

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



Volume 6, Issue 12

December 2019

Milton's Good News

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November – "At a Glance"

Looking back on November for Bethany, starting off with All Saints Day, remembering all those loved ones who passed away this past year. The helping to serve at the Milton Harvest Community Dinner at St Andrews. Collection of food donations and money for "Feed-A-Friend" for HandUp was done. A great turnout of 45 people for the free meal and matinee movie, showing "Breakthrough". Charge Conference was held at St Andrew's UMC. Hanging of the Greens with a fellowship meal and decorating the church. Then ending the month with a Thanksgiving Eve Service.

*"God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay. As God has said, "I will give you the holy and sure **blessings** promised to David."* (Acts 13:34 NIV) -Cheri Buss

Special points of interest:

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Feed-A-Friend Update:

"Thanksgiving in a Bag" Feed-a-Friend

for HandUp in Milton was a great blessing that Bethany filled about 30 complete meal food bags and taken in \$203.00 for turkeys.

Well done and Thank You Bethany UMC!!!!

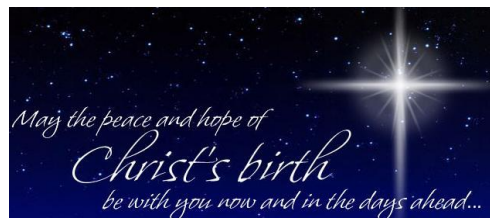


"Share the Warmth" Coat Giveaway Update:

Our annual 'Share The Warmth' Coat Giveaway remains a much needed and successful event. We gave away 102 coats, 8 blankets, many hats, scarves, gloves and warm clothes and we are STILL getting calls from people in need! Among this number were coats taken to the Coat Giveaway that was being done in conjunction with the October Community Dinner event to benefit our friends that frequent the dinners. We also had our 'B.E.T.H. 'Washed Clean' Kit items available and offered them to guests who very thankfully depleted our supplies, proving that ministry is needed and a success! Thanks and blessings to Pastor Bill, Elaine Billhime, Betsy Blyler, Linn Chesney, Bob Fitch, Sharon Foust, Edie Getz, Terrie Hauck, Dorothy Hower, Barb Huff, Mike Longenberger, Kathy Martin, Janet Masser, Cindy Mohr, Rod Moore, Jimmy Shields, & Dave Warburton for their hard work on this important ministry!

~Shelly Sholley

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,



In the blink of an eye, the month of December has snuck up on me. November has taken its time of fame, the first frosts, our church conference, and Thanksgiving.

But now there is a change in the air. The frost has started to be harder and the cleaning of car windows every morning has begun unless you have a garage to keep your vehicles in.

With December comes the preparation for Christmas all the lights, presents and family parties to attend. We can look at Christmas and the Advent season as a promise of things to come. A new beginning to our lives and the commitments we have and will make.

The birth of Christ begins a new story within the Bible the coming of a Messiah, the savior of the world. There is and has been a great debate over the years as to why December 25th was chosen as the day that Christ was born. Many believe it was chosen as a counter-culture event to battle the pagan events that were happening to celebrate the worship of the sun god and the winter solstice and the start of daylight's return.

The Messianic Jewish belief is that the birth of Christ happened in the month of Nisan on the first day, which is the beginning of the new year in the Jewish calendar. This date would be in March on our calendar. The Jewish belief is based on the events of Christ's birth and what would be the timeline in Israel at the time. The shepherds out in the field and other events line up to hold their claim to the birth time.

For me, I believe the date of April the fifteenth is a day I remember as that is the date in which I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior. Let the debate begin!

I will not fight with anyone over the day as tradition has won out and December 25th is the day the church has chosen. The more important part is to believe in your heart that a savior has been born and scripture has been fulfilled. We now enter into the church time of Advent in which we wait for the second half of Christ's fulfillment and his second return.

Throughout the month of December, I pray that Christ might be reborn in your life and we can concentrate on the greatest gift that was given and let Christ grow in your heart and mind. It is not about the lights and all of the glitz of the season but it is about a simple act of God's love for mankind and the relationship restored through the Messiah.

