fellowship.

Learn More and Register: www.bethanypresby.org/event/summer-kick-off

BETHANY GOLDEN OLDIES - JUNE 17

Once again Bethany Golden Oldies will gather on the third Thursday, June 17 at noon in Fellowship Hall. Michael Talerico will entertain us with some beautiful music. The Oldies Board has voted to charge everyone a \$5 lunch fee and not collect membership dues this year. A fun trip to Ohio is being planned. Join us for fun time! No reservation required.

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS BEGIN ON JUNE 20

We will transition to our summer worship schedule on June 20. Sunday morning worship services will be at 8:15 and 10:00 a.m. A replay of the 10:00 a.m. service will be available on our website.

Bulletin and Past Worship Services: www.bethanypresby.org/sermons

REGISTER TODAY: ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - JUNE 26

Join Bethany for our Annual Golf Outing on June 26 at the Fort Cherry golf course. All members and friends of Bethany are welcome to attend.

Learn More and Register: www.bethanypresby.org/event/golf

WEST VIRGINIA MISSION TRIP - JUNE 27

Engage in fun and fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters the week of June 27 in West Virginia. Participants can join for the full week or for half a week.

Learn More and Register: www.bethanypresby.org/event/wv-mission



News and Announcements



REMODELED LIBRARY

We have made some changes to the Library in order to provide the space for small groups to gather in the room for fellowship, meetings, and bible studies. The center bookshelves have been removed and were donated to the Bridgeville Public Library. All of the resource materials and books are now located on the outside walls and a conference table has been added to the room. The books and DVDs are still available to be borrowed by anyone who would like to use them. Stop by and see it!

NEW COFFEE MACHINES

The coffee machines in both the Welcome Center and the kitchen were in need of expensive repairs, so new machines were purchased for both locations.

JUNE SPECIAL OFFERING - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The special offering envelope for June supports Vacation Bible School. This year's theme is "Rocky Railroad", a faith-filled adventure where children will discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs. Thank you for your contribution to this great program for the youth of Bethany and the community! www.bethanypresby.org/giving



MAY FOOD BANK STATISTICS

The Bridgeville Community Food Bank assisted 90 families in May, including 27 children, 79 adults and 62 of the elderly. The Food Bank will return to in-person distribution in June, and will no longer be providing the drive-thru option. The Foodbank is always looking for volunteers, if interested, please call the church office. To learn more about the Foodbank, please visit: www.bethanypresby.org/food-bank

MEMBER PROFILE: MILITARY STATUS

Bethany would like to recognize all of our service members, both active and veterans. If you, or someone in your family, has served, or is currently serving, please complete the form so we can update your member profile. Please contact the church office with the information.





**Members and Relatives of Members of
Bethany Presbyterian Church
who lost their lives serving in the Military**

** member of Bethany Church or Sunday School*

William Campbell: Union Army –Civil War –died November 4, 1862, from typhoid fever –buried at Robinson Run Cemetery. Great-great uncle of member Marion Grafe.

*** John Park Hickman:** Union Army –Civil War –died April 27, 1863 in Aquia Creek Hospital near Fredericksburg, VA. Buried at Melrose Cemetery.

*** Richard Lesnett:** Union Army –Civil War –mortally wounded on May 28, 1864 at Haws Shop, Virginia –buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Third cousin of deceased members Dell Lesnett and Edward Schneider, & Richard Schneider. Fourth cousin of members John Schneider and Becky Findlay.

*** John Jordan:** Union Army –Civil War – died September 20, 1864 in the Confederate Prisoner of War Camp at Andersonville, Georgia. Buried at Melrose Cemetery.

*** Benjamin Kerr:** Union Army – Civil War –died October 4, 1864 in the Confederate Prisoner of War Camp at Andersonville, Georgia.

Daniel Finnegan: Union Army –Civil War –died from disease at Fort Monroe, Virginia, on October 6, 1864. Great great-grandfather of member Mary Bressanelli and deceased members Nancy Fink and Ruth Kohlmyer.

*** J. Boyd Alexander:** Union Army –Civil War –died November 27, 1864 in the Confederate Prisoner of War Camp in Salisbury, NC. Buried at Bethany Cemetery.

*** Amos Jones:** U. S. Navy –died in an airplane crash on a reconnaissance mission in Iceland in December 1953 –buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Brother of former member Gary Jones.

*** Richard Johnson:** U.S. Air Force –died in an airplane accident while training to be a fighter pilot in October 1954. Buried at Melrose Cemetery. Son of deceased members Richard and Sally Johnson.

*** Leslie (Sam) Patton:** U. S. Army –died in an automobile accident January 31, 1955 –buried at Melrose Cemetery. Brother of deceased member Jane Patton and uncle of deceased member Diane Bellotti.

Thomas Preaux: U. S. Air Force –Vietnam War –died when his airplane was shot down on April 24, 1967 in Vietnam. Cousin of member Ruth Jones.

