

# Milton's Good News

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## February – "At a Glance"

Looking back on February, Bethany UMC served at the Milton Harvest Dinner. The Milton Bicentennial Service will be held at Bethany UMC the end of February.

<sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35 (NIV)

- Cheri Buss

## "A devotion from the Pastor's desk..."

Walking in Christ: part 1

*Psalm 139:1-2* <sup>1</sup> O LORD, You have searched me and known me. <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.

The Christian journey begins and ends with God. God has known us, each us from before we were born. God has searched our hearts, our minds and our souls and is intimately familiar with each of us, probably more so than we are with ourselves. He knows each of the scars we bear, even the ones that we bury beneath feelings, denials, and emotional walls. He has run His finger along them and felt the pain that they caused when they were made. This is the God that calls to you. This is the God that longs to show you a better way, a way that causes fewer scars for yourself and for others.

Walking in Christ is not about a set of rules that makes us righteous or holy. It is about making the world better, making the heaven we all strive for begin to exist in the present. So many people look around the world and wonder why there is so much evil, why God is allowing all these things to happen. The truth is God is not simply sitting back and allowing them to happen, He is actively working to correct the wrongs and stop evil. He just works through us and all too often, it is us that sits back and allows the evil and disparity to happen. Sometimes we are even the ones that create it. God could magically make evil go away, but what would we learn? Where would we find redemption? Instead, God chooses to allow us to grow up in the faith, to become like Him. He offers us the opportunity to combat evil, just as He combats evil. He did not make us to be infants or toys that He constantly has to animate and do everything for, instead He gave us the gift of being able to grow, to learn, to live and to love. Seize the opportunity...

## Worship Team Report

The following is the work of the Traditional Worship Team, which met on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Here are March's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles.

**March 1<sup>st</sup>** – Ash Wednesday Service at **St. Andrew's UMC** (7:00 pm)

**March 5<sup>th</sup>** – 1<sup>st</sup> Lent – It Is Well with My Soul (377); Be Still My Soul (534); Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley (2112); Jesus, Tempted in the Desert (2105 to the tune of 581); *Matthew 4:1-11, "Internal Struggles"*;  
**Communion**

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lent – To God Be the Glory (98); Because He Lives (364); Blessed Assurance (369); Gather Us In (2236); *Psalms 121, John 3:1-17, "Second Chances"*

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Lent – You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (629); A Charge to Keep I Have (413); Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (127); Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (89); *Psalms 95, John 4:5-42, "A Radical Christian and a Radical Muslim..."*

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** – 4<sup>th</sup> Lent - (Special Offering - UMCOR Sunday) – Open My Eyes, That I May See (454); Be Thou My Vision (451); Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (581); Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord (3008 / insert); *Psalms 23, John 9:1-41, "Blindness of the Seeing and Sight of the Blind"*

## Ministerial Transitions.....

Bethany UMC has some Ministerial Transitions coming this July 2017.

Pastor Damien Brooks has been appointed to the North Towanda Charge of the UMC / Williamsport District. Pastor Damien will be ministering to 3 churches in that area. We wish him well, and we pray for his new appointment and his moving process.

Pastor William McNeal has been appointed to Bethany UMC / Lewisburg District. Pastor Bill is coming from York Springs UMC / York District. Pastor Bill and his wife, Janet, will be ministering to us beginning of July. Prayers for him and his wife on this new appointment and for their moving process.

## Contemporary Worship Report:

The Contemporary Worship Team met on Friday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, to plan out the songs for the month of March. We encourage you to join us for worship during this season of Lent. We hope to see you there! Check out the sermons titles, scriptures, and songs for March!

**March 5** –Hidden; Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone); We Fall Down; Your Name; Glory and Wonder; *Romans 5:12-1, 9; "Captives of Our Own Minds"*

**March 12** –; You Are My All in All; I Could Sing of Your Love Forever; Ever Be; In Christ Alone; Jesus We Love You; *Romans 4:1-17; "Faith Full Lineage"*

**March 19** –Hear the Sound; Forever; Who Can Compare; Restorer; Hungry; *Romans 5:1-11; "Hope in Suffering"*

**March 26** –Here I Am to Worship; Give Me Faith; God With Us; Your Grace is Enough; You Hold it All Together; *1 Samuel 16:1-13; "Choosing Kings or Presidents"*

## Lay Leader's Report

Members of PSPRC met twice in February with Larry Leland, Lewisburg District Supervisor (1) to discuss in depth the leadership needs of Bethany now that Pastor Damien is leaving us for his reassignment to the three-point North Towanda charge in the Williamsport District, and (2) to meet, welcome, and have initial discussions with William L. ("Bill") McNeal, the new pastor that the Conference has appointed for our church. Note that I will conduct our Traditional Sunday services in the late June period between the departure of Pastor Damien and the arrival in the pulpit of Pastor Bill, and that we'll invite a guest speaker to take care of our Sunday Contemporary sermons during that period.