I would also like to take a moment to thank everyone who was a part of the Church Conference and to pray that as the new church year begins we may continue to grow in the love of Christ as disciples and missionaries of representing Bethany Church in Milton.

Isaiah 53

By His wounds,

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 8th.** 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, December 3rd. Here are December's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles. **Next Worship Team meeting will be on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020 at 1:00 PM.**

December 1st – (1st Sunday of Advent) [Hope] Angels from the Realms of Glory (220); Bread of the World (624); Joy to the World (246); Isaiah 2:1-5; Luke 1:26-38; *"Prepare Him Room"*; **Communion**

December 8th (2nd Sunday of Advent) [Love] There's a Song in the Air (249); Love Came Down at Christmas (242); Joy to the World (246); Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 1:39-45; *"Our Songs Employ"*

December 15th – (3rd Sunday of Advent) [Joy] All People That on Earth Do Dwell (75); Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (224); Joy to the World (246); Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46-56; *"His Blessings Flow"*

December 22nd – (4th Sunday of Advent) [Peace] It Came upon the Midnight Clear (218); Go, Tell It on the Mountain (251); Joy to the World (246); Isaiah 7:10-16; Luke 1:67-79; *"He Rules the World"*

December 24th – (Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm) [Christ] Joy to the World (246); What Child Is This (219); O Come, All Ye Faithful (234); Silent Night, Holy Night (239); Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20; *"Repeat the Sounding Joy"*; **Communion & Candlelight**

December 29th – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (240); The First Noel (245); O Holy Night (Insert); Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 2:13-23; *"Called Away"*

Christmas Eve Prayer Vigil



Christmas Eve Prayer vigil will be held on Tuesday, December 24th from Noon – 6:00 pm. to keep Bethany Church in prayer. Sign up for time slots and come and 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 – 7:00 pm – Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at Bethany UMC (Communion will be offered)

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



Leadership Team (Ad Board) Report....

Leadership Team met on November 19th and the opening devotion and prayer was lead by Dorothy Hower. Pastor Bill lead the team study, which concluded the study on *"The Necessary Nine"* by Bob Farr/Kat Kotan. In January we will begin the study on *"Mission Possible"*.

On Finance a discussion of the instituting of a new assigned budget system for the checking accounts for budget clarification. This process is still in review but should be implemented by the end of the year.

From the N.O.W. Team: There was a discussion on the success of the last few events that were held at the church and the possible restructuring of upcoming events. One in question was the cookie and candy sale which has not been successful in the last few attempts so we are going to change the format of this event in order to meet more people for Christ. The team will ask the congregation once again for donations of cookies and fudge which will then be given out at the December movie along with a sock give away.

Movie dates for the winter months will be changed to any movies starting at Three o'clock and any months where a meal will be served we will start at Two o'clock. The next meal will be in January with Hot dogs and sauerkraut being served as the main meal. Side dishes to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned with the statement being made that there would not be a December meeting.

Next Leadership Team meeting will be held on January 21st, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

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

Next N.O.W. Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

"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 300 children per week, of fruit cups and individual boxes of cereals, increased up from the 284 we've been targeting. Please bring in those items of the first of the month for **"Sharing the Table"**. **Next Food Collection Communion Dates: Dec 1st / Jan 5th**

Milton Harvest Community Dinner (St Andrew's UMC – 201 Lower Market St, Milton PA)

There will be a Milton Harvest Community Dinner on **Monday, December 2, 2019** at 5:00 pm. Bethany will need volunteers to help with serving at 4:45 pm. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

Milton Community Dinner (Christ Evan Lutheran Church – 1125 Mahoning St, Milton PA)

There will be a Community Dinner on a **Sunday, December 8th, 2019 at 5:00 pm.** Bethany will need volunteers for help to serve at (4:45 pm), and supply desserts & food donations. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

Bethany's

Effort

Toward

Health

"Washed Clean Kits"



BETH "Washed Clean Kits" (Hygiene Kits) Update:

The items that we are accepting for the packs are:

Soap, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body sprays, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand/body lotion, wash cloths, hand towels, disposable personal/baby wipes, feminine products, toilet paper, and both baby and adult diapers. The small individual, hotel-sized bottles are preferred but any donations are welcomed! **Items mostly needed are hand towels, deodorant, lotion, feminine products, and individual packets of tissues.**

Secret Prayer Pal

If you would like to be someone's secret prayer pal throughout the year of 2020; (to pray for them, send them encouraging notes & birthday cards in secret) here is how you can get involved.

