

Bethany United Methodist Church
"Renewing the Church to change the World"



Volume 7, Issue 12

December 2020

Milton's Good News

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November- "At a Glance"

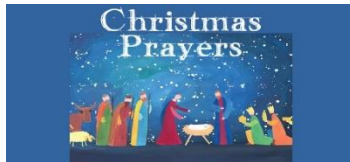
Looking back in November for Bethany, Bethany UMC still continued having Lessons for Life and Gathering of the Family of God Worship services with safety and health restrictions. Continued Leadership meetings with Poole & Anderson. Construction team onsite, windows out for repair, and roof work began. Thank you to everyone who donated food and money for the Feed-A-Friend to help feed those in our community for Thanksgiving. Bethany also had special offering for the United Methodist Student.

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:11 (NIV) -Cheri Buss

Special points of interest:

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Christmas Eve Prayer Vigil



Christmas Eve Prayer vigil will be held on Thursday, December 24th from Noon – 6:00 pm. to keep Bethany Church in prayer. Sign up for time slots to pray over the leaders, congregation, church, community, country, and needs of Bethany UMC.

Sign up for 15 minutes, half hour, or more (sheet located in the back of the sanctuary) Keep prayer chain going.

Christmas Eve Service

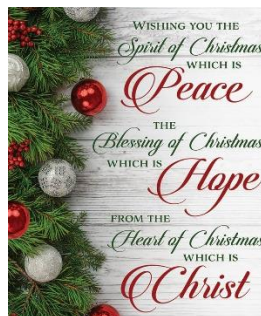


December 24th – 7:15 pm – Combined Service with West Milton UMC and Bethany for a Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at West Milton UMC (Communion will be offered)

Bethany UMC & West Milton UMC wants to invite you all to celebrate our Savior, Jesus Christ! Bring your family & friends.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from your Staff...

Pastor Bill McNeal
Janet McNeal
Roderic Moore
Cheri Buss



Karen Heimbach
Shelly Sholley
Rich Handy
Dee Young



From Pastor Bill's Study



Greetings to all,

As I look out my study today I see bright sunshine and the promise of a warm beautiful day. Soon this will be a memory as December arrives and the days will continue to get colder and possible storms may bring rain or snow. For now, I am going to enjoy this day and marvel at what I am given today.

By the time you receive this letter we will be through Thanksgiving and we will be in the Advent and Christmas season. I have been giving some thought to my personal studies and have been reading once again a book by Mike Slaughter titled "*Christmas is not your Birthday*". This is a small study book about how Christmas has been kidnapped and turned into a spectacle of lights, gifts, and overspending.

The focus of the book is to turn your thoughts away from the commercialization of Christmas and to remember the truth of the birth of the Messiah. It contains five chapters to guide the reader to a rethinking of what truly happen with the birth of the savior of the world.

Chapter one touches on the idea of what do we expect out of Christmas? Most people think about the gifts and the giving and receiving of gifts. But what would happen if our focus was more in line with the expectation of a miracle. The people were looking for a savior but when he appeared they were not ready for they had lost focus on what was promised to them.

Chapter two deals with the idea of giving up on the idea of perfection, for what would the perfect Christmas be? Are you thinking of the perfect tree, the perfect gift, or the perfect family gathering? What if we focused on the perfect gift as the second coming of Christ and do not lose focus on that.

Chapter three deals with the perfect love of God given to us through the birth of this savior, and with our study of Hosea we have been working through the loss of love for God and the results of that loss. What would it be like to seek God once again and focus on the gift we received through this fulfilled promise?

Chapter four speaks to what would happen if we would adhere to Jesus wish list for us. That being to love God and to love each other that over the next few weeks we concentrate on what would it feel like and be like if we put the idea of serving others is to serve God.

Chapter five speaks to the commitment it will take as the focus turns to the first gift gives the Magi. The first gift we can bring is to bow down and worship. The second gift is to open up our treasures and offer them to the savior. Think of Time, Income, Talents, Helping hands, and our Emotions or to say our tithe. The third gift is to then travel by a different road. We should never meet Christ and leave by the same way we came in. If there is no difference then you have seen Christ but you did not meet him directly.

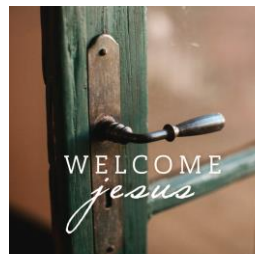
When we think of this as a celebration of the birth of a savior then the main idea comes around it is not a day or a time period set aside for a mythical figure but it is a time set aside to welcome our savior and to prepare for his return. This is not just a single day on a calendar but it should be a part of our daily life as we await the Lord's return.

