

AUGUST 2021

# CHURCH NEWSLETTER

*Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church*

## Pastor Update

BY: PASTOR BRIAN JANSSEN

I want to take a moment to thank you all for an amazing first summer here at Bethany Presbyterian Church, and it's not over yet. I am looking forward to taking in a ball game with you on August 27 and spending some time getting ready for the Fall. As we move into a new program year, we are excited to see so many of you coming home to church. The church has always been a place where I have love coming. As a child and teenager, I always knew that church was a place where I would be known and loved.

I hope that as September approaches and the busyness of a new school and work year loom, we will all find time to be with one another and with God. We now know how deeply God loves us and that we have been built for community and companionship. We know this because God desires to be with us. Samuel Wells notes that the word "with" may be the most important in the New Testament. Immanuel means God with us. That is Jesus desires to be near each one of us. That is why we speak of the incarnation. The Word made flesh. When we speak of incarnational ministry we are speaking of ministry in person, one site, with one another. Our summer mission trip to West Virginia, and our VBS signify great strides toward embracing that reality of the church once again.



We cannot wait to begin a new program year here at Bethany Church, with all of its attendant joys, love, community, and occasional frustrations. We are here to listen, so that we can be here to serve, and here to love. See you soon.

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

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# Music Notes

BY: JOHN HENNINGER

We are so blessed at Bethany to have many talented people willing to contribute their time and talents to enhance our Worship of God. Throughout the summer, many have stepped up to sing, to be a song leader or to ring bells to enhance our worship. I am so grateful for the talent the Lord has put in this place.

The Bethany Choir will be gathering once again this Fall to begin our season of serving God through our gifts of music. The choir has not gathered together as a group since March of 2020 - we are looking forward to being back together again, in Fellowship and working together to offer God our best praise.

Our first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 8 beginning at 7:00 p.m. We would love to welcome new members to join us - no prior experience is necessary - only a desire to join voices together in Praise of our Savior.

# News and Announcements

## SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

**Bulletin and Past Worship Services:** [www.bethanypresby.org/sermons](http://www.bethanypresby.org/sermons)

## JULY FOOD BANK STATISTICS

During the July 17th distribution, 126 families were assisted which included 42 children, 91 adults and 90 of the elderly.

## AUGUST SPECIAL OFFERING: DISASTER RELIEF FUND

The special offering envelope for August supports the Disaster Relief Fund administered through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. Thank you for your contribution to this great program for the youth of Bethany and the community! [www.bethanypresby.org/giving](http://www.bethanypresby.org/giving)

## SESSION UPDATE

The Church Steeple has been cleaned! The front sign was struck by lightning several weeks ago during a storm. We are looking into purchasing a new, updated sign.



### SUMMERSVILLE WV MISSION TRIP 2021

This June, Bethany members traveled to West Virginia to participate in the ministry of advocacy and work camps. Mission trip participant, Connie Segeleon, provided a great summary of the week and all the amazing work they were able to accomplish. Read more about it and view photos from the trip on our blog.



### BETHANY MOPS MEETINGS STARTS SEPTEMBER 2 AND 9

Bethany MOPS is doing something we've never done before....TWO groups to serve ALL our mamas. The evening session will meet starting September 2 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The morning group will meet starting September 9 from 9:15-11:15 a.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Childcare will be provided at both meetings! Come join us as we laugh, cry, have our cups filled, and walk through motherhood together.

We are also always seeking volunteers to help with childcare. MOPS would welcome any one who has their clearances or has babysitting experience.

### CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Bethany can offer a reimbursement of \$100 towards the tuition costs of an accredited Presbyterian camp. If your child/young adult attended camp this summer, and you have not already contacted us, please let us know as soon as possible.

### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY: NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have 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. Volunteer or Learn More: Contact [office@bethanypresby.org](mailto:office@bethanypresby.org)

### BETHANY GARDEN UPDATE

Bethany members and MOPs spent time weeding and updating Bethany's courtyard. This transformed space makes the perfect place to visit for prayer and quiet reflection. A special thanks to Dee Kantorzyk and Melanie Bedner, along with Bedner's Farm and Greenhouse, for their support.



# 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 AUGUST

- Monday, August 2: Deacons and Session Teams
- Monday, August 16: Session



## BETHANY BLOOD DRIVE: SAVE LIVES - FEED FAMILIES - AUGUST 1

Bethany is partnering with Vitalant to host a "double donation" blood drive campaign. When you sign-up to donate blood, a donation will also be made to the Bridgeville Community Food Bank.

Reserve your spot today: [www.bethanypresby.org/event/blood-drive](http://www.bethanypresby.org/event/blood-drive)

## GOLDEN OLDIES TRIP - AUGUST 11

Bethany Golden Oldies who are going on the trip to Sugar Creek, OH on August 11 must be at Bethany no later than 6:45AM.