End of December 2019, your Secret Prayer Pal will be revealed and for those who would like to take part in this next year for 2020, 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.



"Christmas Treats & Movie"



This year instead of a Cookie Sale, Bethany is doing an outreach event called "Christmas Treats & Movie". This will be held on Sunday, December 15th at 3:00 pm, showing the movie "The Star". Each participant will receive a bag of cookies/candy after the movie. Please sign up on the sheet to help provide at least one batch of cookies (Aprx. 3 dozens) and/or pan of fudge. Cookie/Candy donations can be brought into the **church office on Friday, Dec. 13th** from 9 am – 1 pm. or Sat. Dec 14th at 6:00 pm, and Sunday, Dec 15 at 10:15 am.

Also asking for volunteers to help bag up cookie/candy on Sat. Dec 14th (after the wedding) at 6:00 pm.



Angel Tree



Be an Angel to Someone for Christmas: Angel Tree

We will again be 'adopting' children to give them a joyous Holiday season. Six (6) 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.

(Unwrapped with Angel Tag) Deadline for Angel Tree (children) gifts: Sunday, Dec 8th.

(Wrapped) Deadline for Homebound members gifts: Sunday, Dec 15th.

Milton's Good News

Advent Offering Envelope



Dear Bethany Family,

Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. This year Advent starts on December 1st, 2019. 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

Lay Leader's Report

Laity Sunday in the United Methodist Church having occurred on October 20 this year, I availed myself of the opportunity to present something very different during that day's worship service at Bethany. It took the form of an ancient Byzantine chant, which was based on what we know as Psalm 118, and which I sang unaccompanied in accordance with Eastern Church traditions. The chant is known to the Orthodox Christian community as a "polyeleos", or hymn of thanksgiving to God, in this case so-called because of the repetition of the line "For His mercy endureth forever" (poly = many, eleos = mercies) throughout its 15 short stanzas.

I believe, as many do, that Laity Sunday is a chance for laypersons to participate in services and, hopefully, add something new and different to them in the process. I also believe that lay ministry can take almost infinitely many forms. and that its variety should be allowed to flourish within reasonable ecumenical bounds. After all, in tastefully "pushing our worship envelopes", we're finding other ways to celebrate, praise, and thank our Triune God with unchained vitality and excitement, and in propitiously executing such offerings, we do it without promoting ourselves. That my delivery of the chant seemed to be well-received had everything to do with its focus and purpose and not much of anything to do with its quality of consummation. If more people our church (or any church) would exercise their spiritual gifts and let their curiosities lead them to an eventual sharing of their discoveries with each other - if that were to happen regularly rather than sporadically or by permission only - and if congregations would embrace the new and the unusual as opportunities to learn instead of treating the unfamiliar with apathetic disdain or viewing the common practices of other Christians as too esoteric for serious consideration, worship would be a whole different (and, I think, livelier) thing than it is.

101519-110919

Rod Moore

Events Happening in the Area

[Please see the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary for more details on these events]

Friday, December 6, 2019 at 7:30 pm – "Countdown to Christmas" Kingdom Kidz Puppet Christmas Program with Cameran Camel sharing the best Good News ever! Located at Puppet Home, 11 E. 3rd St, Watsontown PA.

