

BETHANY UMC

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

bethany18coffice@gmail.com

Website:

bethanyumc-miltonpa.org

Sunday Worship:

Gathering of the Family of God: 9:00 am

REV. BRIAN LUCAS

1035 Sunset Dr
Milton, PA 17847
570-351-1619 (Cell Number)
570-742-2000 (St Andrew's UMC-Office)
blucas@susumc.org

Upper Room – Now Available

November / December

Announcements:

Dates to Remember:

- Nov 1 – 8:00 am – Men's Group "Men of the Table" (Parsonage-1035 Sunset Dr. Milton)
11:30 am – Charge Conference @ St Andrew's UMC
- Nov 2 - 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Communion (All Saint's Sunday)
- Nov 9 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
- Nov 16 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
- Nov 18 – 6:00 pm – Leadership Team Meeting (Office)
- Nov 22 – 10:00 am – Hanging of the Greens (Decorate the church) & Lunch
- Nov 23 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
- Nov 30 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God [1st Sunday of Advent]
10:15 am – November Birthday Celebrations
3:00 pm – Making Popcorn Balls at Bethany UMC
- Dec 6 – 8:00 am – Men's Group "Men of the Table" (Parsonage-1035 Sunset Dr. Milton)
- Dec 7 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Communion [2nd Sunday of Advent]
3:00 pm – Movie Night "Polar Express" at Bethany UMC
- Dec 14 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God [3rd Sunday of Advent]
3:00 pm – Movie Night "Elf" at St. Andrew's UMC
- Dec 21 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God [4th Sunday of Advent]
- Dec 24 – 3:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ Bethany UMC
7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ St. Andrew's UMC
- Dec 28 – 9:00 am – Combined Breakfast/ Dec Birthday with St Andrew's @ Bethany UMC
10:30 am – Combined Worship with St Andrew's @ Bethany UMC

Every Sunday Worship (Gathering of the Family of God) at 9:00 am.

Every Wednesday – Bible Study – "Gospel of John" at 1:00 pm at St. Andrew's UMC



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

Nov / Dec
2025

Bethany United Methodist Church

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

Volume 12, Issue 11 & 12



November & December 2025

Milton's Good News

September and October "At a Glance"

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Looking back in September and October for Bethany, September Bethany passed out free water for the Harvest Festival Parade (**Thank You Dorothy Hower, Kathryn Martin, Cindy Mohr & Bob Fitch**). Bible Study on the Gospel of John began, held over at St. Andrew's UMC on Wednesday's at 1 pm. A new men's small group was formed meeting once a month on the 1st Saturday of the month at **Carnitas Deli**. October we had a clean out day at Bethany, which a **Huge Thank You's to Pastor Brian, Jamie Aurand, Mike Longenberger & Linn Chesney** who helped with that, an amazing job! A new woman's small group, Ladies Tea met October 25th, **Thank you Cindy Mohr** for leading this. End of the months we celebrate the September & October's birthdays after church with cake and coffee. Thanks to those who donated cupcakes!

"Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart" Psalm 119:2 (NIV)

-Cheri Buss

Honoring our Fellow Veterans from Bethany

Mike Longenberger – US Army

Dave Warburton – US Navy

James Masser – US Army

Bob Fitch – R.O.T.C. Program (USMC Version)

We Thank You for your service, dedication and sacrifice!

(Note: If you have served and I don't have your information, 1st thank you for your service and please call the church office so I can add your name to on our list of Veterans.)



Veteran's Day



To all of those who have served and those who continue to serve - **We Thank You!** Thank you for your courage, dedication, sacrifice and hard work. And thanks to the Military Families for their support & sacrifice.

Remember our Veterans & Families– November 11th!

Daylight Savings Time Ends – Turn Clocks Back



Daylight Savings Time Ends – Turn your clocks **back one hour** on **Saturday, November 1st** before going to bed. Also change batteries in your smoke detectors.



From Pastor's Study

"Grace and Gratitude"

Dear Bethany & St. Andrew's UM Church Family,

Recently, I watched a child offer her last cookie to her younger brother without hesitation. In that simple gesture, I saw a beautiful picture of both grace and gratitude – grace in the giving, gratitude in her brother's delighted response. It reminded me how these two spiritual qualities dance together in our daily lives, often in the most ordinary moments.

Grace, at its heart, is receiving what we haven't earned. Every morning when we open our eyes to a new day, we're recipients of grace. The air we breathe, the love of family, the forgiveness we are offered – none of these are entitlements, but gifts freely given. As Paul reminds us, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

Gratitude naturally flows from recognizing grace in our lives. When we truly understand that everything good comes as a gift, not as something owed to us, it changes how we move through the world. Like a pair of special glasses, gratitude helps us see God's fingerprints in places we might otherwise miss them:

- In the neighbor who brings in our trash bins
- In the unexpected phone call from an old friend
- In the sun breaking through clouds after days of rain

But here's the beautiful cycle: practicing gratitude makes us more aware of grace, and recognizing grace deepens our gratitude. Each reinforces the other, creating a spiritual rhythm that transforms how we experience daily life.

Sometimes we struggle to find gratitude, especially during difficult seasons. That's okay – even Jesus wept. But perhaps that's when grace matters most – not in making everything perfect, but in sustaining us through imperfect times. Even our ability to keep going is grace at work.

This week, I invite you to notice where grace appears in your ordinary moments. Maybe keep a simple gratitude journal, or share your "grace sightings" with a friend. Let's practice being people who recognize grace and respond with gratitude, creating little ripples of God's love wherever we go.

Remember: we can't earn grace – that's what makes it grace. But we can choose to live gratefully, and in doing so, become channels of grace to others.