## GOLDEN OLDIES LUNCHEON - AUG 19

## BYG BIKE RIDE - AUGUST 21

BYG will be having a bike ride on the Montour Trail on August 21 from 2-4:30 p.m. Contact Joan Kundra at 412-498-5118 for more information.

## TEACHER AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING - AUGUST 28

Saturday, August 28 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., we will be having a Leadership Training for Disciples of Christ. If you've ever taught or thought about teaching Sunday School or leading a Small Group or becoming a Youth Leader please attend. All are welcome!

## PASTOR BRIAN'S INSTALLATION SERVICE - SEPTEMBER 12

We will officially be welcoming Pastor Brian as our Senior Pastor on September 12. The service will begin at 4:00 p.m. and will be followed by a dinner. We look forward to seeing you there!

## TRUNK OR TREAT - OCTOBER 30

Mark your calendar! Trunk or Treat is coming back this year and we are so excited to see everyone's creative trunk ideas!



## GOLDEN OLDIES TRIP - NOVEMBER 2 AND 3

The Golden Oldies are going to see "Esther" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, and "Mamma Mia" at the Apple Dinner Theater. All are welcome! More information and reservation forms are at the reception desk.

# God is Holy

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BY: DOUG BOVARD

*When the Bible calls God holy, it means primarily that God is transcendent and separate. He is far above and beyond us that He seems almost totally foreign to us. – R.C. Sproul*

*Scripture Readings: Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:1-7*

Have you ever entered an empty sanctuary, perhaps mid-week, when no one is there, and quietly prayed? I try to do that once or twice a year. You can just shut out all the noise and distractions and just be with your Lord in prayer and meditation. It is such a different realm. At least for me there is a small glimpse of God's holiness in that place and moment. Is holiness a foreign concept to you? Perhaps this article and the referenced scriptures will instill a sense of awe toward God who is holy and exalted over all creation. May it also move us toward a more reverent worship desired by God. The church is strongest when it recognizes and honors the holiness of God.

The Bible repeatedly describes people, places, and things associated with God as "holy." In Isaiah 6 heavenly beings continuously cry out "Holy, holy, holy!" The threepeat of holy elevates God to a superlative degree and honors him above all else. Scripture speaks of God's sovereignty, love, truth and other attributes, but only his holiness is presented in a trifold repetition!

The Hebrew word translated into English as "holy" primarily indicates separation or the act of setting apart. God is distinctly and infinitely superior to His creation and His creatures. Scriptures (Ex. 15:11; Ps. 22:3) ascribe kingly majesty to God. However, His splendor vastly exceeds that of exalted human monarchs and His glory is too stunning for humans to behold or comprehend.

In Isaiah 6:1-7 God's holiness is described dramatically. The dazzling seraphim – blazing in their intensity for God's glory – must cover themselves in the presence of God's splendor. Overwhelmed by God's holiness, Isaiah becomes "undone" and profoundly aware of his own unclean and unworthy nature.

It is important to understand God's holiness means He is morally perfect. God is pure without sin or blemish. God's judgements and decisions are perfect. As a perfect and holy being, God is not neutral toward good or evil. God loves what is true, worthy and righteous. He cannot tolerate sin. In the presence of such a holy God we will be like Isaiah – undone, unclean and unworthy. Oh, but there is a cure! Through the righteousness of Jesus Christ, Isaiah and guilty sinners like us, can one day be reconciled to a holy, holy, holy God.

# God's Word to You!

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BY: JEAN ROEMER

Hebrews 1:1-3 speaks to us. "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in HIS Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. Study notes about this passage suggest that this opening verse of Hebrews was one majestic sentence in the Greek, that "in last days" refers to the entire gospel from the first to the second advent of Christ, and "radiance" means "an outshining." These expressions are strong assertions about the deity of Christ. (NAS, Ryrie Study Bible). God tells us that His revelation comes to us in three ways:

1. The first is that Jesus Christ is the perfect and primary revelation of God. Everything we know about our heavenly Father is experienced in His Son, Jesus Christ. This is not about physical characteristics as God is Spirit (John 4:24) but is about who God is.
2. The second revelation of God is Holy Scripture. From the first word of Genesis to the last word of Revelation, the Bible bears witness to Jesus Christ.
3. The third revelation of God is the proclamation of the Church, when that proclamation is biblical.

So, we must take this personally! God has revealed Himself to you! Read the Bible as if God has sent it to you personally! Then read it again, as every time we do, more is revealed to us. It is God's way of teaching us how much he loves us, how to order our lives for HIS blessings, and how to grow our faith and pray to become holy enough (sanctified) to be pleasing to God Who saves us.

## Pastoral Care

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### BAPTISMS

- Clara and Lorenzo, daughter and son of Michael Talerico and Xuelai Wu, on July 18, 2021.