I recently took advantage of an amazing opportunity to provide significant financial backing for a new prison ministry program in central Illinois, whereby new prison arrivals with inadequate means to open commissary accounts will be provided with kits containing basic toiletries to tide them over until they get established. The organization managing this effort is Crossroads of Life Prison Faith Community, Lincoln, IL (a UMC affiliate congregation), and the first institution to benefit from the effort will be the Logan Correctional Center, a women's facility in that city. (Lincoln is about halfway between Chicago and St. Louis, near Peoria).

The products needed to conduct the 2017 VBS were discussed in a January 25 meeting with cooperating church Christ Evangelical Lutheran, subsequently ordered, and received in mid-February (on a 20% discount, praise be), VBS will be held June 19 – 23 at the Christ Evangelical facility.

Bethany was honored to have one of its own, Thomas Bennage, return to speak to the congregations at both services on Sunday, February 5. Tom is now quite deeply involved with Methodist missions, and he's looking forward to a long and fruitful overseas trip in that regard that begins later this year. He has our prayers and our support as he embarks on the journey to which God has clearly called him.

011617-22017

Rod Moore

## "Soup & The Word"



### Soup & The Word



Wednesday Weekly Lenten Luncheons  
First Presbyterian Church  
47 Walnut Street, Milton.

***Begins Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon***

For many years now, the churches of Milton have come together during Lent to provide both physical and spiritual food for the flock. This year, the luncheon meetings will be held at **First Presbyterian Church** of Milton, located at 47 Walnut St., with a large parking lot on Upper Market St. behind the church. These six free luncheons, held at noon, are open to the public. All are invited to share delicious homemade soup and warm Christian fellowship. A message is provided each week by a local pastor. This year's theme: Easter Meditations

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Soup &amp; dessert provided by:</u>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>Damien Brooks</b>	<b>Bethany UMC</b>
March 15	Doug Diven	Hand UP
March 22	Linda Meckley	Linda Meckley
March 29	Kingdom Kids	Kingdom Kids
April 5	Jennifer Burke	Salvation Army
April 12	Cynthia Kirk	St Paul's A.M.E. Church

## “Sharing the Table”



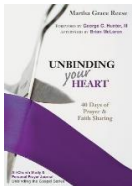
“Sharing the Table” 2017 Schedule (Sponsored by Mission/Outreach Ministries)

“**Sharing the Table**” is a way you can help those in need every month by bringing in canned goods and non-perishable food items for the local food bank.

The first Sunday of the every month during Communion Service we will be collecting food.

Next Food Collection Communion Dates: March 5<sup>th</sup> / April 2<sup>nd</sup> / May 7<sup>th</sup> / June 4<sup>th</sup>

## Lenten Study “Unbinding Your Heart” Bible Study....



Two dates & times this study will be offered:

Tuesdays, March 7<sup>th</sup> – April 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am

OR

Thursdays, March 9<sup>th</sup> – April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Please sign up on the form in the back of the sanctuary or call the church office at 570-742-9796.

*Unbinding Your Heart* is a six-week individual and small-group study for your entire congregation. It is the culmination of the **Real Life Evangelism Series**, by author, researcher, pastor and attorney Martha Grace Reese.

## Lenten Offering....

Ash Wednesday starts the first day of Lent, which then ends on Holy Saturday. This 40-day journey called Lent is a wonderful opportunity to grow in your faith. As you are observing Lent and journeying on your spiritual path, we hope that you use the enclosed Lenten envelope to bring your special giving to your church on or before Easter Sunday or mail to:

Bethany United Methodist Church  
Attn: Financial Secretary, Shelly Sholley  
18 Center Street, Milton, PA 17847

## Holy Week / Easter Services.....

This Easter Season, Holy Week Services will begin:

Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday / Seder Meal  
[Participatory Recreation of the Passover.]

Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Service  
[This will be a time of reflection, music, and prayer.]

Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 a.m. – Easter Sunrise Service @ Parsonage  
[Following this service will be a fellowship breakfast]

Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. – Traditional Easter Worship Service and  
at 6:00 pm – Contemporary Easter Service



## Trustees' Report.....

At their February meeting the Trustees received a report from representatives of Prudential Investments (PruCo). The current value of the investment portfolio that the Trustees have set aside in lieu of having flood insurance was \$519,588. The Trustees goal is to maintain at least \$500,000 in this account for cleanup and repairs following the inevitable flooding that will occur sometime in the future. The Raudenbush Trust was currently valued at \$80,958. As most of you are aware, the principle of the trust cannot be used, but the income may, which, at the time, was \$4,667 of the value. There is one other small investment account, the current value of which was \$5,713.

