

**BETHANY UMC**

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

[bethany18coffice@gmail.com](mailto:bethany18coffice@gmail.com)

**Website:**

[bethanyumc-miltonpa.org](http://bethanyumc-miltonpa.org)

**Sunday Worship:**

Gathering of the Family of God: 10:30 am  
YouTube: Bethany UMC Milton

**PASTOR TRAVIS**

670 Stamm Rd  
Milton, PA 17847  
717-968-2254 (Cell)  
570-246-5830 (Home)  
[tallshouse@susumc.org](mailto:tallshouse@susumc.org)

**Upper Room – Now Available**

May / June

**Daily Bread – Now Available**

April / May / June

**Announcements:**

**Dates to Remember:**


- April 30<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God
- May 4<sup>th</sup> – National Day of Prayer
- May 7<sup>th</sup> - 10:30 am - Gathering of the Family of God  
Communion / Panther Packs (Bring in fruit packs)
- May 14<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am - Gathering of the Family of God  
Happy Mother's Day
- May 16<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm – Leadership Team Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- May 17<sup>th</sup> – A Day of Service (Pastors) Annual Conference @ Community Arts, Wmspt
- May 18<sup>th</sup> – Susquehanna Annual Conference @ Community Arts Center, Wmspt
- May 27<sup>th</sup> – 2 – 4 pm - Shane Claiborne "RawTools" Event @ Bethany UMC
- May 21<sup>st</sup> – 10:30 am - Gathering of the Family of God (Ascension Sunday)
- May 28<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God (Day of Pentecost)
- May 29<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day (Office Closed)



**Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**To all the women out there who gave birth, nurtured, and adopted God's children, bless you and have a wonderful Mother's Day!**

May  
2023

 BETHANY UMC OFFICE  
18 CENTER ST  
MILTON, PA 17847

**Bethany United Methodist Church**

*"A Church with the Heart of Christ in the Heart of Milton"*



Volume 10, Issue 5

**May 2023**

**Milton's Good News**

**April– "At a Glance"**

Looking back in April for Bethany, we started off this month with Holy Week, first with Palm Sunday, which was at a new time for our Good Friday Tenebrae Service at Noon and Easter Sunday. Easter Flowers came and delivered to Home Bound Members. Another clean-up & organize closet work day at the church, storage racks put together and ready for use. Signs of warmer weather and spring is here. **THANK YOU**, Mike Longenberger for taking care of the church lawn.

**"4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."**  
-Cheri Buss

**National Day of Prayer -- May 4, 2023**

**2023 Theme: PRAY FERVENTLY IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND AVAIL MUCH**

**JAMES 5:16B**

**"THE EFFECTIVE, FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILS MUCH."**

Dear God: With an obedient heart we put on the full armor of God; Your breastplate of righteousness guards our heart from which flows the springs of life. We pray fervently for our communities and country; the people who are in the Church, Family, Education, Business and Workplace, Military, Government, Arts, Entertainment and Media. Every person is Your workmanship, fearfully and wonderfully created and loved. With hopeful hearts we pray that all would choose to receive Your love and follow You. We pray that America would confess, "Jesus is Lord" and reflect Your righteousness in every sphere of influence, and every aspect of our lives. We ask that heavenly hope would flood our hearts, silence hate, and that You will heal our land.

Believing You; all You are, all You said, and all You have promised, we pray fervently in righteousness and avail much. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

**Memorial Day**



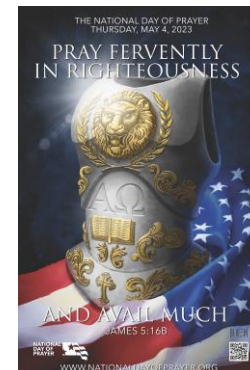
**Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day**

This Memorial Day we salute the brave men and women who served to protect our country.

Thank You and God bless!

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Happy Mother's Day



## From Pastor Travis's Study

Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Grace to you and peace in the name of Jesus Christ who is the healer of our brokenness:

I have recently been watching a show on HBO called The Newsroom. This show is about what goes on in the newsroom of a cable news network. It is fascinating as the writers of The Newsroom take actual news events from 2011-2013 and work them into the story of this fictional news network.

In a series of episodes, the main character, Will Mcavoy, goes on a "mission to civilize" the people around him. He begins this quest by trying to convince a gossip columnist not to write a particular story about a cast member of The Real Housewives of Orange County. (Sadly, this is an actual show on tv.) Will in his attempt to convince the writer not to write the column only backfires. She begins writing terrible stories about Will that affects the way that the public views him.

