

**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**

January / February

**Announcements:**

**Dates to Remember:**

**Dec 1 - 10:30 am** – Gathering of the Family of God / Communion / 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Deadline for Angel Tree Salvation Army Gifts

**11:45 am** – Hanging of the Greens Luncheon & Decorate the church.

**Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am** – Gathering of the Family of God / 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Dec 9<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 am** – Bible Study (Advent Study)

**Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – 9 am – 11 am** – Deadline for cookies for the Home Bound Members

**Dec 15<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am** – Gathering of the Family of God / 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Dec 16<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 am** – Bible Study (Advent Study)

**Dec 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>** – Deliveries to our Home Bound Members (Cookies and Poinsettias)

**Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> - 10:30 am** – Gathering of the Family of God / 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent


**Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – 3:00 pm** – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Dec 29<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am** – Gathering of the Family of God

**11:45 am** – Dec Birthday Celebration

*Every Sunday Worship (Gathering of the Family of God) at 10:30 am.*



 BETHANY UMC OFFICE  
18 CENTER ST  
MILTON, PA 17847

December  
2024

**Bethany United Methodist Church**

*“A Church with the Heart of Christ in the Heart of Milton”*

Volume 11, Issue 12



**December 2024**

**Milton's Good News**

**November “At a Glance”**

Looking back in November for Bethany, the Monday Bible Study finished up with Jude. Held our annual church conference meeting at St. Andrew’s UMC. A new ministry this year (Replacing Thanksgiving-in-a-bag) was a free Thanksgiving meal sharing Christ love with the community, with 100 meals being made. End of the month we celebrated the December birthdays after church with cake and coffee.

*“Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” Psalm 126:2 (NIV)*

*- Cheri Buss*

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**Christmas Candlelight Service**



**Christmas Candlelight Service will be held on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – 3:00 pm.**

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

**Special points of interest:**

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



*Pastor Travis Allshouse*

*Roderic Moore*

*Cheri Buss*

*Rich Handy*

*Bob Fitch*

*Nichole Taylor*

*Vanessa Lloyd*





### From Pastor Travis's Study



Sisters and Brothers,

Grace to you and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ whose birth we are about ready to celebrate.

I love Christmas time. I love the gathering of families around Christmas trees, and the movies that are full of hope and wonder (NOT Hallmark Christmas movies). I love Christmas Eve worship where all my favorite hymns are sung. I love hearing the story of Jesus being born into a world of chaos with the promise of something better to come.

As I have gotten older, I have found myself becoming more and more like one of my favorite comic characters. I am a huge fan of the Peanuts comic strip and all of the movies. Two of my favorite characters in this comic are Charlie Brown and Linus. Every year at Christmas I find myself becoming more and more like Charlie Brown. I look around and see less and less about the real meaning of Christmas, and more and more about buying this gift or that really expensive item to prove how much I love somebody. More and more I find myself wanting to yell "Can somebody please tell me what Christmas is about?" as Charlie Brown does. Charlie has to go on a search to find the meaning of Christmas. I feel like for many of us, we do have to go on a search for the meaning of Christmas every once in a while.

It is Charlie Brown's friend Linus who comes to his aid to help him begin to find the meaning of Christmas. Linus recites the story of Jesus being born as told by Luke. At the end of his recitation, Linus tells Charlie, this is the meaning of Christmas, referring to Jesus being born. In my search for the meaning of Christmas, I realized how many times I listened to the story of Jesus being born without really listening to it. Then one year something clicked in my head. The miracle of Christmas and the meaning of Christmas is found in the Incarnation. Incarnation is just a fancy theological word that means Christ becoming human. The miracle of Christmas is that God became a person just like me. Jesus was born into a messy world and came to live a messy life, and He died a messy death. All of these things we experience.

Incarnation was something new for the world when Jesus was born. No other ancient god lived like us. The Greek gods lived on Mt. Olympus distant from people. The pharaohs of Egypt were believed to be gods, and they owned slaves and had buildings made in their honor. In Jesus' time, the Roman Emperor was considered a god and he live the most lavish life ever. The gods were nothing like people.

I realized we tell the story of Christ being born year after year because we know what the end of the story is. The end is not His death, but His resurrection and new life that is given to each one of us. We tell the story because we know that our God has lived among us and knows what we go through. God knows our worries and our troubles. God promises to be with us through our troubles.

