

BETHANY UMC
107 S. Front St.
Milton, PA 17847
(570) 742-9796
bethany18coffice@gmail.com

Website:
bethanyumc-miltonpa.org

Sunday Worship:
Gathering of the Family of God: **9:00 am**

REV. BRIAN LUCAS
1035 Sunset Dr
Milton, PA 17847
570-351-1619 (Cell Number)
570-742-2000 (St Andrew’s UMC-Office)
blucas@susumc.org


Upper Room – Now Available
September / October

Announcements:

Dates to Remember:

- Sept 6 – 8 am – Men’s Group “Men of the Table” (Carnitas Deli)
- Sept 7 - 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Communion
6:30 pm – Book Study (Screwtape Letters) Fellowship Hall
- Sept 10 – 1 pm – Bible Study (Gospel of John) @ St Andrew’s
- Sept 14 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
- Sept 16 – 6:00 pm – Leadership Team Meeting (Office)
- Sept 21 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
- Sept 28 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
10:15 am – September Birthday Celebrations
- Oct 5 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Communion
[World Communion – Special Offering]
- Oct 12 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
- Oct 19 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
- Oct 26 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
10:15 am – October Birthday Celebrations

Every Sunday Worship (Gathering of the Family of God) at 9:00 am.
Every Sunday Evening (Small Group Book Study -Screwtape Letters) at 6:60 pm.
Every Wednesday (Bible Study – Gospel of John) at 1:00 pm (St Andrew’s) Starting Sept 10

 BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

Sept / Oct.
2025

Bethany United Methodist Church
“A Church with the Heart of Christ in the Heart of Milton”

Volume 12, Issue 9 & 10

September & October 2025



Milton’s Good News

July and August “At a Glance”

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From Pastor Brian	2
Trustees Report	3
N.O.W. Here This!	4
Leadership Team Report	5
Announcements	8



Looking back in July & August for Bethany, July started off with a worship time change from 10:30 am to 9:00 am. Along with a new pastor; Pastor Brian Lucas. Bethany UMC became a 2.1 charge with St. Andrew’s UMC. Bethany added a new employee; Darren Stitely, as our organist. Welcome Bethany mugs with candy was given to them both. August we had a special Church Charge Conference to sell the parsonage house on Stamm Rd, which was approved. Small groups Book Study, The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis, led by Jonathan Dick, took place on Sunday evenings. August we had a welcome luncheon for Pastor Brian & Susan, a great turn out, so **Thank you all** for making that happen. A special Thanks for our new chef; Tim Buss, kitchen helpers; Cindy Mohr & Bob Fitch. End of the months we celebrate the July’s & August’s birthdays after church with cake and coffee. Thanks to those who donated cupcakes!

“⁴¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future..” Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)
-Cheri Buss

Milton Harvest Festival Schedule

Milton, Pennsylvania — The 49th **Annual Milton Harvest Festival**, a tradition since 1977, is a community celebration that promotes the people, organizations and businesses of Milton, Pennsylvania and the Central Susquehanna Valley.

Mark your calendar for **September 6 -13, 2025** and enjoy these events & more:

- Saturday, Sept 6th** – 9:00 am – 4:00 pm – Arts & Crafts
- Saturday, Sept 6th – 9:30 am – Pet Parade – (Elm Street & Broadway)
- Saturday, Sept 6th – 10 am – 4 pm – Milton Train Museum (Moose Building, 3rd floor) Free
- Saturday, Sept 6th – 11:45 – Concert in the Park (Milton High School Band) Lincoln Park
- Sunday, Sept 7th** –7:00 pm – Harvest Festival Concert “Milton Area Band” @ Milton Lutheran Church, 100 Mahoning St.
- Monday, Sept 8th** – 6 pm – 6:30 pm - Pumpkin Roll (Academy to Locust St)
- Tuesday, Sept 9th** – 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm – Scarecrow Patch (Field by the Moose)
- Wednesday, Sept 10th** – 5 pm – 8 pm - Boogie on Bound – Music by Ann Kerstetter (Bound Ave)
- Thursday, Sept 11th** – 6:00 pm – 9/11 Ceremony @Veteran’s Memorial Park, Milton
- Thursday, Sept 11th – 7:00 pm – Harvest Pops Concert @ St Andrew’s UMC
- Friday, Sept 12th** – 6:30 pm – Tomato Bowl Football (Milton High School)
Milton Black Panthers VS South Williamsport