Maranatha: Come Lord Jesus come!

Psalm 121

Know Hope,

Pastor Bill



Leadership Reports...

All Committee/Leadership Reports need to be handed into the church office or pastor, by the second Sunday of each month. **For December they are due: Sunday, December 13, 2020.** You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Bill at pastorbill@gmail.com. Thank You!

Worship Team "Gathering of the Family of God" Report

The following is the work of the Worship Team which met on Tuesday, October 13th. Here are December's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles. **Next Worship Team meeting will be on Thursday, Dec 3rd at 1:00 PM. We are now open for worship held at West Milton UMC at 11:00 am (Use masks & keep safety guidelines).**

December 6th (2nd Sunday of Advent) – Angels from the Realms of Glory (220); Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (196); Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (224); Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Hosea 13:14-16; "Hope"

December 13th (3rd Sunday of Advent) – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (240); Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (229); O Little Town of Bethlehem (230); Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Hosea 14:1-9; "Joy"

December 20th (4th Sunday of Advent) – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (211) In the Bleak Midwinter (221); O Come, All Ye Faithful (234); Psalm 126; Obadiah 1:15-17; "Love"

December 24th - 7:15 pm - (Christmas Eve) – Combined Candlelight service with West Milton UMC / Communion; Luke 2:1-20; Christmas Hymns; Pastor Bill's message "O Holy Night"

December 27th (1st Sunday after Christmas) – Away in a Manger (217); Angels We Have Heard on High (238); How Great Thou Art (77); Psalm 148; Isaiah 65:17-25; "New Year"



Leadership Team Report

The Team's November devotions were based on Mark 1:17, the well-known verse in which Jesus calls upon two men, Simon and Andrew, to throw down their fishing nets and follow him to become fishers of men. This, they did, and it's pointed out to us that they were chosen because Jesus knew their patience and perseverance as fishermen. We can use those same skills and attributes to fish for men today. Using the Gospel as our anchor and its Good News as our "bait", we can bring others to a personal relationship with God. And we should pray to our Father for opportunities to do that. We were asked to think about times when we "fished for men" – when we talked about our faith to others. Poor fishing? Keep casting, but in different waters. As we all know, there's Biblical precedent for trying the other side of the lake.

The Trustees have stated that the work on the Bethany windows has begun and that shoring up those areas and re-supporting the old chimney have been early parts of that effort. In terms of exterior work, the shingles that had been put on the main church roof in 2013 are now being removed.

There was a Leadership meeting with the representatives of 3 companies involved in the business of interior church furnishing, which led to information that the Team will use to select pews, chancel items, and like appointments for the new Bethany.

The N.O.W. Committee announces that our Angel Tree program is well under way, with many of the tags for gifting to those designated by the Salvation Army and for our own home-bound members having already been claimed. We will include poinsettias and member-made Christmas cookies with the gifts that go to our shut-ins. All of these efforts have deadlines, as posted in our weekly bulletins and in this newsletter. We are supporting West Milton UMC's program to provide small stuffed animals to children in Evangelical Hospital's Pediatrics unit.

Rod wishes to thank all those who prayed for him and supported him as he underwent a fourth cornea transplant in the same eye in 17 months. The whole shiner-inducing situation is now under control, for which God be constantly praised!

Rod Moore

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



“Sharing the Table” Milton Panther Packs Program is a way you can help this important ministry to feed the children in the Milton School District elementary schools. Bethany UMC will be in charge of providing to as many as 350 children per week, of fruit cups and individual boxes of cereals. **Also in need of plastic grocery bags.** Please bring in those items of the first of the month for “Sharing the Table” or into the office **Mon, Wed, 9 am -1 pm and Fri from 9 am – 12:30 pm.**



Next Food Collection Communion Dates: December 6th / January 3rd

Toasty Toes Sock Ministry....



We have launched a new ongoing ministry here at Bethany. The “Toasty Toes Sock Ministry” will provide new socks to those in need. Socks will be handed out at both of the Community Dinners that we serve and assist with and at Milton Towers and other limited income housing projects in town. We are collecting pairs of new socks in all sizes & genders from infants to adults. Please deposit socks in the laundry basket at the front of the sanctuary on any Sunday.

Decorate the Church (West Milton UMC)



This year for the Hanging of the Greens Bethany congregation can join in decorating the church along with West Milton UMC members on **Wednesday, December 2nd** at 1:00 pm at West Milton UMC for this Christmas season. For this years Christmas Eve Candle Light Service on December 24th, will be a combined service with Bethany and West Milton congregation at 7:15 pm at West Milton.

Angel Tree....