### CONDOLENCES

- To the family of Mariane Newmyer on her death on May 3, 2021.
- To Elaine Gray and family on the passing of her beloved husband, Bill Gray, on June 30, 2021.
- To Thelma Cimarolli, on the passing of her son, Tom Cimarolli, on July 7, 2021.

# Vacation Bible School Photos



## August Birthdays

08/01 Tyler De Rose  
 08/01 Cheryl Harold  
 08/01 Carol Willhite  
 08/01 Robin Miller  
 08/01 Celina Farabaugh  
 08/01 James Cawley  
 08/02 Stefani Jazudek  
 08/03 Daine Lower  
 08/03 Susan Radzik  
 08/03 Robert Butt  
 08/03 Lynn Underwood  
 08/03 JJ Wolstoncroft  
 08/04 Austin Abel  
 08/04 Donna Slack  
 08/05 Bill Ramous  
 08/05 Brian Janssen  
 08/05 Matthew Heasley  
 08/06 Kimberly McAuley  
 08/06 Brady Gullo  
 08/06 Randi Shelton

08/06 Amy Ryan  
 08/06 Jennifer Jenkins  
 08/07 Jaymi Neely  
 08/07 Rylie Mendenhall  
 08/07 Arnie McAuley  
 08/08 Jeffrey Miklavic  
 08/08 Laurie Sysak  
 08/08 Joy Heaps  
 08/08 Dawn Starr Lytle  
 08/08 Alexandra Jones  
 08/09 Veva Tessmer  
 08/09 Teresa Dunn  
 08/10 Elizabeth Suppo  
 08/10 Shawn Zwigart  
 08/10 Peggy Nicholson  
 08/11 Bettina Beattie  
 08/11 Mark Wolstoncroft  
 08/11 Savannah Houk  
 08/11 James Goerd  
 08/11 Weston Jackson

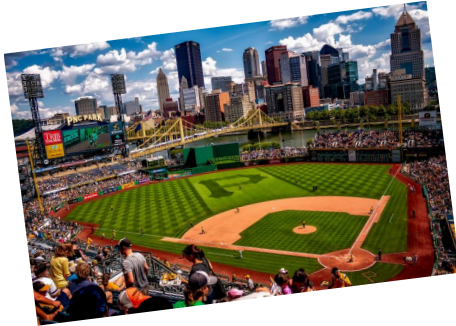
08/13 Sarah Smith  
 08/13 Greg Price  
 08/14 Joseph Del Conte  
 08/14 Robert Fulton III  
 08/15 Luke Bizzack  
 08/15 Randall Shaffer  
 08/15 Joseph DePaoli  
 08/16 Carson DeRoss  
 08/16 Phyllis Porter  
 08/16 Jacob Kundra  
 08/16 Ashley Vollmer  
 08/17 Bradley Miller  
 08/17 Darcy Julius  
 08/17 Beckie Price  
 08/18 Jerod Witwicki  
 08/19 Debra Poglein  
 08/19 Lou Nowasielski  
 08/20 Audrey Clarke  
 08/20 Nicole Casciola  
 08/22 Michael Shildt

08/22 Patricia Black  
 08/22 Ashley McAuley  
 08/22 Sylbia Kunst  
 08/22 Ian Hunter  
 08/23 Sandra Miklavic  
 08/24 Jordan Underwood  
 08/24 Molly Mazzanni  
 08/25 Lily Duffill  
 08/26 Eric Millerschoen  
 08/27 Stanley Underwood  
 08/28 Scott Pyrdek  
 08/29 Miriam Julius  
 08/29 Virginia Millerschoen  
 08/29 Ralph Wolstoncroft  
 08/30 Colleen Veneski  
 08/30 Patrick Harding  
 08/31 Tom Phillips  
 08/31 Noah Sommerfield  
 08/31 Margie Smith

# Events You Don't Want to Miss!

## **ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC - AUGUST 22**

We are excited to announce the Annual Church Picnic is back this year on August 22 at Chartiers Park. Let's gather and celebrate together once again as we see friends and family that we have been apart from for so long. Stay tuned for more information!



## **REGISTER TODAY: PIRATES GAME - AUGUST 27**

Take us out to the ball game! On Friday, August 27, together as a church family we will be cheering on the Pirates as they take on the St. Louis Cardinals. Whether you are a Buccos fan, or are providing moral support, you won't want to miss this fun night out. Bring your friends and family and enjoy the beautiful city skyline on one of the last summer evenings.

Game tickets are \$10 and include a \$5 voucher that can be used on food or drink. You can pay online or bring a cash/check to the church, but we ask that you register so we have an accurate headcount. Register today: [www.bethanypresby.org/event/pirates](http://www.bethanypresby.org/event/pirates)

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