

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



LENT
 Pray + Fast + Give

Volume 7, Issue 3
March 2020

Milton's Good News

February – "At a Glance"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From Pastor Bill	2
Worship Schedule	3
Leadership Team	3
N.O.W. Here This!	4
Trustees Report	5
Announcements	8

Looking back in February for Bethany, we helped to serve at the Milton Harvest Community Dinner at St Andrews and donated food items to the Community Dinner at Christ Lutheran. Bible Study on "Book of Proverbs" continues on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings. A combined Ash Wednesday Service will be held with St. Andrew's in their church.

"You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you."
 Psalm 86:5 (NIV) – Cheri Buss

Daylight Saving Time begins – Turn those clocks ahead one hour Saturday night, March 7th.



Special points of interest:

- "At a Glance" (pg 1)
- Soup & The Word (pg 1)
- Leadership Reports (pg 2)
- Baptism (pg 3)
- Our Beloved Members in Heaven (pg 3)
- Easter Candy Giveaway (pg 4)
- Sock Ministry (pg 4)
- Towel Mission (pg 4)
- Fire Update (pg 5)
- Event in the Area (pg 5)
- Thank You Notes (pg 5)
- Lenten Offering (pg 5)
- Financial Stats (pg 6)
- Fun Page (pg 7)

Soup & The Word



Soup & The Word
 Wednesday Weekly Lenten Luncheons
 First Presbyterian Church
 47 Walnut Street, Milton PA

Begins Wednesday, March 4th, 2020 at Noon

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. The theme will be: **Jesus' Easter Impact Then and Now**, which a message will be provided each week by a local pastor.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meal & Speaker by:</u>
March 4 th	Kingdom Kidz
March 11 th	Community Mennonite Fellowship
March 18th	Bethany United Methodist Church
March 25 th	First Baptist Church
April 1 st	Revival Tabernacle
April 8 th	St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

Bethany will be providing and serving the meal on **Wednesday, March 18th**. We need volunteers to prepare and serve the soup. For one of our soup options, members are asked to donate cans of Cream of Potato Soup, (the most popular last year even over homemade soups!!) so if every member could bring in one can we as well as boxes of Saltine Crackers, and powdered Iced Tea Mix.

March 18th (Need 6 to 8 volunteers to Cook / Set-up / Serve / Clean up 9:00 am @ First Presbyterian.

Food Donations Needed: Asking everyone to bring in a can of Cream of Potato Soup (Need 40 cans); 5 boxes of Saltines and 1 Large Powered Ice Tea Mix.



From Pastor Bill's Study

Greetings to all,

Welcome to the madness. For those who favor College Basketball we have the classic March Madness. For weather watch watchers we have the March where we may see rain, snow and sunshine all in the same day.

In and around me I see the buds on the trees and flowers starting to poke out of the ground. The geese are flying over the parsonage and their calls can be heard long before the flocks are seen. Twice so far I have watch vast flocks of Snow Geese land in the farm fields near the parsonage.

In all of this I see the beginning of spring but yet it is barely mid February as I write this story.

In Matthew 16: 1- 4 the religious leaders asked Jesus for a sign of the times to come and he replied how they could interpret the signs of the world and the weather but yet they did not realize the signs from God.

I believe we are becoming too much like those of old when we spend more time worrying about the simple things and lose focus on what really matters. Jesus spoke to the rulers then about the signs of Noah and their interpretation which they had missed or not paid attention to.

The shifting of the morals and values of the people away from God and because of this God sent a correction in place to bring the people back to God.

I believe we are at that point again in history where a correction is going to be made. It may be then a signal of the end times but I believe it is more likely to be a call of revival to call the people of God back to their first love.

I have stated all of the signs of a coming spring and I hope it is as I long to see the color return once again to the land. By the same thoughts I see the coming of a correction to the world as we the people of this earth turn further away from God's teachings.

I am always amazed during an election cycle the amount of money that is spent to place a candidate into a position of power. I wonder what could be done with the billions of dollars spent if it was used to better the world in which we live.

If adoption would have the same budget as abortions, if family values would have the budget as sexual orientation, if food and shelter had as big a budget as campaign budgets.