You might be asking, "Pastor, why are you talking about this?" This reminds me of how we try to tell others about Jesus. For generations this has been how people have tried to change the world by sharing Christ with others. We go on a mission to correct the way that people are living. We try to civilize them according to our standards. What if we tried something different? What if instead we showed people the fruits of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23. These fruits prove that the Spirit lives in us, and if we live by these fruits there would be no cause for others to get angry with or hate us.

Our hearts may be in the right place, just as Will's, but sometimes our efforts are not received as well intentioned. Sometimes we come across as judgmental and hypocritical. If we live by the fruits of the Spirit others will be able to see Christ instead of us. May this be the way we live.

Looking ahead to this month I am excited about our Beating Guns event with Shane Claiborne. This is a timely discussion for all of us as we see news of gun violence every day on our tv screens. Beating Guns with Shane Claiborne will be held on Saturday May 27 at 2pm. We will have a time of worship and Shane sharing about his experiences with gun violence. Then, we will go to the Veterans Field to see Shane forge a gun into a gardening tool. This is an opportunity for us to change the conversation around gun violence and gun rights.

Also, this month I will be attending the Susquehanna Annual Conference. This is a time for all of our local churches to gather together and look to the coming year in the life of our conference. This year brings some heartache to our gathering. At this conference we will be voting on the disaffiliation of numerous churches from the United Methodist Church. I ask that you pray for all of the delegates of the annual conference as these votes take place. Let us together pray for the future of our church, as well as, the United Methodist Church.

May God Bless you in the days ahead!!

The Best is Yet to Be,

Pastor Travis Allshouse



## Leadership Reports...

All Committee/Leadership Reports need to be handed into the church office or pastor, by the second Sunday of each month. **For May they are due: Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.** You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Travis at [tallshouse@susumc.org](mailto:tallshouse@susumc.org). Thank You!

## Fun Page



Down:

1. Ability to discern inner qualities and relationships
2. Personal ornaments such as necklaces rings or bracelets
3. An intense feeling of deep affection
4. A female offspring
7. An expression of gratitude
8. Sweet
9. The place where one lives permanently
11. A male offspring
12. A fist-sized organ that pumps blood throughout your body
13. A group of two or more persons related by birth marriage or adoption who live together

Across:

5. A piece of stiff paper or thin pasteboard
6. A food made from roasted and ground cacao seeds
10. The action or fact of legally taking another's child and bringing it up as one's own
13. Blooms or Blossoms
14. A female parent

## Bethany UMC Current Expense Income March 2023 Reports:

### Financial Secretary's Report: March 2023

Date	Offering Envelopes	Plate Offering	Lenten Offering	Free Will Offering	Easter Flowers	UMCOR	Total
3/5/23	\$667.00	\$5.00	\$2,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,672.00
3/12/23	\$692.00	\$11.00	\$350.00	\$0	\$64.00	\$0	\$1,117.00
3/19/23	\$3,092.00	\$5.00	\$50.00	\$0	\$59.00	\$3,070.00	\$6,276.00
3/26/23	\$1,880.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$60.00	\$47.00	\$175.00	\$2,202.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$6,331.00</b>	<b>\$36.00</b>	<b>\$2,425.00</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>	<b>\$170.00</b>	<b>\$3,245.00</b>	<b>\$12,267.00</b>



*In the spirit of giving,  
we thank you for  
your generosity!*

## Finance Report (March Expenses In & Out):

Total Income Received: \$12,268.95 + 20,000 (Transfer from Investment Fund)  
 Total Expenses Paid Out: \$17,412.83  
 Average Attendance: 21

**Fire Fund:** Income Received: \$32.05 (Interest)  
 Total Expenses: \$10,000 (Temporary Transfer to General Account)  
**Balance \$353,939.27**

## Thank You Notes.....

Pastor Travis & Bethany Congregation: Thank you for the card and well wishes from the faithful members of our church family. How good it is to read and reread your names - makes we feel connected with all. - Flora Price

Dear Friends: Thank you so much for your very generous donation of fruit, applesauce to the Panther Packs Ministry at St. Andrew's UMC. We are very appreciative of your continued support! - Mary Richie, St. Andrew's UMC

## Loss of our dear Bethany Member: Patti Scott

Patti Scott went with our Lord and Savior on March 28, 2023. Patti was a Bethany UMC member of 50 years. Patti served on our Card Sharing with members, and prayer supported on our Prayer Chain and various other committees. Patti recently lost her husband, Bill a month ago which they had 61 years together. Patti loved her church, her family, and grandchildren. Patti enjoyed walking, bowling, playing bridge and traveling. Prayers for the whole family, Patti will be sadly missed.

### PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LOVED ONES

O God, we grieve for those that are experiencing devastating loss of their loved-ones. Send down your Holy Spirit and touch their lives. Please comfort and heal their heavy hearts. Make their faith strong through Christ our Lord, Amen.

## Leadership Team Report...

The Team has voted into acceptance a new Bethany United Methodist Church Facilities Use Agreement, dated March 20, 2023, which sets forth in detail the church's terms and binding policies with regard to the use of its grounds and facilities. The membership of Bethany is thereby entrusted with using due diligence in its use of church property for ministry purposes, and with the employment of fair, safe, and propitious asset management and stewardship in the process. These responsibilities accrue to the use of Bethany's property by members, non-members, and outside people or organizations. It is stipulated that no activities, planned or conducted, are to happen if they are in any way in opposition to the principles or practices of either Bethany or the wider United Methodist Church. Certain usage fees are noted in the Agreement that are intended to offset the church's costs in instances where its equipment is employed or its assets are consumed by (mainly but not only) non-members. All of this is to be governed by Bethany Leadership in strict cooperation with the church Trustees.

The church's audio / visual system, which has lately been causing more than a few quasi-intractable operational problems, will eventually have to be replaced with equipment that's more reliable and up to the tasks we originally wanted it to perform (and were led by the installers to believe it would). We asked Susquehanna Valley Sound and Video for ideas on that, and their suggestion, after examining the nature of our problems, is that we largely replace what we have. SV, as it calls itself, is already engaged in evaluating the whole A/V issue, but we will seek quotes for a new system from others as well.

The question arose as to why our organ's volume fades low every so often. It's believed that a pedal that at least partially governs the volume may be central to the issue by having worked loose a bit. The original provider of the organ, Robert M. Sides, will be asked to look into the situation.

The Team voted to move \$150,000 of Bethany's bank-held assets into a short-term certificate of deposit at another financial institution. This will serve several purposes - it will (a) make for more security in view of the recently-emergent possibility of viral bank failure, (b) it will, in accordance with astute research by the church Trustees, bring us a higher rate of return than almost any other relatively low-risk instrument locally assailable, and (c) bring all our bank-held accounts to well within the upper insurable limit set by the FDIC.

The hiring of our new custodian was announced as finalized. The Team is more than happy to welcome Nicole Taylor to the small but dedicated team of Bethany employees. She's a delightful combination of eagerness, joy, energy, and enthusiasm, and we know that the full membership of the church will greet her warmly.

- Rod Moore

## Our Prayer List.....

### Concerns:

- Pastor Gary (Travis' Father) - Health, recovery from surgery.
- The Merle Nicholas Family - Merle passed away April 4, 2023.
- The Scott Family - Patti passed away March 28, 2023.
- Karen H - Unable to receive her asthma shot due to other health concerns. Prayers for healing and a thanks for her music ministry.
- Jimmy S - Prayers for his pain on his side.
- Dottie (Warburton's Aunt) - Health setbacks, healing & recovery.
- Jean (Jamie's cousin) - Peace with the loss of her husband, Jeff.
- Prayers for the World and hearts of people to find peace & love of Christ.
- Guidance to our Community Leaders & Bethany UMC Leaders of United Methodist Churches
- Prayers for those affected by the tornados.
- Prayers for those in Tennessee and others affected by gun violence.
- Turkey / Syria Earthquake / Weather patterns around the world / California
- Family/friends with Cancer: Florence Y, Mandy (Jim's friend); Rita (Karen's relative); Kenny (Sally's friend). Alicia (Sally); Dot (Judy's neighbor); Denny (Travis' Uncle); Russ W; Bonnie R; Randy; Anna; Joyce.
- Leaders / State / Nation / Church / Country / Ukraine
- Leadership Team: Cindy, James A, Rod, Bob F, James M, Dave W, Mike L, Dorothy, Pastor Travis.



## 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. **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: May 7<sup>th</sup> / June 4<sup>th</sup>**

## Hygiene Kits Ministry...



Bethany UMC is proud and excited to announce that we are collecting items again for personal hygiene packs ministry for children in our schools and community! Please put into the bins in the Fellowship Hall.