We will again be 'adopting' children to give them a joyous Holiday season. Five (5) children Angel Tree ornaments from The Salvation Army (**Unwrapped gifts with Angel Tag**) & seven (7) homebound members church ornaments gifts (**Wrapped**) that will be placed in the sanctuary, for the taking. Place gifts under tree. Please get a tag and help spread cheer.

Deadline for Angel Tree (children) gifts (Unwrapped with Angel Tag): Sunday, Dec 6th.

Deadline for Homebound members gifts (Wrapped): Sunday, Dec 20th.

Christmas Cookies....



Christmas Cookies for our Homebound Members. Please sign up on the sheet in the back to help make a batch (Aprox. 3 dozen) for our Homebound Members. Please bring into the office, Friday, December 18th from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm.

Secret Prayer Pal



If you would like to be someone's secret prayer pal throughout the year of 2021; (to pray for them, send them encouraging notes & birthday cards in secret) here is how you can get involved.

End of December 2020, your Secret Prayer Pal will be revealed and for those who would like to take part in this next year for 2021, there will be a slip of paper in the back of the sanctuary to participate in, simply fill it out and place in basket. Watch for more information in the bulletin.

Milton's Good News

Bethany UMC Current Expense Income October 2020 Reports:

Envelope Income To Date---2020							
		Current Expense	Ren o	Benev. (Price Fund)	Miscell.	Weekly Total	Year To Date
							\$31,309.00
October	4	\$795.00		\$5.00		\$800.00	\$32,109.00
	11	\$843.00		\$7.00		\$850.00	\$32,959.00
	18	\$660.00		\$10.00		\$670.00	\$33,629.00
	25	\$710.00		\$10.00		\$720.00	\$34,349.00
Plate Income To Date---2020							
		Plate	Known Givers	Benevolences (Price Fund)		Weekly Total	Year To Date
							\$1,539.93
October	4						\$1,539.93
	11	\$320.00				\$320.00	\$1,859.93
	18						\$1,859.93
	25						\$1,859.93
Lessons For Life Income To Date---2020							
		Weekly Total				Year To Date	
						\$202.10	
October	4	\$14.00				\$216.10	
	11	\$19.00				\$235.10	
	18	\$14.00				\$249.10	
	25	\$13.00				\$262.10	
Butler Trust Contributions 2020							
January 5, 2020---		\$2,625.00					
April 12, 2020--		-\$2,625.00					
July 12, 2020--		-\$2,625.00					
October 18, 2020--		-\$2,625.00					
						Year To Date: \$10,500.00	
Bethany UMC Miscellaneous Contributions 2020							
Milton Bridge Walk in Spirit							Year To Date
10/4/20--\$20.00							
10/11/20--\$375.00							
10/18/20--\$10.00							\$650.00
Office Computer Upgrade							Year To Date
10/25/20-\$500.00							\$1,000.00
Jeff Specht Burial Fund Offering							Year To Date
10/11/20--\$2,000.00							\$2,640.00
Fuel & Cool Campaign							Year To Date
10/4/20--\$2,760.00							
10/11/20-\$50.00							
10/18/20-\$350.00							\$3,160.00
Feed-A-Friend							Year To Date
10/25/20-\$20.00							\$20.00
Fire Restoration Fund Income To Date---2020							
		Known Givers	Anonymous	Weekly Total	Year To Date		
October	18	50.00		50.00	\$18,905.78		

Finance Report (October's Current Expenses In & Out):

Total Income Received: \$12,191

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$17,265

Average Attendance: 17

Bethany Fire Update: (Follow building progress on FaceBook)



Roof demo has begun and then the installing of the new roof.

Total Income Received (Oct): \$224

Total Expenses Paid Out (Oct): \$96,248

Thank you Anonymous givers, who recently donated to the Fire Fund.



New Stuffed Animals for Pediatric Unit....



Bethany can join in and help West Milton UMC with collecting new small stuffed animals for the Pediatric Unit patients at Evangelical Hospital. These must be **new with tags** on them & can be placed in the bins & boxes at West Milton UMC. (Ongoing ministry)

Thank You....

Dear Congregation of Bethany UMC: Thank you so much for your very generous donation of 7 tubs of food to the Panther Packs Ministry at St. Andrew's UMC.

-Mary Richie, Treasurer St Andrew's UMC

Need your help to complete data....



Dear Congregation of Bethany UMC: Since we installed the new PowerChurch Software for Membership and Financials, etc., I am in need for you all to call the church office (570-742-9796) and give the year of your birthdate and those who are married the year of their wedding anniversaries. Call Monday, Wed or Friday 9:00 am – 12:30 pm. I am looking forward to hearing from you! God bless and Thank You! – Cheri

Advent Offering Envelope



Dear Bethany Family,

Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. This year Advent starts on November 29th, 2020. This is a time for preparation, anticipation and hope. We find ourselves in preparation for the Christmas season with all of its traditions and meanings. We anticipate the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. And we look with hope for the second coming of Christ.