Saturday, Sept 13th – 9:00 am – 4:00 am – Arts & Crafts
Saturday, Sept 13th – 11:00 am – Bethany UMC Popcorn & Water to parade attenders.
Saturday, Sept 13th – 1:00 pm – Milton Harvest Festival Parade
Bethany UMC Congregation will be making, handing out FREE popcorn, and water on **Sept 13th at 11:00 am.** Need volunteers to help prepare and pass out popcorn, along with water to the parade attenders. If you would like to help, please call the church office at 570-742-9796.

Special points of interest:

- “At a Glance” (pg 1)
- Harvest Festival (pg 1)
- Worship Schedule (pg 3)
- Group Book Study (pg 4)
- Greeters Needed (pg 4)
- Trick or Treat Event (pg 4)
- Fall Bible Study (pg 4)
- Small Groups (pg 4)
- Loss of a Member (pg 4)
- Leadership Reports (pg 5)
- Our Prayer List (pg 5)
- Financial Stats (pg 6)
- Fuel & Cool (pg 6)
- Pastor Appreciation (pg 6)
- Fun Page (pg 7)

From Pastor's Study

Seasons of Faith

Dear Bethany and St. Andrew's UM Church Families,

Have you ever noticed how our faith journey seems to follow seasons, much like the natural world around us? As I was walking through the park last week, I could see changes coming in the trees and the flowers, and I was struck by how our spiritual lives follow similar patterns of change and growth.

In my own journey, I've experienced what I might call "spring faith" – those times when everything feels new and exciting. Maybe you've felt this too – when a scripture suddenly speaks to you in a fresh way, or when you feel God's presence with remarkable clarity. These moments energize us, much like those first warm days after a long winter.

But we also experience "summer faith" – seasons when our connection with God feels natural and fruitful. Our prayers flow easily, our service feels meaningful, and we move through our spiritual practices with a comfortable rhythm. How blessed we are when we recognize these summer seasons and savor them!

Then autumn arrives. Just as trees shed their leaves, our faith sometimes enters seasons of questioning and letting go. Perhaps a prayer goes unanswered, or suffering touches us or someone we love. During these times, we may find ourselves sorting through beliefs, separating what's essential from what's merely comfortable. Though challenging, these autumn seasons often produce the richest spiritual growth as we develop a more textured, resilient faith.

And yes, there are winter seasons too – times when God seems distant or silent. The psalmist knew these moments well: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Psalm 22:1). If you're walking through a spiritual winter right now, please know you're not alone. Even in apparent dormancy, important work is happening beneath the surface.

What I find most comforting is that none of these seasons last forever. The same God who designed the natural world to continually renew itself is at work in our spiritual lives too. As Isaiah reminds us, "Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness." (Isaiah 43:19 CEB)

Here are some thoughts for navigating whatever season you're in:

- Recognize your current season without judgment – each has its purpose
- Find companions for the journey – join a small group, or form a new one
- Maintain simple spiritual practices that anchor you through changing seasons
- Remember that God is present in every season, though sometimes in unexpected ways

I'd love to hear about your experiences with these spiritual seasons. What season are you in right now? What has helped you navigate transitions between seasons?

As we continue our journey together, may we learn to embrace each season for what it teaches us, trusting in the God who works through all seasons to shape us into the people we're called to be.

In faith and fellowship,

Pastor Brian



What season are you?