Praise God! Although there is still some work to be completed in the old kitchen area, the bulk of the renovations to the basement are finished. The new handicapped accessible restrooms are fully functional and the Social Hall has a bright new look. The next phase of the renovation will be to create a new handicapped accessible restroom in the current restroom location in the rear of the church. Therefore, for a period of time, the only usable restrooms will be in the basement, and the Elm Street Lounge/Chapel will be inaccessible during this phase of the renovation project.

Although we've not been given a definite date, the folks from T-Ross Construction hope to start the renovation to the first floor of the Parish House around the middle of March. Hopefully the Pastor and staff can continue to use the current office while the other rooms on the first floor are being renovated.

Submitted by: Jamie Aurand

**Moving/Cleaning Out Party (Parish House) – Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am. Needing Volunteers.** If needed we would also work on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Community Easter Egg Hunt



**Community Easter Egg Hunt** will be on **Saturday, April 1st** at Brown Ave Park, Brown Ave, Milton PA.

Time: (To be determined)

There will be age groups up to 12 yrs old.

Congregational Life Committee are asking for donations of small Easter candy (Please no hard & peanut butter candies) to stuff in the eggs or there can be pre-stuffed eggs for the event. Also money donations to purchase prizes. Deadline for dropping off candy will be **March 19<sup>th</sup>**.

This event will be a community Easter Egg Hunt involving Bethany UMC and St Andrew's UMC, sponsored by Bethany's Congregational Life.

## Thank You Notes...

To Bethany UMC: Thank you for all the Christmas gifts for myself & enough to share with Rockwell too!  
-Ruth Gardner

Pastor Damien & Church Family: Ricky, myself, and little Miss Harper Mae cannot thank you all enough for such a beautiful service for Harper's Baptism. As always, everyone felt very welcomed and loved. Please continue to pray for both Ricky & myself as we raise Harper to be a true God loving, Christian. We are so thankful to be part of the Bethany Church Family.  
Much love & God bless,  
-Kim Bitting and Family

## Events Happening in the Area

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

**Palm Sunday Ham Dinner – April 9th, 2017** at the Milton Fire Department, 121 Ridge Ave., Milton PA.  
**Cost: \$9.00 Adults and \$4.00 Children (Ages 4 – 12 yrs old).**

### Helping a Member

**A need for one of our members, Edith, moving by the end of March. Following items needed:**

Couch, Chair for living room, Night Stand, Alarm clock, Sheets (twin bed), Pillows, Lamps, Vacuum cleaner, Broom, Mop, Cleaning supplies, Kitchen can/trash cans, Garbage bags (small & large), Laundry soap & dryer sheets, Shower curtain liner, Bath mat, Toilet Cleaner, Toilet Paper, Plunger, Bath towels (Qty 4), Dish soap, Dish rags, Canister set, Drain board, Glasses or drinking cups, Bowls (Different sizes), Paper towels, Foil, Foods (Meats & Potatoes).

**If you can help with some needs, please cross off the main list posted in the sanctuary. You may bring in the items to the church. Thank you for helping one of your members in Christ's love.**

## Missions/Outreach Committee...

**Easter Basket Give Away** - Bethany UMC, in cooperation with the HandUp Foundation, is sponsoring an Easter Basket give away on **Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**, during the regular food bank hours of 9:00 am. -3:00 pm.

Mission/Outreach Committee are asking members to donate Easter candy, baskets, plastic eggs, and monetary donations; along with helping set up to distribute the baskets.

Please let Pastor Damien or Mike Longenberger know if you can help to set up and distribute.

For monetary donations make checks payable to: HandUp Foundation

Deadline for dropping off baskets, candy & donations will be **March 19<sup>th</sup>**.




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### Milton Panther Packs Program (New Mission: Monthly)

Bethany UMC Mission Committee and St Andrew's UMC will be looking to expand the Milton Panther Packs Program to help provide weekend food items for elementary students in need in the Milton Area School District.

Bethany UMC will be in charge of providing 120 Fruit Cups, which equals ten donations of a 12 pack of fruit cup for each month.

Please bring in your (12 pack) of Fruit Cup and place in the box located in the back of the sanctuary.

### Milton Community Dinner (Christ Evan Lutheran)

There will be a Community Dinner on **Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 5:00 pm**. Location: Christ Evan Lutheran Church. **Please see list of items needed for dinner and sign up to help in the sanctuary.**

Community Dinners are between Bethany UMC, Christ Evan Lutheran, Trinity Evan Lutheran, United in Christ Lutheran, and New Hope Ministry Center HandUp Foundation to feed low income people in need.

Next month Community Dinner at Christ Evan Lutheran will be on Sunday, April 2nd at 5:00 pm.