This Christmas season as we retell the story of the birth of Jesus, let us remember the miracle of the Incarnation and what that means for us. If you find yourself in a Charlie Brown mood, remind yourself of the promise that God is with you in the midst of your search. The meaning of the Incarnation has ended my search for the meaning of Christmas, may it end yours as well.

May God Bless you this Christmas season. May your days be filled with the Joy, Peace, Love, and Hope of God through Christ Jesus. And, May the wonder and miracle of Christmas fill your heart.

Have a Blessed Advent and Christmas Season.

The best is yet to be!!!

Pastor Travis



### Fun Page

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

### Wordsearch

Search for the words going up, down, left and right.

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

YULETIDE  
GREETINGS  
CAROLING  
PRESENTS

WREATH  
NUTCRACKER  
TREE  
MISTLETOE

SANTA  
GINGERBREAD  
ORNAMENT  
ELVES

womanofmanyroles.com



## Bethany UMC Current Expense Income October 2024 Reports:

### Financial Secretary's Report: October 2024

| Date          | Offering Envelopes | Plate Offering | Poinsettia Flowers | Butler Trust      | World Communion | Fuel/Cool Fund    | Free Will Offering | Price Fund     | Totals            |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 10/06/24      | \$474.00           | \$25.00        | \$0                | \$1,265.43        | \$24.00         | \$100.00          | \$0                | \$30.00        | \$1,918.43        |
| 10/13/24      | \$463.00           | \$15.00        | \$0                | \$0               | \$300.00        | \$2,500.00        | \$10.00            | \$30.00        | \$3,318.00        |
| 10/20/24      | \$3,423.00         | \$12.00        | \$10.00            | \$0               | \$0             | \$200.00          | \$0                | \$0            | \$3,645.00        |
| 10/27/24      | \$483.00           | \$15.00        | \$20.00            | \$0               | \$0             | \$0               | \$0                | \$0            | \$518.00          |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>\$4,843.00</b>  | <b>\$67.00</b> | <b>\$30.00</b>     | <b>\$1,265.43</b> | <b>\$324.00</b> | <b>\$2,800.00</b> | <b>\$10.00</b>     | <b>\$60.00</b> | <b>\$9,399.43</b> |

## Finance Report (October Current Expenses In & Out):

### October 2024

Total Income Received: \$9,399.43 + (\$2.79 interest) = **\$9,399.43**

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$16,544.88

Average Attendance: 20

**Fire Fund:** Income Received: \$1.24 (Interest)

Total Expenses: \$0 - **Balance \$14,140.91**



## 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 8, 2024.** You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Travis at [tallshouse@susumc.org](mailto:tallshouse@susumc.org). Thank You!

## December Worship Schedule

SUNDAY MORNING **Worship Schedule**  
**Sunday, Dec 1** – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God / 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Advent / Communion  
 11:45 am – Hanging of the Greens Luncheon & Decorate the church

**Sunday, Dec 8**– 10:30 am Gathering of the Family of God / 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, Dec 15** – 10:30 am - Gathering of the Family of God / 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, Dec 22** – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God / 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, Dec 24** – 3:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Sunday, Dec 29** – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God  
 11:45 am – Dec Birthday Celebrations  
 (Arie Allshouse, Rod Moore, Barb Huff, Sarah Heimbach, Cindy Mohr, & Tom Fowler)



## Trustees Report

Trustee items in process or completed:

- Lezzer Lumber has been fully paid for the new doors and windows in the parsonage.
- That project, along with our usual expenses, has depleted the general checking account. We will need additional funds to get through the end of the year. Therefore, we will be withdrawing the remaining balance in the fire fund account (approximately \$14,100) and moving it to the general checking account. This means the only funds remaining from the insurance proceeds is the \$100,000 we recently placed in a CD at Mifflinburg Bank.
- The contract for the gas supply in the Parish House expires on December 9. I have been researching rates and will sign at least a 12-month contract, possibly longer, to get a lower rate.
- Susquehanna Fire completed their annual inspection of the fire extinguishers on November 18. All extinguishers passed inspection.
- The paddles which open the exterior handicapped door are not working. Lezzer Commercial Door came out to look at them. The handicapped door was made by Stanley. Because it's a Stanley door, Lezzer's is not able to service it. I will be contacting Stanley for service. We also asked Lezzer's to look at the men's room door, which seems to have shifted and is sticking a bit at the top. Lezzer's believes the frame is shifting so they recommend a contractor look at making some repairs.
- In addition to the problems with the men's room door, part of the wall is loose in the north Front Street entrance vestibule. This too will need a contractor to repair. I've contacted Poole Anderson who will be sending someone out to assess the work required.
- Air Tech HVAC will be completing the fall service on the HVAC systems at the church, Parish House, and parsonage on December 11.
- At our most recent Leadership Meeting we discussed the small mutual fund account with Prudential. At the end of September the value of the account was \$12,425.93. There are no notes in the files about why this separate account exists, or if there are any stipulations on its use. Because we will need additional funds for current expenses in early 2025, we decided to close out the account and deposit the funds in the general checking account.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