Bethany UMC Current Expense Income October 2019 Reports:

Envelope Income To Date---2019

		Current Expense	Reno	Benev. (Price Fund)	Miscell.	Weekly Total	Year To Date
October	6	\$739.00		\$3.00		\$742.00	\$35,527.00
	13	\$1,074.00		\$56.00		\$1,130.00	\$36,657.00
	20	\$645.00				\$645.00	\$37,302.00
	27	\$549.00		\$14.00		\$563.00	\$37,865.00

Plate Income To Date---2019

		Current Exp.		Weekly Total	Year To Date
October	6	\$55.00		\$55.00	\$2,000.80
	13	\$35.00		\$35.00	\$2,035.80
	20	\$20.00		\$20.00	\$2,055.80
	27	\$20.00		\$20.00	\$2,075.80

Lessons For Life Income To Date---2019

		Weekly Total	Year To Date
October	6	\$11.00	\$547.00
	13	\$12.00	\$559.00
	20	\$15.00	\$574.00
	27	\$13.00	\$587.00

Bethany UMC Special UM Sunday Contributions 2019

World Communion Sunday-----10/06/2019
10/6/19---\$220.00

Bethany UMC Miscellaneous Contributions 2019

	Year To Date
Copier use Donation	
10/6/19--\$5.00	
10/13/19--\$4.00	
10/27/19--\$10.00	\$26.00
Fire & Ice Campaign	
9/29/19--\$75.00	
10/6/19--\$50.00	
10/13/19--\$2,500.00	
10/20/19--\$450.00	\$3,075.00
Bridge Walk	
10/13/19--\$1,282.00	
10/27/19--\$600.00	\$1,882.00

Finance Report (October's Expenses In & Out:

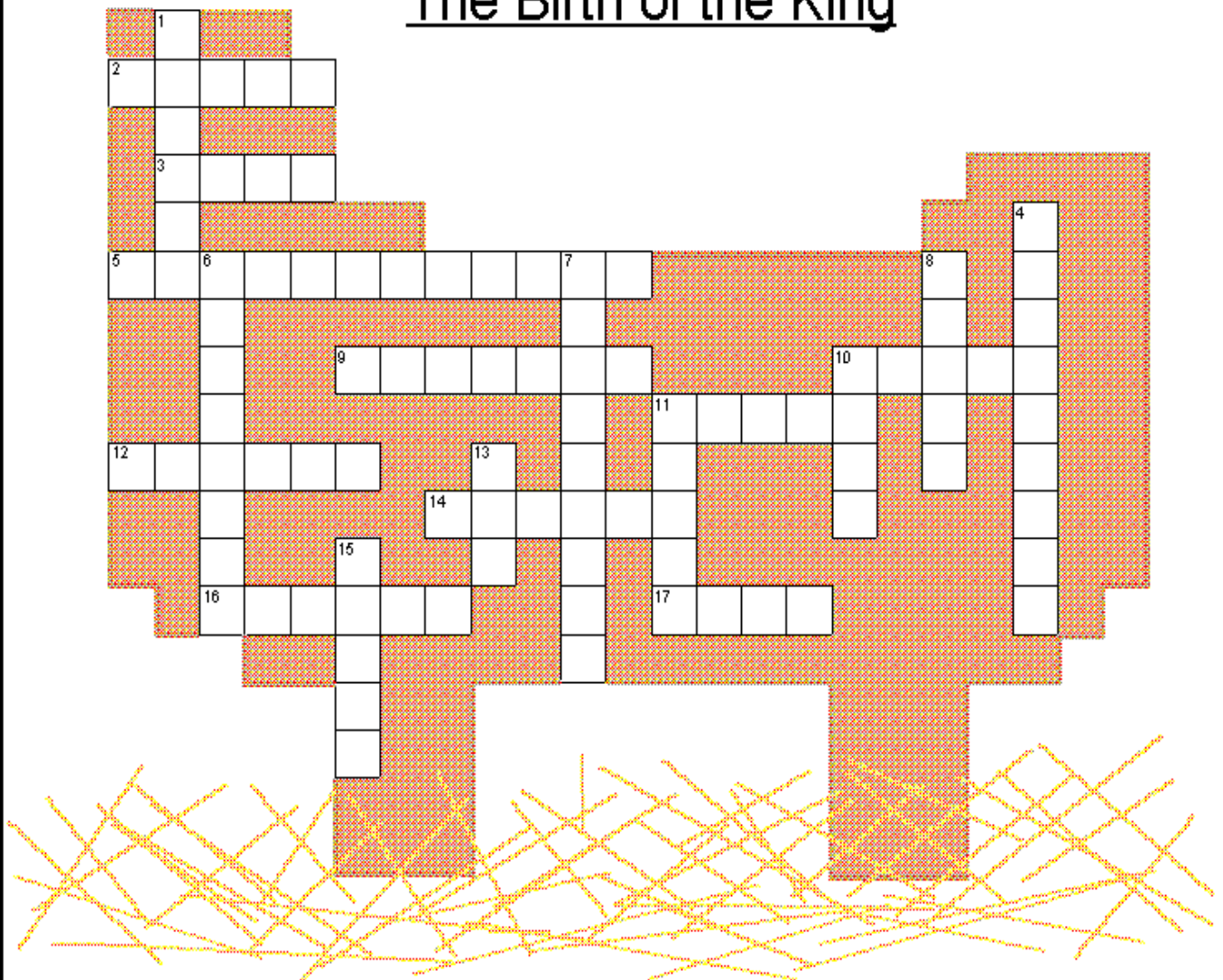
Total Income Received:	\$11,009
Total Expenses Paid Out:	\$15,446