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## Ad Board Report

Key Bethany financial personnel have been working together to reformat the church budget and monthly fiscal reporting statements to make them more amenable to the needs of the Board. The latest such documents are much improved in terms of categorical line item definition and transparency. We will give the new reportage system a couple of months to prove out.

Sample expense voucher slips specific to each church committee have also been put before the Board for evaluation. The new slips are formatted to enable more efficacious line item expense tracking.

We are switching electricity generation / transmission suppliers away from NRG Solutions and back to PPL. At prevailing rates, we anticipate that this will save the church an estimated \$1,400 over a typical four-season cycle.

The Board received and reviewed the dossier of Bethany's incoming pastor William McNeal. The Lewisburg District will approve Pastor Bill's salary at a near-future charge conference. On the subject of the imminent transition, we are assured that the Susquehanna Conference will pay 100% of the costs associated with Pastor Damien's move to North Towanda.

We have approved a St. Patrick's Day corned beef / cabbage meal at Bethany, which will most likely occur on the day itself, Friday, March 17.

We are planning a renewed effort to get more of our members certified in Safe Sanctuaries. More on this subject later.

Rod Moore

## St. Patrick's Dinner.....



### St Patrick's Dinner

**Date: Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Time: 6:30 PM**

The meal will consist of corned beef cabbage, potatoes, carrots, and rolls. Please sign up on the sheets in back of the sanctuary.



**Daylight Saving Time begins – Turn those clocks forward one hour Saturday night, March 11<sup>th</sup>.**

## Easter Flower Info.....

### EASTER FLOWER INFO

We will again be doing Lily and Hyacinth Flower memorials for Easter but are waiting on pricing from the flower suppliers. Stay tuned for more info!

Forms will be available in bulletins and April's Newsletter.



## Announcements

### BETHANY UMC

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

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

#### Website:

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

#### Sunday Worship:

Sunday School: 9:00 am  
Traditional Service: 10:30 am  
Contemporary Service: 6:00 pm

### PASTOR DAMIEN

670 Stamm Rd  
Milton, PA 17847  
570-412-1943  
570-246-5514

[dbrooks@susumc.org](mailto:dbrooks@susumc.org)

### UPPER ROOMS

March & April Upper Rooms are now available in the sanctuary.

#### Dates to Remember:

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 pm – Milton Bicentennial Worship Service @ Bethany UMC  
March 1<sup>st</sup> – 7:00 pm – Ash Wednesday Service @ St. Andrew's UMC  
March 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6:00 pm- Contemporary Worship Team Meeting  
March 4<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 am – Moving / Clean Out Party @ Parish House  
March 5<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am – “Sharing the Table” Food donations / Communion  
March 5<sup>th</sup> – 3:00 pm – Rockwell Communion  
March 5<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm – Contemporary Worship Service / Communion  
March 7<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 am – Lenten Study – “Unbinding Your Heart” Bible study begins (6 weeks)  
March 7<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm – Traditional Worship Committee @ Parsonage  
March 8<sup>th</sup> – Noon – “Soup & The Word” @ First Presbyterian Church  
March 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm – Trustees  
March 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm – Lenten Study – “Unbinding Your Heart” Bible study begins (6 weeks)  
March 12<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 pm – Community Dinner @ Christ Evan Lutheran Church  
March 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm – PSPRC  
March 15<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm – Missions/Outreach Committee  
March 17<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm – St Patrick's Dinner  
March 19<sup>th</sup> – Deadline for Easter Candy for Basket Giveaway & Community Easter Egg Hunt  
March 21<sup>st</sup> – 6:30 pm – Finance Committee  
March 21<sup>st</sup> – 7:00 pm – Ad Board  
April 1<sup>st</sup> – Community Easter Egg Hunt @ Brown Ave  
April 13<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm – Maundy Thursday/ Seder Meal Service  
April 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm – Good Friday Service  
April 16<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 am – Sunrise Service @ Parsonage (Breakfast to follow service)  
**Lenten Bible Study: 10:00 am every Tuesday until April 11<sup>th</sup> (Unbinding Your Heart”)**  
**Lenten Bible Study: 7:00 pm every Thursday until April 13<sup>th</sup> (Unbinding Your Heart”)**  
**Soup & The Word: 12:00 noon every Wednesdays (March 8<sup>th</sup> – April 12<sup>th</sup>) @ 1<sup>st</sup> Presby.**  
**Rockwell Bible Study: 9:00 am every Thursday @ Rockwell.**  
**Praise Band Practice: 7:00 pm every Friday.**  
**Sunday School: 9:00 am every Sunday morning.**  
**Traditional Worship Service: 10:30 am every Sunday morning.**  
**Contemporary Worship Service: 6:00 pm every Sunday evening.**



BETHANY UMC OFFICE  
18 CENTER ST  
MILTON, PA 17847