Fun Page



FALL WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

- BIRDS
- BRISK
- CHANGING
- CLOUDS
- COAT
- COLD
- COLORS
- CORN
- CROPS
- FOOTBALL
- FROST
- GOURD
- HARVEST
- HEATER
- JACKET
- LEAVES
- MIGRATE
- NOVEMBER
- OCTOBER
- PUMPKINS
- RAKE
- SCARECROW
- SEASON
- SWEATER
- TREES
- WIND

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

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY. Find and circle each word.



Bethany UMC Current Expense Income June & July 2025 Reports:

Financial Secretary's Report: June 2025

Date	Offering Envelopes	Plate Offering	Price Fund	Totals
06/01/25	\$510.00	\$15.00	\$0	\$525.00
06/08/25	\$555.00	\$5.00	\$0	\$560.00
06/15/25	\$400.00	\$5.00	\$35.00	\$440.00
06/22/25	\$525.00	\$15.00	\$0	\$540.00
06/29/25	\$385.00	\$5.00	\$70.00	\$460.00
Totals	\$2,375.00	\$45.00	\$105.00	\$2,525.00

Financial Secretary's Report: July 2025

Date	Offering Envelopes	Plate Offering	Butler Trust	Totals
07/06/25	\$477.80	\$35.00	\$0	\$512.80
07/07/25	\$0	\$0	\$3,660.19	\$3,660.19
07/13/25	\$465.00	\$25.00	\$0	\$490.00
07/22/25	\$1593.00	\$56.00	\$0	\$1,649.00
07/28/25	\$620.00	\$50.00	\$0	\$670.00
Totals	\$3,155.80	\$166.00	\$3,660.19	\$6,981.99



Finance Report (June & July Current Expenses In & Out):

June2025

Total Income Received: \$2,525.00+ (Bank Interest \$.43) + (Transfer from Investments \$5,500) = \$8,025.43
Total Expenses Paid Out: \$14,997.76
Average Attendance: 19

July2025

Total Income Received: \$6,981.00 +(Bank Interest \$.79) + (Transfer from Investments \$46,000) = \$52,982.78
Total Expenses Paid Out: \$15,905.50
Average Attendance: 28

Fuel & Cool Campaign....



Fuel

&



Cool

It is that time again, this fall, I would like you to prayerfully consider making a contribution to **Fuel & Cool (aka Fire & Ice)**. Your contribution will assist in heating and cooling the church as needed for all of our various ministries in the name of Christ and continue to offset the cost of the new system. It will also provide you one more opportunity to share the many blessings God has offered you in your life, to act in faith and also to experience the spiritual growth that comes from giving. .

An envelope is provided to bring to and/or Mail to: Bethany UMC, 18 Center St, Milton PA, 17847.
Thank You, in advance for helping Bethany UMC!!

Pastor Appreciation Month – October



....Remember October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Please remember Pastor Brian in your prayers, send an encouraging letter/email/card or a gesture of appreciation!
Thank you, Pastor Brian, for your love for God's Church at Bethany, for leadership, for your prayers, kindness, generosity, and your guidance! We thank you so much for everything you do for the flock from your congregation and staff here at Bethany!

Trustees Report



Trustee items in process or completed:

- Entoguard recently completed their quarterly pest control visit at the church and Parish House.
- Creative Plantscapes replaced the dead/dying bushes at the church and added a layer of fresh mulch. They also spruced up and weeded at the parsonage.
- The rope to ring the bell recently broke. We have a contractor who will make the repairs as soon as he can find the rope to replace it.
- A four-year contract for natural gas supply at the church was recently signed. Although the locked in price was a little higher than the current market price, it will cushion us from the predicted rising cost of energy. Should rates drop we can cancel the agreement without penalty.
- Thanks to Pastor Brian being able to operate the audio/visual system, we'll likely postpone any changes to the system at this time.

