



Bethany Presbyterian Church  
228 Blaine Street, Johnstown, PA 15906  
814-539-9194

13 June 2020

Dear Bethany Family and Friends,

Over the past few months, the effects of the COVID-19 virus have changed how we do pretty much everything, including the way we had to worship. Worship was initially held online with an expanded bulletin worship service posted using online resources.

Worship was expanded to holding a modified service in our parking lot the first Sunday in May (thanks to the initiative of Karen Soliday and Diana Weaver who contacted folks to sing hymns in the parking lot). Since that first service, our parking lot services have expanded to include our neighbors in Christ from Grace Lutheran with a blended service of both the Lutheran and Presbyterian traditions. We have noticed folks from the neighborhood sharing worship with us from their porches. We have been blessed by Brian Harshbarger from Grace Lutheran who has been providing a sound system and guitar hymn accompaniment. Most of all, God has blessed us with clear skies and the ability to worship while social distancing in the beauty of His world. These services will continue through the month of June beginning at 10:00am. Starting this Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be individual cold drinks and individually packaged snacks available for all.

My grandmother always said "the good Lord willing and the creek don't rise" or in this case "if the COVID cases don't spike", we will return to worship in our sanctuary on **Sunday, July 5th, 2020 at 10:00am**. This will be a modified service, based on guidelines from Redstone Presbytery, along with CDC and state recommendations. Social Distancing measures will be implemented to ensure everyone's safety. Some of the differences we can expect are:

- Physical distance between each other – 2 pews between non- family members
- Place your offering in the offering plate on your way to your seat
- Passing of the Peace will change from "Handshakes and Hugs" to "Waves and Blowing kisses" while remaining seated.

The last time we worshipped together in the sanctuary was March 15<sup>th</sup> and we are certainly missing that worship. Since that time, the work of the church went on and Christian Love was shared by Bethany Family and Friends to each other and the community. We are so blessed for the love and caring that surrounds us. Church members concerned about other members, made calls, prayed, dropped supplies off on porches. Financial contributions continued. The prayer chain continued. Ray Sheets, Ed Sheets and Bill Young continued to serve the church while refusing their salaries by doing frequent checks on the physical building, assuring bills were paid, the website and facebook pages updated and bulletins printed for outside worship. Most recently Ray had the organs repaired.

As we go forward, bulletins will continue to be posted on our website as always, for those who wish to continue worshipping from home. Be sure to visit [www.bethanyjohnstown.com](http://www.bethanyjohnstown.com) and like our official Facebook page for the latest church news and information. We thank you for your assistance and cooperation during this difficult time. We look forward to coming together on July 5th once again.

Blessings in His Grace and Peace,

*Bethany Session and Pastor Denise*