The church suffers with this as well when I look at moneys that have been spent to force an agenda that is in my mind a non-issue. We now face a denomination split because we cannot agree on what the word of God states. We spend more time arguing then we do healing the needs around us.

As an individual, a church, a denomination and a world we need to see the clear signs and return to God, Christ and the Holy Spirit before we become any more confused over what is the clear call of God to come to the Ark.

As always our help is in the name of the Lord!

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

March 1st (1st Sunday in Lent) – O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go (480); You Are My Hiding Place (2055); A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (110); Psalm 32; Matthew 12:22-32; "Fence"; **Communion**

March 8th (2nd Sunday in Lent) – Lift High the Cross (159); You Are My Hiding Place (2055); Blessed Assurance (369); Psalm 121; Luke 6:37-42; "Conditions"

March 15th (3rd Sunday in Lent) – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (127); You Are My Hiding Place (2055); Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart (500); Psalm 95; Matthew 5:27-30; "Adultery"

March 22nd (4th Sunday in Lent) – Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (381); You Are My Hiding Place (2055); O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (57 vv 1,3,5,7); Psalm 23; Matthew 19:16-30; "Baggage"

March 29th (5th Sunday in Lent) – Breathe on Me, Breath of God (420); You Are My Hiding Place (2055); Lord of the Dance (261); Psalm 130; Matthew 16:21-28; "Scary"

Baptism....

Looking to be baptized, on Easter Sunday, April 12th, Pastor Bill will be baptizing those who wish to be baptized. Please let Pastor Bill know by March 31st.



Leadership Team (Ad Board) Report....

The Leadership Team devotions for its February meeting were based on 1 Corinthians 1:25-31 and focused on its message that God uses the lesser and the lower to destroy what we think of as higher and greater things. Put another way, God uses the weak of this world to put the powerful to shame. Consequently, if we want to brag, we should brag not in ourselves but in the Lord. We all know stories of people who, once given encouragement and a proper chance, rose from obscurity to importance because of the help they got from God through others. And we praise Him for His benevolences toward us all, not just some of us.

We have finalized the format by which we will reimburse the West Milton church for our use of its facilities and utilities. They'll be paid monthly.

The Team is considering a change in financial management software from QuickBooks to one of the more church-friendly modular programs that are available. The goal would be to eliminate the unnecessary complexities and limits of QuickBooks in favor of easier navigation, improvement in cash flow management and reporting, and the tracking of a great number of things that are more specifically aligned with the day-to-day realities and needs associated with church activity.

Pursuant to establishing a better system for the management of our payroll responsibilities, we have approved a format designed to improve the efficacy of time sheet submission and the subsequent issuance of paychecks. The resulting elimination of occasional timing gaps will insure that all church-internal matters involving wage payments are handled with the utmost efficiency and with due and equitable respect for fairness.

In connection with our post-fire renovation planning, the Team voted to ask two of the three recently interviewed architectural firms to provide us with proposals.

-Rod Moore

Our Beloved Members who entered Heaven..



Ruth Gardner entered heaven on January 18, 2020 (Member of Bethany since June 1995)

Judith Campbell entered heaven on February 6, 2020 (Member of Bethany since March 1951)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)

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

Next N.O.W. Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:30 pm.

Though we are without the Bethany building as a hub, we are NOT allowing that inconvenience to curtail our focus on missions and ministries!!!

At the Community Dinner held at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church on Sunday, Feb. 9th we helped provide meals for 57 members of the Community! The next meal will be April 19th . No menu has been set yet, so stay tuned for more info on how you can help serve the community with this important ministry!



“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”**. **Next Food Collection Communion Dates: March 1st / April 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, March 2nd, 2020** 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.

(Next Milton Harvest Community Dinners that Bethany is helping with are: April 6th, May 4th, June 1st).

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

There will be a Community Dinner on a **Sunday, April 19th, 2020 at 5:00 pm.** Watch for more information.

Planning Meeting for Community Dinner on **Thursday, March 19th at 6:30 pm** @ Christ Lutheran.