Parsonage Update:

- After the approval of the Conference, the vote was unanimous at our Charge Conference to sell the parsonage. We decided to try to sell it privately to avoid the cost of a realtor. The current asking price is \$365,000. We've had a couple interested parties look at it. If you know anyone who may be interested, please have them call the office or contact me.
- To prep the house for sale the walls got a fresh coat of paint, the carpets were cleaned and the floors cleaned and polished. In addition, one of the garage door openers needed repaired, and there were some plumbing repairs needed.
- Thanks to Dave and Jeff Warburton for taking care of the lawn.

Since we had not received all the June statements prior to the last newsletter deadline, here is the quarterly report of the financial assets of the Trustees. The following balances (rounded) are as of June 30:

- Hudock Capital Group (Pershing) - \$328,889 – a decrease of \$15,482 from the last quarter. We utilized \$29,000 from this account for current expenses in the second quarter.
- Prudential Investments - \$911,212 – an increase of \$56,521 from the last quarter – this is our 'in lieu of flood insurance' account.
- Prudential Investments – The Raudenbush Account - \$94,388 – an increase of \$5,999 from last quarter.
- BNY Mellon – The Butler Trust – \$237,753 – an increase of \$15,222. We received a disbursement of \$3,660 during the quarter.
- Mifflinburg Bank CD - \$100,000 plus interest at 4.5%

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

Sept / Oct. Worship Schedule



Sunday, Sept. 7 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / **Communion**
Sunday, Sept. 14 – 9:00 am Gathering of the Family of God
Sunday, Sept 21– 9:00 am - Gathering of the Family of God
Sunday, Sept 28 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
10:15 am – September Birthday Celebrations

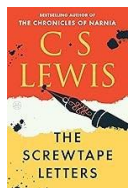


Special Offering - Sunday, Oct. 5– 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / **[World Communion Sunday]**
Sunday, Oct 12 - 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
Sunday, Oct 19 - 9:00 am Gathering of the Family of God
Sunday, Oct 26 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
10:15 am – October Birthday Celebrations



N.O.W. Hear This!.....

Small Group Book Study “Screwtape Letters” by C.S. Lewis.....



Sunday nights at 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm, continuing since August, here at Bethany UMC (Fellowship Hall) a Small Group Book Study on Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis. (Book available on Amazon-\$9.64 + tax). If wish to order a book, please contact the office. Small Group led by Jonathan Dick. All are welcome!

Greeters Needed.....



Greeters at Bethany UMC are at the main door to make everyone feel welcome, to hand out bulletins, answer any questions, and to put newcomers at ease. If you are interested in serving our church as a Greeter please contact Cheri at the church office at 570-742-9796. Thank you!

TRICK OR Treat Event – Candy needed.



Once again, Bethany UMC will have a table set up outside (Office Porch) to hand out candy for Halloween YMCA toddler children in the morning for Halloween. Please bring in candy and/or snacks (Soft mini bars, mini cookies, animal crackers -No hard candy) to donate to this event. Due date: Sunday, Oct 26, 2025.

Also will need volunteers to pass candy out in the morning (9am – 12 pm). Friday, October 31, 2025. Please let the office know if you can help out passing candy out.

Fall Bible Study: "Gospel of John"...



Pastor Brian will be leading a study on the "Gospel of John" on Wednesdays beginning on September 10. Sessions will run from 1 pm until 2:30 pm and will take place in the conference room at St. Andrew's which is located on the second floor (there is elevator access). The only materials needed for the study will be a Bible and something with which to take notes. Please let him know if you plan to participate.

Small Groups



Small groups (sometimes called "Life" groups) are important pieces for discipleship and have a strong history in Methodism dating back to the "Holy Club" the Wesleys started at Oxford. Although we do have a few small groups (including Sunday school classes and choirs) Pastor Brian is looking for new ones and so he is starting "Men of the Table," a men's small group that will meet at 8:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month at a local restaurant (Carnitas Deli, 741 S Front St, Milton PA) for breakfast and fellowship. The first gathering will take place on September 6th. Please contact Pastor Brian to express your interest or for more information.



