



**The Bethany Gazette**  
**Bethany Presbyterian Church Newsletter**  
**November/December 2023**



*Dear Bethany Family and Friends,*

*All week, I have been struggling how to say "Thank You" for your surprise celebration for my 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary here at Bethany. The words Thank You seem so inadequate for all you mean to me. God has blessed me so richly in my life and one of the richest blessings is all of you and the ministry of Bethany.*

*I am in total amazement at how quickly those years have passed, how we have grown as a fellowship of believers, the celebrations of life we have shared. ....All because God brought us together as is His plan.*

*We heard from Paul in Thessalonians, "So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us." Dr. Philip W. McLarty said that we are Living Sermons. When each and every one of you go about your daily lives taking the words of God you read and the messages from God you hear and live them you truly become a Living Sermon. Others see- others notice - others benefit and others know the word of God! That is the miracle that happens here at Bethany - the Word lives through all of you!*

*We will enter the season of Advent in a few weeks and we will prepare for the Birth of the Christ child. We will find time to celebrate the Holidays with each other and family and as has become tradition---adopt a family in need.*

*As we prepare for whatever lies ahead in our lives - may it be rooted in Christ- may you truly be a Living Sermon.*

*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 2023

- 5: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
12: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
19: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
26: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.



## December 2023

- 3: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.**  
**First Sunday In Advent/Communion**
- 10: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
- 17: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
**Church Christmas Party After Worship**
- 24: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.**  
**Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.**
- 31: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

## New Directory Update

2023-24 Church Directories are now available. Copies can be picked up at the church.

Copies can also be mailed or emailed. Contact Ray Sheets or Ed Sheets if you would like one mailed or emailed.

## Christmas Family

We are once again adopting a family for Christmas. The family includes a mom, a 6 year old girl (who turns 7 on Dec. 30), and a baby boy due on November 10th.

There are index cards on a table in the back of the church with items for each noted. Walmart gift cards would also be a tremendous help. In addition, a laundry basket will be placed on the table to be filled with items to help mom around the house - i.e., dish soap, bath soap, shampoo, conditioner, disinfecting wipes, etc.

We ask that the items be brought to church by Sunday, December 10th. Thank you in advance for your support.

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

## **Church Christmas Party Set For December 17th**

Mark your calendars and join us for the annual Church Christmas Party. This year's party will be held on Sunday December 17th. Join us for Morning Worship starting at 10:30 a.m. and the party following the service. Come out for food, fun and more!

The party is open to all of our Bethany family and friends. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish to share. We also ask that you sign up at an upcoming service or call the church office and leave a message with your name and # attending, so we know how many to prepare for.

## **Advent/Christmas Eve Services Information**

We will kick off the Advent Season on December 3rd with Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m. Communion will be served during the service. Advent will continue for the next three Sundays.

With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year, we will have the opportunity to celebrate our Savior's birth with two services. We will hold our normal Morning Worship Service on Dec. 24 at 10:30 a.m. Our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will also be held that evening at 7 p.m.

All are invited to join us for Advent and Christmas Eve Services, and we encourage you to invite your family, friends, and neighbors for these special services.

## **Christmas Poinsettias**

We are planning to have Christmas Poinsettias available to 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 enter the holiday season, the West End Food Pantry continues to need non-perishable food items to keep their shelves stocked. Some of the items they need this time of year include:

- Canned Fruits and Vegetables
- Instant Mashed Potatoes and Gravy Mixes
- Dry Goods (Beans, Rice, Pasta, Etc.)
- Stuffing Mix
- Sugar, Flour, Baking Items
- Paper Towels, Tissues, Dish Liquid, Laundry Detergent

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.

## **2024 Sign Ups**

Sign up sheets for 2024 Lay Leaders and 2024 Flower/Bulletin Orders will soon be posted on the back bulletin board. The online form for flower/bulletin orders has been updated on the church website.

## **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.

## **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.

## What's New With You?

Our Bethany family extends across the country and we'd love to know where you are and what you're up to. If you'd like to share an update or recent milestone, we would love to share it. Simply fill out the form below or email [bethanyjtown@hotmail.com](mailto:bethanyjtown@hotmail.com).

Submissions will be shared in an upcoming newsletter/church e-newsletter and if permission is given, on our church Facebook page. Please share this opportunity with those who do not currently receive our newsletters or were members previously.

NAME:

CURRENT LOCATION:

PLEASE SHARE YOUR UPDATE OR MILESTONE BELOW:

(Please Check To Grant Permission To):

\_\_\_\_\_ Share your update on our official church Facebook page

\_\_\_\_\_ Add your email to our church e-mail list (If yes, please share it below)

# Advent and Christmas

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

Advent  
church  
joy  
share

birthday  
family  
love  
time

celebration  
gift  
pray  
wait

Christmas  
Jesus  
prepare

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