Easter Candy Giveaway



We are again partnering with Hand Up Foundation to provide Easter Candy to families in need that participate in the Food Bank program. The Easter Candy Giveaway will be on Wed, April 8th from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. at HandUp . Please bring in candy to Bethany office on April 3rd & April 6th (from 9 am – 1 pm.). Suggested donations are marshmallow peeps, jelly beans, chocolate candies (nut-variety OK), Tootsie rolls, Smarties, fruit snacks, animal crackers, goldfish or whales crackers, lollipops, stickers, small toys such as tiny tops, small mazes, rubber balls, etc. We will also need volunteers to help distribute on the day of the event. Please consider donating your time.

Candy Organize Event – Will need volunteers on Monday, April 6th and Tuesday, April 7th at 6:30 pm at Bethany Office to organize Easter Candy for the Giveaway.

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.



Hand Towel Mission....



Between now and the 2020 session of Annual Conference, to be held at Hershey Lodge next May 28-30, churches in all seven districts are each being asked to collect one item which is used to make up Mission Central Care Kits. Churches are then asked to send those items with their pastor and/or lay member to Annual Conference. Lewisburg District is asked to collect hand towels, good quality, preferably 15X25 – 17X27 inches in size. Bethany you can start bringing in hand towels for this mission to church (Boxes are located at West Milton UMC and Bethany office).

Milton's Good News

Trustees Report...

As reported last month we were setting up a separate 'Fire Fund' account with Hudock Capital for the funds that will be coming from the insurance claim. The account is now open and active. The first installment from the insurance claim of \$500,000 was sent electronically from the Conference to Milton Savings Bank (MSB). As the Leadership Team had decided earlier, we left \$50,000 in the new account at MSB and sent the remaining \$450,000 to be deposited in the new account with Hudock .

The Leadership Team is currently in the process of meeting with architects and engineers, one of which will eventually be engaged to help us accomplish our vision for our rebuilt church. Representatives from Hemmler & Camayd and Mid-Penn Engineering recently toured the church and met with the Leadership Team. We have the same agenda planned for a meeting with representatives from Noelker and Hull in the near future.

The decision has been made to not try to save and rebuild the pipe organ. Pastor Bill has been in contact with an organization who may want to salvage it and refurbish it for another church.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand, Trustee chair

Bethany Fire Update:

Thank You Letters to all those below who donated to the Fire Fund, since last newsletter:

Paradise Church of Christ, St Lukes Evangelical Lutheran Church, Anne Delaney/Jenny Neff (LHS Class of 1986), Gavin, Kevin & Janine McWilliams, Christ United Methodist Church, Tony & Janice Shively, John Packer Sr, Michele Hoch & Agapeland Pre School, Irish Valley United Methodist Church, Holly & Ben Snyder, Cynthia & Max Farley, Erlyn Mary Keefer, Jay Egli, Dale & Janice Moser, Flora Price, Barbara Campbell, Richard & Carolyn Campbell, Nancy & John Heimbach, Jeanne & Scott Leitzel, Peggy Campbell, & Mike Longenbeger.

Bethany thanks all those who contributed to the Fire Fund.



Event Happening in the Area



Sunday, March 8th at 5:30 pm – Community Game Night (Board Game Fun Night) at St. Andrew's UMC, 102 Lower Market St, Milton PA. Hot dogs and light refreshments provided. Assortment of board games available or bring your favorite board game to share for the night. Entire Community is Welcome!

Thank You Notes...

Dear Congregation of Bethany UMC: Thank you so much for your very generous donation of 6 bins of food to the Panther Packs Ministry at St. Andrew's UMC. – Mary Richie, Treasurer St Andrew's UMC

We would like to thank you for the love and caring from everyone in our church family. Your support has been appreciated. Thank You! –The family of Judy Campbell, Barb & Ron Huff

Lenten Offering....



**Begins, Wednesday,
February 26, 2019.**



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

Bethany UMC Current Expense Income January 2020 Reports:

Envelope Income To Date---2020

		Current Expense	Reno	Benev. (Price Fund)	Miscell.	Weekly Total	Year To Date
January	5	\$735.00		\$46.00		\$781.00	\$781.00
	12	\$1,083.00		\$6.00		\$1,089.00	\$1,870.00
	19	\$760.00		\$4.00		\$764.00	\$2,634.00
	26	\$1,099.00		\$5.00		\$1,104.00	\$3,738.00