Loss of our dear Church Member: Peggy Shellenberger

Peggy Shellenberger went with our Lord and Savior on July 21, 2025. Peggy was a member of Bethany UMC Congregation of 79 years. She was baptized at Bethany in 1934, a longtime member. Peggy was a strong prayer partner to the Prayer Chain and friends to many in the nursing home. Peggy will be missed by many. Prayers for the whole Shellenberger Family.

Leadership Team Report.....

Tuesday, July 15, 2025 | 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 PM by Cindy Mohr. In attendance were Pastor Brian, Jamie Aurand, Bob Fitch, Dorothy Hower, and Mike Longenberger. Jim Masser and David Warburton were absent. Pastor Brian opened the meeting with a prayer. All reports were accepted by unanimous consent upon a motion by Fitch, seconded by Hower. [Note: These minutes are only a draft until approved by the board at our next meeting in September.]

New Business

- **Security:** A motion was made by Fitch and seconded by Hower to purchase a Ring doorbell for \$149.99 from Amazon. The board also approved a monthly subscription for cloud storage and notifications for \$10.
- **Welcome Luncheon:** The board set the welcome luncheon for Pastor Brian for Saturday, August 16, at 12:00 PM.
- **Harvest Festival Parade:** Bethany will continue its annual participation in the Harvest Festival Parade on September 13, 2025. The church will hand out free water and popcorn. Bob Fitch will arrange for the popcorn machine rental. The board approved Pastor Brian’s suggestion to allow St. Andrew’s to sell hot dogs as part of Bethany’s presence.
- **Online Presence:** After a report from Pastor Brian on the importance of an online presence, a motion was made by Aurand and seconded by Fitch to purchase the necessary CVLI/CCLI/Streaming Licenses. The motion passed.
- **New Ministries:**
 - Pastor Brian announced he will begin a new bible study group in September.
 - Jonathan and Laura Dick will lead a weekly small group on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 PM to discuss C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*.
- **Hygiene Kits:** The board decided to discontinue the Hygiene Kits project.

Announcements & Adjournment

A Charge Conference will be held on August 4, 2025, with DS Daniel Wilt officiating, to approve the sale of the parsonage and set a selling price. **VOTE: This was approved to sell the parsonage.** The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted, Bob Fitch

Leadership Reports...

All Committee/Leadership Reports need to be handed into the church office or pastor, by the second Sunday of each month. **For Sept & Oct they are due: Sunday, Sept 14th & Oct. 12th, 2025.** You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Brian at blucas@susumc.org. Thank You!

Our Prayer List.....

Concerns:

Joyce R / Health
Becky B (Friends of Lucas’)- Cancer
Bonnie S (Dick Family) – Brain surgery / Recovery.
The Family of Barb Hoffmaster – Barb passed away.
The Family of Molly Brown (St Andrews) Molly passed away.
Nancy S (Cheri’s mom) – Health & recovery from hospital.
Earl L (Pastor Brian’s brother) AFib / Health concerns.
Mary Louise R.(Judy’s sister) – Nursing home / health.
Anna P – Continued prayers for cancer treatments / health.
Florence Y –Hospice care.

Family/friends with Cancer: Rita S, Anna P, Florence Y, Dot (Judy’s neighbor); Kenny (Sally’s friend). Alicia (Sally); Dale R (Sally’s friend); Becky B (Lucas’ friend).

Leadership Team: Cindy, Jamie A, Bob F, James M, Dave W, Mike L, Dorothy, Pastor Brian.



Claire D – Pain in foot.
Irene D – Headaches & healing
Judy C. – Home / Health & difficulty in breathing
AJ W. – Young man in motorcycle accident

Students / Teachers / Professors – For a great School Year