Total Attendance for the month of October:

Fun Page

The Birth of the King



Across

2. Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to pay these
3. A precious metal: one of the gifts from the 3 kings
5. A fragrant gum used to make incense: one of the gifts from the wisemen
9. The 3 kings from the east
10. A pungent tasting herb: A gift from the wisemen
11. Bethlehem is here
12. Mary's husband
14. These appeared to them about the birth of Christ
16. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a _____, which is Christ the Lord
17. This led the wisemen to Jesus

Down

1. An open box to hold food for livestock: Mary laid Jesus in one
4. The city of His birth
6. The Roman emperor who taxed everyone
7. Angels told these guys about His birth while they were watching their flocks
8. The king of Judea when Jesus was born
10. His mother
11. And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call His name _____
13. He was born in a stable because there was no room here
15. We celebrate His _____ at Christmas

BETHANY UMC

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

miltonbethanyumcoffice@gmail.com

Website:

bethanyumc-miltonpa.org

Sunday Worship:

Lessons for Life: 9:00 am
Gathering of the Family of God: 10:15 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

October / November / December

Announcements:**Dates to Remember:**

[Note: No regular scheduled Leadership Team & Trustees Meeting for this month of December]

[Pastor will be out of the office from December 7th – 11th]

November 27th – 7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Service

Dec 1st - 10:15 am – Gathering of the Family of God / “Sharing the Table” Communion

December 1st – 10:15 am – 1st Sunday in Advent

December 1st – 2:00 pm – Rockwell Communion

December 2nd – 4:45 pm – (Servers) Milton Harvest Community Dinner @ St Andrew's

December 3rd – Noon - Milton Ministerium @ Revival Tabernacle

December 3rd – 1:00 pm – Worship Team

December 8th – 10:15 am – [Deadline for Children's Angel Tree Gifts] Unwrapped w tag

December 8th – 5:00 pm – Community Dinner @ Christ Lutheran

December 13th – 5:30 pm – Benner/Wagner Wedding Rehearsal

December 14th – 3:00 pm – Benner/Wagner Wedding

December 15th - 10:15 am [Deadline for Homebound Members Gifts] Wrapped

December 15th – 3:00 pm – Christmas Treats & Free Movie “The Star”

December 19th – 9 am – 3 pm – Salvation Army Bike Giveaway (Church Use)

December 24 – Noon – 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Prayer Vigil

December 24th – 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service (Communion & Candlelight)

December 25th – Merry Christmas (Office closed)

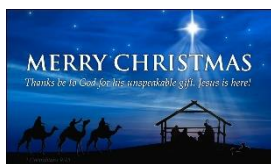
Rockwell Bible Study: 9:00 am every Thursday at Rockwell. (Except Dec 26th)

Lessons for Life: 9:00 am every Sunday morning.

Gathering of the Family of God: 10:15 am every Sunday morning.



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847



Christmas Blessings!

Hope – Love – Joy - Peace

Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!

Dec
2019