Plate Income To Date---2020

		Plate	Known Givers	Benevolences (Price Fund)	Weekly Total	Year To Date
January	5		\$300.00		\$300.00	\$300.00
	12	\$20.00			\$20.00	\$320.00
	19				\$0.00	\$320.00
	26				\$0.00	\$320.00

Lessons For Life Income To Date---2020

		Weekly Total	Year To Date
January	5	\$5.00	\$5.00
	12	\$17.00	\$22.00
	19	CANCELLED	\$22.00
	26	\$13.00	\$35.00

Bethany UMC Special UM Sunday Contributions 2020

Human Relations Sunday—1/19/2020	YTD
1/19/20--\$102.00	\$102.00

Bethany UMC Miscellaneous Contributions 2020

	Year to Date
Initial Offering	
1/5/20---\$23.00	
1/12/20---\$4.00	
1/19/20---\$5.00	
1/26/20--\$15.00	\$47.00
Advent Offering	
1/12/20---\$10.00	\$10.00
PPL Utility Overpayment Reimbursement	
1/26/20--\$18.35	\$18.35

FIRE FUND---2020

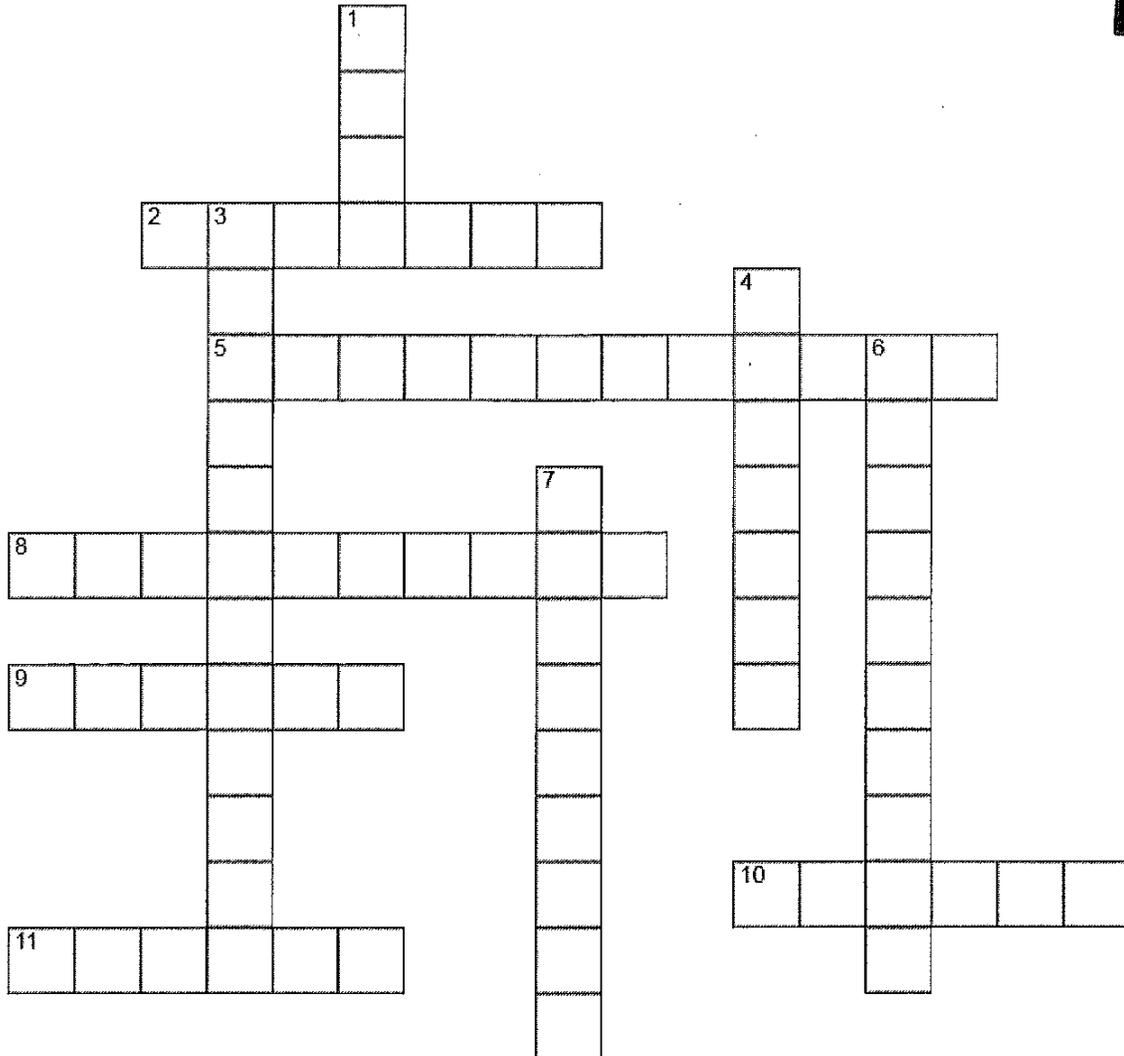
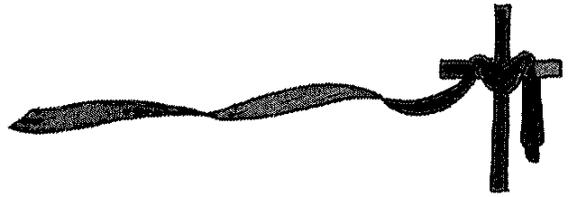
		Known Givers	Weekly Total	Year To Date
January	5	\$3,086.00	\$3,086.00	\$3,086.00
	12	\$202.25	\$202.25	\$3,288.25
	19	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,288.25
	26	\$2,955.72	\$2,955.72	\$7, 243.97