## Volunteers for delivering Homebound Gifts & Cookies



We will need volunteers to make cookies for our Homebound Members and deliver them, along with a poinsettia plant. There will be a Sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for cookie baker's and delivery person's.

**Cookie deadline: Friday, December 13, 2024 (9am – 11 am)**

Delivery to Homebound Members: December 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024  
 Cookies and Poinsettia will be ready to deliver, please pick them up in the office.

Thank you for spreading cheer to our Homebound Members.

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

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!!

Bible Study News.....



Next Bible Study will be an Advent Study, 10:00 am for Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> only. Next year 2025, will be studying the history of the Bible. Watch for start date in January 2025.

“Hanging of the Greens” Decorate the Church



This year for “Hanging of the Greens” to decorate the church for Bethany will be on **Sunday, December 1, 2024; at 11:45 am.** After worship we will have a luncheon and then we decorate the church for Christmas Season.

A sign up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall. Thank You!

Angel Tree....



**Be an Angel to Someone for Christmas: Angel Tree**

This year we will be ‘adopting’ 1 family with 2 children (Kniya & Kenya) to give them a joyous Christmas season. A total of 14 tags (2 children) Angel Tree’ ornaments from The Salvation Army will be on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

**So proud of everyone for taking all the tags!!!**

**Deadline for Angel Tree (children) gifts: Sunday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. (Unwrapped with Angel Tag)**

**Thank you!**

Leadership Team Report...

The Team has decided to close out the church’s Fire Fund checking account, which has been in existence at Milton Savings Bank ever since our property/casualty insurance proceeds began to come in after the 2019 fire. The remaining balance will be shifted to the General Account, where it will help pay current expenses.

Additionally, Bethany has a relatively small mutual fund account with Prudential that is apparently not earmarked for a particular application, so the Team decided to cash that in at the end of 2024 and put the money to unrestricted general use.

We chose to have a Christmas Eve service at Bethany on Tuesday, December 24 at 3:00 PM, a time of day compatible with the needs of those who abhor driving in the dark.

The gifts of Christmas poinsettias and cookies for our home-bound members will be repeated this season.

Members and regular service attendees will remember the memorial board that was mounted in the rear of the pre-fire Bethany sanctuary – it’s still on the premises, and we will affix it to the wall above the mailboxes in the office. The book that went with it, which mostly contained the names of those who donated funds toward the purchase of the former Reliable Furniture building many years ago, is also intact and is kept in the office as well. So, yes, we are preserving all of that history.

The pay rates for 2025 for Bethany’s employees have been reviewed and adjusted upward. I will report on that separately as Chair of PSPRC, since the figures are both confidential and mainly of internal interest.

The Team will not meet formally in December. Its next regularly-scheduled gathering will therefore be on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

Rod Moore

Our Prayer List.....

Concerns:

Larry & Susan (Travis’ Uncle & Aunt) – Larry is in the Pittsburgh Hospital, health declining, confused & weight loss.

Pray for doctors to find the cause and heal him. Prayer’s for Susan as she care for him.

Jessica A – Migraine headaches.

The Aurand Family (Jamie’s Uncle) – Charles passed away.

The Shaw Family – Terry passed away.

The Noaker & Edinger Family – Edith Noaker passed away.

Elwood P – Health and Anna as she cares for him.

Lindsay T – Health concerns, strength & healing.

Joel (Jim’s friend) – In hospital / Health

Veterans

All those affected by the Hurricanes and their losses and damages.

**Family/friends with Cancer:** Rita S, Anna P, Florence Y, Tim C (Friends of Allshouse); Dot (Judy’s neighbor); Kenny (Sally’s friend). Alicia (Sally); Dale R (Sally’s friend).

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

Joys:

Bob F – Health is better.

Julia’s A – Doing well after her surgery.

Chris (Judy Carl sister’s boyfriend) – Now home and doing better.

Travis – My infusions are working well, no pain in joints, please continue to pray that it will stay that way and no side effects.