Kenneth Brown: S. Air Force –Vietnam War –accidental death in Thailand May 1, 1968 –buried at Melrose Cemetery. Son of deceased member Isabel Brown.

Robert Rounding: U. S. Air Force –Vietnam War –died in an airplane crash while on a training mission in California in 1968. Father of former member Julie Pitts.

Mark Wolstoncroft: U. S. Army –died in an accident in 1974. Brother of member Ralph Wolstoncroft.

Ryan Lane: War Against Terrorism –killed in action July 2009 in Afghanistan –step-son of member Dawn Lane.

James Huey: U. S. Army –World War and Korean War. –died September 24, 1954 when his ship went down during a typhoon while returning to U. S. from Japan. Brother-in-law of deceased member Marie Gillis.

* **Lloyd Warrensford:** U. S. Army –World War 1 – died in France of pneumonia in 1918. Buried in France. Second cousin of member Roberta Gerstacker.

***Raymond Roach:** U. S. Army –World War 1 –died in the United States after being exposed to mustard gas in France in 1918. Buried at Melrose Cemetery. Childhood friend of deceased member Arthur Godwin.

Rudolph Kovach: U. S. Army –World War 1 –killed by machine gun fire in France. Buried at Holy Child Cemetery. Great Uncle of deceased member Richard Kovach.

Edward Schollaert: U. S. Army –World War 1 –died of wounds inflicted at Exmorieux Farm, France, on November 24, 1918 –third cousin of member Lois Kirsopp.

Lawrence Schollaert: U. S. Army Air Corps –World War 2 –killed during a Japanese Air Raid on the Island of Biak in the Pacific Theater on March 22, 1945 –second cousin of member Lois Kirsopp.

James Stein: U. S. Navy World War 2 –died when his airplane was shot down over Saipan in 1943. Brother of deceased member Joan Marshall.

John Howard: U. S. Army –World War 2 –died in combat in Europe. Brother of deceased member Marion Franks.

Joseph O'Brien: U. S. Army Air Corps –World War 2 – died when his B 24 was shot down over Italy in 1943. Uncle of member Jack O'Brien.

Andrew Zura: U. S. Army Air Corps –World War 2 – killed in action on November 27, 1943, when his troop Ship was sunk in the Mediterranean Sea. Uncle of member Emily Brady.

Bernard Kramer: U. S. Army –World War 2 –died in combat at Saipan August 7, 1944. Uncle of deceased member Eileen Sturgill.

Harry Green: U. S. Army Air Corps –World War 2 –died when his airplane was shot down over Germany in 1944. Uncle of deceased member Natalie Walters.

Robert Kennell: U. S. Army Air Corps –World War 2 – KIA, on June 7, 1944 during Normandy Invasion. Cousin of deceased members Richard Kennell and Lois Bettine.

* **Samuel Allender:** U. S. Army Air Corps –World War 2 –Flight Engineer on B17 missing following bombing of mission over Greece in January 1944. Son of deceased members Samuel and Edith Allender.

William Hagerty: U. S. Army –World War 2 –died in combat on Guam July 28, 1944. Second cousin of member Thomas Jones.

William Franks: U. S. Navy –World War 2 –died when he was swept out of his LST by a large wave during the invasion of a Japanese held Pacific Island. Cousin of deceased member Lois Lewis.

Samuel Ballotti: U. S. Army –World War 2 –was killed in action while crossing the Rhine River in Germany in March 1945 –buried at Holy Souls Cemetery in Robinson Township. Brother-in-law of member Helen DiGiovanni.

William Barzanty: U. S. Army Air Corps –World War 2 – accidental death on March 21, 1945, during basic training. Buried at Robinson Run Cemetery. Uncle of former member Dane Barzanty.

James Kelvington: U. S. Army –World War 2 –died when his truck crashed at a bombed out bridge in Germany on November 15, 1945. Left a wife and two children. Cousin of member Sandra Miklavic.

Pastoral Care

Births

- Peter Lionel Wolstoncroft, son of Mark and Judi, born May 20, 2021

Condolences

- Doug Bovard and family on the passing of Doug's mom, Margaret Bovard, on May 25, 2021
- Eric Gregory and family on the passing of Eric's aunt, Jackie Balcomb Bevelacqua, on May 16, 2021
- Doug and Beckie Price and family on the passing of Doug's mom, Dorothy Price, on May 26, 2021

Please keep all of the family and friends of our recently departed members in your prayers. To be added to the prayer list, update your families information, change your address or submit a request, please call the church office 412-221-5132 or email prayers@bethanypresby.org



June Birthdays

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



REGISTER TODAY: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JULY 19-23

Join Bethany for a week of Vacation Bible School from July 19-23. Children are able to participate in classes from Pre-K through 5th Grade. Each class will participate in bible class, music, arts and crafts, recreation and snack time.

We cannot make VBS happen without our devoted leadership team! Adults and incoming 6-12 grade youth are invited to take part in a variety of volunteer leadership opportunities. Learn More, Volunteer and Register: www.bethanypresby.org/event/vbs

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