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

Total Income Received: \$26,877.00
 Total Expenses Paid Out: \$23,574.00
 Total January Average Attendance: 26

Fun Page

Lenten Crossword



ACROSS

- 2 Restricting the food that we eat
- 5 The last day of Lent
- 8 The day Jesus was crucified
- 9 On Ash Wednesday when you get your ashes: " _____ and know the Gospel"
- 10 Mini-feast days or days you do not have to fast or sacrifice during Lent
- 11 Talking to God or the saints

DOWN

- 1 The 40 Day period of preparation before Easter
- 3 The first day of Lent
- 4 One day a week during Lent when we fast and pray extra
- 6 Giving of ourselves, money, time, or materials for those less fortunate
- 7 Offering/ giving up something 'good' on earth to focus on our relationship with God

BETHANY UMC

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

miltonbethanyumcoffice@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

March / April

Daily Bread – Now Available

March / April / May

Announcements:**Dates to Remember:**

February 26th – 7:00 pm – Ash Wednesday Service @ St. Andrew's UMC

March 1st – 10:00 am – Lessons for Life (Sunday School)

March 1st – 11:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / "Sharing the Table" Communion

March 1st – 2:00 pm – Rockwell Communion

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

March 3rd – 8:30 am – Milton Ministerium @ 1st Presbyterian

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

March 3rd – 6:30 pm – N.O.W. @ Bethany Office

March 4th – Noon – "Soup & The Word" @ 1st Presby. Begins

March 8th – 5:30 pm – Community Game Night with refreshments @ St. Andrew's UMC

March 17th – 6:30 pm- Leadership Team (Finance / Ad Board)

March 18th – 9 Am - Noon – "Soup & The Word" @ 1st Presby. (Bethany provides soup/message)

April 3rd – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm – (Candy Drop off time)

April 5th – 11:00 am - Palm Sunday

April 6th – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm – (Candy Drop off time)

April 6th – 5:45 pm – (Servers) Milton Harvest Community Dinner @ St Andrew's

April 6th – 6:30 pm – Candy Organizer Event @ Bethany Office

April 7th – 6:30 pm – Candy Organizer Event @ Bethany Office

April 8th – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm – Easter Candy Giveaway @ HandUp

April 9th – 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service @ St. Andrew's

April 11th – Noon – 6:00 pm – Easter Prayer Vigil

April 12th – 7:30 am – Sunrise Service @ St Andrew's Pavilion by Conagra

April 12th – 11:00 am – Easter Sunday (Baptism / Communion) @ West Milton UMC

"Soup & The Word": Noon every Wednesday from March 4th – April 8th.

Rockwell Bible Study: 9:00 am every Thursday at Rockwell.

Bible Study "Proverbs": 10:00 am every Tuesday @ Thereasa's home

Bible Study "Proverbs": 7:00 pm every Thursday @ Bethany Office

Lessons for Life: 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

March
2020