



The Bethany Gazette

Bethany Presbyterian Church Newsletter

November/December 2024



Dear Bethany Family and Friends,

It's hard to believe that 2024 is already winding down. It seems like just yesterday we were ringing in the new year, but now we begin preparations for the Advent season. The holidays are a special time here at Bethany, as beautiful decorations adorn the sanctuary, and we welcome friends old and new to celebrate the birth of our savior with us.

This season is a time of reflection. We look back on the past year, which has featured many changes for our congregation. In August, we celebrated and thanked Pastor Denise for over 20 years of service, as she began a well-deserved retirement. This marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Bethany Presbyterian Church. We have been blessed with many voices leading us over the last few months, bringing a variety of unique messages and backgrounds to our pulpit.

We've also seen members of the congregation stepping up and using their skills and talents to assist with services and projects. From setting up guest speakers, to serving as Worship leaders, and making sure the building systems are well-maintained, the hard work of everyone is appreciated. We also thank the members of Session for their continued leadership and for serving in such an important role for our congregation.

As we prepare to begin our journey through the Advent season, we encourage all of you to join us for Morning Worship services and for our Christmas Eve Service. More information on all of our upcoming services and events can be found in this newsletter. Help us to fill the pews this holiday season and be sure to invite family and friends to join in the celebration.

We hope that the season is a joyous one for you and your loved ones, and that the spirit of Christmas is with you each and every day.

Bethany Presbyterian Church
Blaine Street & Chandler Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15906
www.bethanyjohnstown.com
814-539-9194

Morning Worship: Sundays @ 10:30 AM
All Are Welcome!

November 2024

17: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

24: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Christmon Service/Coffee & Pastries
Before Worship**



December 2024

**1 : Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday In Advent/Communion**

8 : Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

15: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Christmas Party After Worship

22: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

24: Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.

29: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Directory Changes

We are working on updating our church directory. If you have moved or have any other changes, please fill out the form in the back of this newsletter.

Deadline For Changes:

December 29th

Congratulations Skip!

We extend congratulations to Rev. Skip Noftzger, who is retiring after 11 years of service as Executive Presbyterian of Redstone Presbytery.

Skip has always been a friend of our congregation and will be greatly missed.

He will officially be retiring by the end of the year and we wish him a happy retirement.



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

Church Christmas Party Set For December 15th

Mark your calendars and join us for the annual Church Christmas Party. This year's party will be held on Sunday December 15th. 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

The Advent Season kicks off Sunday November 24th with the Christmon Service. Join us as we decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season, and enjoy coffee and pastries before Morning Worship. We start the journey through advent the following Sunday (Dec. 1st) with Communion being served during Morning Worship.

Our annual Christmas Eve Service will be held Tuesday December 24th at 7 p.m. The services features, songs, scriptures and more. If you are interested in helping out with the service, please let Ray Sheets know.

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

Orders are now being accepted for Christmas Poinsettias. The cost is \$10 each and the deadline for orders is Sunday December 1st. Flowers can be picked up on Christmas Eve. Orders can be placed in the offering plate or on the church website.



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.

2025 Sign Ups

Sign up sheets for 2025 Lay Leaders will soon be posted. Forms for 2025 Flower/Bulletin Orders will be available on the back bulletin board and on the church website.

Bulletins and Newsletters Available Online

Bulletins from Morning Worship are available on the church website (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 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.

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)

Christmas Poinsettias

Orders are now being accepted for Christmas Poinsettias. The cost is \$10 each and orders are due by December 1st. Orders and payment can be placed in the offering plate, mailed in or given to Ray Sheets.

NAME:

OF POINSETTIAS _____ @ \$10 EACH = \$ _____

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

OTHER:

GIVEN BY:

Directory Changes/E-Newsletter Form

Please complete this form if your information needs updated/added to the church directory or you would like to be added to the church E-Mail List

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

E-MAIL:

CHURCH E-MAIL LIST SIGN UP:

_____ Yes, please add me to the church E-Mail List

Forms can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. You can also E-Mail the information to Ed Sheets (bethanyjtown@hotmail.com)



HOLY NIGHT

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

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

ANGEL

BABY

BETHLEHEM

BIRTH

DONKEY

FRANKINCENSE

GIFTS

GOLD

HAY

HOLY

JESUS

JOSEPH

KING

MANGER

MARY

MYRRH

SON

STABLES

STAR

WISE MEN

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The Bethany Gazette



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Facebook

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