



**The Bethany Gazette**  
**Bethany Presbyterian Church Newsletter**  
**November/December 2022**



*Dear Bethany Family and Friends,*

*Advent!!! Advent the time we gather together to prepare our hearts and minds and lives for the birth of the Christ Child-Jesus our Lord and Savior. Advent is a time for us to reflect on new beginnings a time to strengthen our beliefs a time to come back to our faith.*

*The past several years have been a challenge for all with the pandemic and gathering to worship. But—through it all, God has remained steadfast in His hope, peace, joy and love for us—His children. On Sunday, November 27, 2022 Advent begins with the Sunday of Hope.*

*This year at Bethany, we will begin the season of Advent with a special service honoring Christ's birth. We will adorn our church for His coming with the Hanging of the Greens- Presentation of the Advent Wreath, Nativity and Chrismons (Christ's Monograms) and Celebrating Holy Communion. Prior to service, all are invited to arrive early for coffee and donuts and make ready the church for the service.*

*If you have not been to church for awhile please know you are missed and open arms are extended for you to come and celebrate a new beginning of your faith with the beginning of Advent and the promises of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love as we welcome the Christ Child.*

*My prayers are lifted to see everyone on November 27<sup>th</sup> and share in fellowship and celebration of our faith together.*

*Many Blessings in His Grace and Peace,*

*Pastor Denise*

Bethany Presbyterian Church  
Blaine Street & Chandler Avenue  
Johnstown, PA 15906  
[www.bethanyjohnstown.com](http://www.bethanyjohnstown.com)  
814-539-9194

Pastor: Denise A. Todero, CP  
Morning Worship: Sundays @ 10:30 AM  
All Are Welcome!

## November 2022

20: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

27: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Hanging of The Greens Sunday/  
Coffee and Donuts Before Morning  
Worship**

## December 2022

4: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

11: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Church Christmas Party After Worship**

18: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

24: Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.

25: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.



## Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart

We have once again adopted a family to help during the Christmas season.

Items the family needs have been placed on tags in the back of the sanctuary.

If you would like to assist, take the tag(s) you wish to help with, purchase the items on the tag(s), and bring the wrapped gifts back (with tag(s) attached) to the church by December 18th.

Please contact Ray Sheets with any questions. Thank you for your support of this annual project

Be Sure To Visit Our Website ([www.bethanyjohnstown.com](http://www.bethanyjohnstown.com)) and Like Us On Facebook (Bethany Presbyterian Church— Johnstown, PA)

## Join Us During The Celebration Of Advent

We look forward to welcoming our members and friends back here to Bethany Presbyterian Church to celebrate the Advent season. We encourage you to bring your friends, family, and neighbors to join us as we take the Advent journey that leads to the celebration of our Lord and Savior on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

**November 27th:** Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m. We begin the celebration of Advent with the Hanging of the Greens and Communion during Morning Worship.

**December 4th:** Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

**December 11th:** Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m. Following the service, we will hold our Christmas Party. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish to share (we will provide the main dish) and to sign up at the church (or call the office and leave a message) so we know how many to prepare for. All are invited to attend.

**December 18th:** Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

**December 24th:** Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m. Our Annual Christmas Eve Service returns. Come out and join us as we celebrate this special day with songs, scriptures, and more.

**December 25th:** Christmas Day Service at 10:30 a.m.

## Christmas Poinsettias

We are planning to have Christmas Poinsettias available for order once again this year. Look for more information on both coming soon in the bulletin, on the church website, and on our Facebook page.



## **Support The West End Food Pantry**

As we approach the upcoming holiday season, the West End Food Pantry continues to need our support. The pantry continues to need non-perishable food items, especially holiday staples (canned fruits and vegetables, instant potatoes, pasta, etc.) to restock their shelves. Donations can be placed in the bins by the Blaine St. Entrance as you enter the church. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Thank you for your contributions to this important community resource

## **Bulletins and Newsletters Available Online**

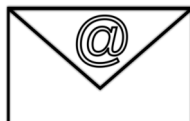
Bulletins from Morning Worship are available on the church website ([www.bethanyjohnstown.com](http://www.bethanyjohnstown.com)). We keep each bulletin up for a few weeks following the service so you have plenty of time to check out any you may have missed. Church Newsletters are also posted on the church website.

## **Session Members Needed**

We are currently looking for two Session members to be installed in 2023. Session Members assist and lead in a variety of ways and are an important part of our church family. It's a great opportunity to get more involved and share your talents and skills. If you are interested in joining Session or would like more information, contact Pastor Denise or any current member.

## **Sign Up for the Email List**

If you aren't already on our official email list, be sure to sign up today. Click the link on our website or email [bethanyjtown@hotmail.com](mailto:bethanyjtown@hotmail.com) to be added to the list.



# **Advent Traditions From Around The World**

**Source: Aleteia.org**

## **A Candle in the Window**

Although more popular in the 1970s, and usually more typical in rural Ireland, Catholics place a candle in the window to welcome Joseph and Mary in honor of their search for somewhere to stay. The candle is ideally lit and extinguished by a Mary in the family, in honor of the Blessed Mother.

## **Pastorets**

In various regions of Spain, locals gather to partake in a big play about the Christmas story, called the pastoret. With readings from the Bible and a selection of songs, different towns bring Christ's birth to life.

## **Prayers in Front of the Nativity Scene**

In Italy, the Nativity scene takes pride of place in the home. From the start of Advent, the family gathers in front of the Nativity each morning to say prayers and light a candle. Children also write letters to their parents to wish them a Merry Christmas and to promise that they'll behave.

## **Adventsfenster (Advent Windows)**

In villages and small towns in Switzerland, locals select 24 homes or businesses to decorate their windows in a holiday theme. During each day of Advent, people gather to see a window revealed at a certain time each night, to the sound of carols and often with drinks and snacks. The windows remain lit until Christmas Eve and beyond.

## **Parols**

In the Philippines people prepare for Christmas by making bright and colorful lanterns to place in a strategic point in their home. The parol is like a star shining above the home, reminiscent of the star guiding the Magi.



## HOLY NIGHT

A D N H P W P J Q B T G F F S Q V  
Y D M Q M I A A S T A R R L G F R  
F X F A G R D O N K E Y A S Q L J  
F S B U G S A V I O R M N F W U W  
H H E A X W I X H Z I E K J A C B  
E E T M B Y J R S N M V I N Z X I  
M P H I N Y R O A E H H N U G L B  
I H L B K Y P G S Z B N C Z O Q J  
W E E Z M Z N I M E U Q E X L M E  
K R H I M Z W F M E P S N P D N S  
Z D E R A S K T A B A H S L D Y U  
G N M Q J J J S N Y I A E S R V S  
V A N F Q F A T G F T G I A Z T X  
N J C U R Z Z X E U N O M N G L Z  
B K Y M W I H F R A P E A C E G W

ANGEL  
ANIMALS  
BABY  
BETHLEHEM  
DONKEY  
FRANKINCENSE

GIFTS  
GOLD  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
MANGER  
MARY

MYRRH  
PEACE  
SAVIOR  
SHEPHERD  
STAR  
WISE MEN



The Bethany Gazette  
Nov./Dec. 2022



Bethany Presbyterian Church  
Blaine St. & Chandler Ave.  
Johnstown, PA 15906  
[www.bethanyjohnstown.com](http://www.bethanyjohnstown.com)



Find us on  
**Facebook**

Visit our official Facebook page  
for photos, news, and more