**The items that we are accepting for the packs are:**

Soap/shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand/body lotion, feminine products. The small individual, hotel-sized bottles are preferred but any donations are welcomed!

We thank you in advance for your support of this exciting ministry!!

## Event in the Area.....



Hospice of Evangelical invites you, your family, and friends to join us in celebrating the life of your loved one at our Remembrance Walk on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Come out and remember the life and legacy of your loved one at Shikellamy State Park Marina located off PA-147 (Bridge Avenue) on Packers Island. This event is free and for anyone in our community to attend.

## FREE Event “RAWTOOLS” with Shane Claiborne

**May 27, 2023 from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm** “RawTools” Free Event with Shane Claiborne held at Bethany UMC. This event will be a time of worship, special music, and message by Shane Claiborne. Then we will walk down the street to the Milton Veteran’s Park, where Shane will melt down guns and repurpose them into gardening tools. Shane is a prominent speaker, activist, and best-selling author. Grace fuels his passion to help stop gun violence and the homeless.

All are welcomed and you will not want to miss Shane’s message.



## Welcome New Hire, Nichole as our Custodian

Bethany UMC welcomes Nichole Taylor of New Columbia as our new custodian. Nichole started her custodian work on March 29, 2023, at Bethany UMC. Nichole is a very hard and good worker, a huge blessing to have her take care of God’s church, at Bethany. Nichole is a 1997 Milton Graduate. Nichole helps clean her Aunt’s house, among other houses, and has a very kind and loving heart. Nichole is a big animal lover, she likes to garden, and likes to listen to all kinds of music. Nichole enjoys spending time with her family and nephews. Welcome Nichole to Bethany UMC Staff!!!

## Trustees Report....

A few Trustee items to report:

- The ice machine is still out of commission as we are waiting for parts and Scott’s Refrigeration to install. As reported last month, due to the varying voltage readings, PPL was contacted to check the supply line. They came and checked the transformer and the lines into the church and found the voltage to be within normal limits.
- The changing of electricity and natural gas suppliers for the church, Parish House, and parsonage did not go as smoothly as expected. We should have all the details ironed out soon. In the end we will have agreements in place for either 18 or 24 months for electricity and natural gas supply on all the accounts. When finalized, the details will be shared with the Leadership Team, so that all are aware of when we need to start shopping for suppliers again to prevent it from reverting to the default rate, which is typically higher.
- One outstanding item from the kitchen inspection remains. The installation of an automatic closer on the restroom door. Poole Andersen had some closers salvaged from a recent demolition so we will not need to purchase the closer. They will be sending someone to install the closer in the near future.
- At the last Leadership Team meeting we discussed taking some of the remaining funds from the insurance claim for the fire and invest it in a short-term Certificate of Deposit at another financial institution. The purpose would be twofold:
  - We would receive a higher return on the investment
  - In light of the recent bank defaults and closures, it would reduce our balance of both accounts below the limit of FDIC insurance.

I’m checking with a couple local banks and will share the information at our upcoming meeting, so that we can take action.

Here is the quarterly report of the financial assets of the Trustees. The following balances (rounded) are as of March 31 (unless noted otherwise):

- Hudock Capital Group (Pershing) - \$328,936 – a decrease of \$29,282 from the last quarter. We withdrew \$40,000 for expenses this quarter. At the risk of being redundant, this is not sustainable over the long term.
- Prudential Investments - \$696,081 – an increase of \$31,426 from the last quarter – this is our ‘in lieu of flood insurance’ account.
- Prudential Investments – The Raudenbush Account - \$72,350 – an increase of \$3,209 from last quarter.
- Prudential Investments - \$9,639 – a decrease of \$312 from the last quarter
- BNY Mellon – The Butler Trust – \$209,119 – an increase of \$6,651. This includes the quarterly disbursement of \$2,200, which is deposited for current expense needs.
- Milton Savings Bank – Fire Restoration Fund – Current Balance (Dec. 5) - \$353,939 – a decrease of \$9,880 from the last quarter. We had to borrow \$10,000 from the fund for current expenses, as there was a delay in receiving the funds from investments. It will be repaid in the near future.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

## May Worship Schedule.....

**Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am – Palm Sunday**  
(Communion will be offered)  
Bring in fruit for “Panther Packs”



**Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>– 10:30 am Easter Sunday**  
Happy Mother’s Day!!

**Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – 10:30 am – Worship [Ascension Sunday]**

**Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am – Worship [Day of Pentecost]**