In preparation for the Christmas season, many of us try to find the perfect gift in order to give to someone. This giving of gifts has become part of the season's tradition, much like the wise men bringing gifts for the Christ child. The joy of giving brings feelings of peace and comfort. Your Finance Committee would like you to prayerfully consider giving a gift to your Church. Your Advent offering can help ease our current expense needs and routine costs. Please use the enclosed Advent envelope to bring your gift to church on, or before, Christmas Sunday, or mail it to Bethany United Methodist Church, Attn: Shelly Sholley, 18 Center Street, Milton, PA 17847.

We thank you in advance for your continued financial support.

May Hope, Joy and Peace be with you and your loved ones during this beautiful time of year. And may we continue to pray for God's love to warm the hearts and lives of all humankind.

Sincerely, Your Finance Committee

Our Prayer List.....

Larry Heimbach Family – Larry passed away.

MaryLou G – Fall & recovery

Josie S. – Hospital with Covid

Patti S – Health

Red – Recovery from surgery

Cheryl – Health & recovery

Tom & Florence Y – Tests & Health

Sarah H – Health / Recovery

Judy C – Health / Back

Bob F – Health / Recovery

Sarah (Karen's cousin) – Health / Skin rash

Dan & Suki – Dan's cancer & support for Suki

Those who lost loved ones.

Those dealing with Cancer – Dan, Mandy, Terrie, Gary, David, Rita, Doug, Ann, Debbie, Shirley

Bethany Congregation / Restoration & reopening business / churches.

Leadership Team: Cindy, James A, Rod, Shelly, Bob F, James M, Dick K, Dave W, Mike L, Dorothy, Pastor Bill.

Praise:

James S. – New job.

Karen - Health

Debbie D - Cancer

Sharon F - Health

Jeff B - Depression

Rod – Eye Recovery

President / Country / Nation / Veterans

Covid 19 / Elderly / Nursing Homes

Shirley – Cancer



Fun Page

Grab your family & friends and dice to play a game “Roll A Snowman” The first one to build a snowman wins. Take turns rolling the die and you will need to start with the body first (So need to roll 1, 2, 3 before you can put hat, scarf and arms on). Happy Snowman building and family time

Roll A Snowman

Directions: Roll a die to build a snowman.
The winner is the first one to build a snowman.



	Lower Body	
	Middle Body	
	Head	
	Hat	
	Scarf	
	Arms	

BETHANY UMC

107 S. Front St.
Milton, PA 17847
(570) 742-9796

bethany18coffice@gmail.com

Website:

bethanyumc-miltonpa.org

Sunday Worship:

[Held at West Milton UMC
310 High St

West Milton PA]

Lessons for Life: 10:00 am
Gathering of the Family of God: 11:00 am

PASTOR BILL

670 Stamm Rd
Milton, PA 17847
717-968-3500 (Cell)
570-246-5830 (Home)
pastorbill@gmail.com

Upper Room – Now Available

November / December

Daily Bread – Now Available

December / January / February

Announcements:**Dates to Remember:**

Nov 29th – 11:00 am – 1st Sunday of Advent

Dec 2nd – 1:00 pm – Decorate Church @ West Milton UMC

Dec 3rd – 1:00 pm – Worship Team Meeting @ Bethany Office

Dec 6th – 10:00 am – Lessons for Life (Sunday School)

11:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Panther Packs”

(Deadline for Unwrapped Angel Tree Children's Salvation Army Gifts)

Dec 5th -8th – Pastor will be out of the office.

Dec 10th - 10:30 am - Leadership Team W Poole Anderson @ West Milton UMC

Dec 10th (After Poole Meeting- if needed) – Leadership Team (Finance & Ad Board)
@ West Milton UMC

Dec 18th – 9 am – 12:30 pm – Christmas cookies due.

Dec 20th – 11 am – (Deadline for Wrapped HomeBound Members Gifts)

Dec 21st – 9:00 am – Pastor Cluster Meeting @ St Andrew's UMC

Dec 24th – Noon – 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Prayer Vigil

Dec 24th – 7:15 pm – Combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ West Milton

Dec 25th – Merry Christmas!! (Office closed)

Dec 28th - Adm Asst out of office

Lessons for Life (Sunday School): 10:00 am every Sunday morning.

Gathering of the Family of God: 11:00 am every Sunday morning.



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

Dec
2020