With a grateful heart,
Pastor Brian

P.S. What unexpected grace have you noticed lately? I'd love to hear your stories after service on Sunday.

Leadership Reports...

All Committee/Leadership Reports need to be handed into the church office or pastor, by the second Sunday of each month. **For Nov & Dec they are due: Sunday, Nov 9th & Dec 14th, 2025.** You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Brian at blucas@susumc.org. Thank You!



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from your Staff..



Rev: Brian Lucas Bob Fitch
Cheri Buss Nichole Taylor
Darren Stitley

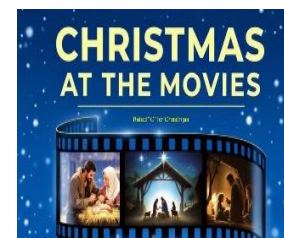


The Making of the Popcorn Balls for Movie Nights



Come out on **Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 3:00 pm**, here at Bethany UMC to make popcorn balls for the Movie Nights in December. All are welcome!

Christmas at the Movies...

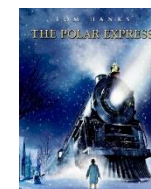


For Advent we will be going to the movies! Each week's theme (Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love) will be enhanced by clips and/or references to popular, secular Christmas movies, two of which will be later shown in their entirety.

Come join us for this fun and Spirit-filled adventure!

To help us get started we will be decorating the sanctuary (**November 22 at 10:00 am**), getting together on November 30th at 3:00 at Bethany UMC to make popcorn balls!

Movie schedule: December 7 at Bethany - "The Polar Express"; and December 14 at St. Andrew's - "Elf."



Angel Tree



Be an Angel to Someone for Christmas: Angel Tree

This year we will be 'adopting' 1 family with 2 children 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. **Watch for tags in the Fellowship Hall.**

Deadline for Angel Tree (children) gifts: Sunday, Nov. 30th, 2025.
(Unwrapped with Angel Tag) Thank you!

Volunteers for delivering Homebound Gifts & Cookies



We will need volunteers to make cookies for our Homebound Members and deliver them. Watch for a sign up sheet and more information.

Cookie deadline: Friday, December 12, 2025 (9am – 11 am)

Delivery to Homebound Members: December 15th – 21st, 2025
Cookies Gift Bag will be ready to deliver, please pick them up in the office.

Thank you for spreading cheer to our Homebound Members.

Bethany UMC Current Expense Income August & Sept. 2025 Reports:

Financial Secretary's Report: August 2025

Date	Offering Envelopes	Plate Offering	Price Fund	Totals
08/03/25	\$457.00	\$0	\$0	\$457.00
08/10/25	\$625.00	\$30.00	\$100.00	\$755.00
08/17/25	\$2,233.00	\$5.00	\$0	\$2,238.00
08/24/25	\$415.00	\$5.00	\$0	\$420.00
08/31/25	\$643.00	\$5.00	\$0	\$648.00
Totals	\$4,373.00	\$45.00	\$100.00	\$4,518.00

Financial Secretary's Report: September 2025

Date	Offering Envelopes	Plate Offering	Fuel & Cool Fund	Totals
09/07/25	\$1,840.00	\$27.00	\$150.00	\$2,017.00
09/14/25	\$498.00	\$0	\$0	\$498.00
09/21/25	\$410.00	\$0	\$20.00	\$430.00
09/28/25	\$353.00	\$110.00	\$0	\$463.00
Totals	\$3,101.00	\$127.00	\$170.00	\$3,408.00



Expenses In & Out):

August 2025

Total Income Received: \$4,518.00 + (Bank Interest \$.2.58) = \$4,520.58
Total Expenses Paid Out: \$18,436.23
Average Attendance: 21

September 2025

Total Income Received: \$3,408.00 + (Bank Interest \$1.74.) = \$3,409.74
Total Expenses Paid Out: \$11,654.97
Average Attendance: 19



Dear Bethany Family,

Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. This year Advent starts on November 30, 2025. 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, 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

Trustees Report



Trustee items in process or completed:

- Thankfully the bell rope has been repaired.
- Air Tech HVAC recently serviced the heating system at the church and Parish House to make sure it was in proper condition for the upcoming winter.
- Thanks to a small but mighty crew, the upstairs of the Parish House was recently cleaned out. Due to the volume of items that are in the church basement to be removed and disposed of, we will likely give that job to some professionals.

Parsonage Update:

- We have a signed agreement of sale for our asking price of \$365,000.
- We're hoping to close on the sale in early November.

Here is the quarterly report of the financial assets of the Trustees. The following balances (rounded) are as of June 30:

- Hudock Capital Group (Pershing) - \$338,790 – an increase of \$9,901 from the last quarter. We utilized \$6,000 from this account for current expenses in the third quarter.
- Prudential Investments - \$922,212 – an increase of \$11,283 from the last quarter – this is our 'in lieu of flood insurance' account. We utilized \$40,000 from this account for current expenses in the third quarter.
- Prudential Investments – The Raudenbush Account - \$99,347 – an increase of \$4,959 from last quarter.
- BNY Mellon – The Butler Trust – \$262,656 – an increase of \$24,903. We received a disbursement of \$3,660 during the quarter.
- Mifflinburg Bank CD - \$100,000 plus interest at 4.5%

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

Combined Worship and Breakfast

On **Sunday, December 28th**, our two congregations will join together at Bethany UMC for **Breakfast at 9:00 am**, followed by **Worship at 10:30 am**. Worship will be very relaxed and consist mostly of singing Christmas

November and December Worship Schedule



Sunday, Nov 2 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / **Communion**
Sunday, Nov 9 – 9:00 am Gathering of the Family of God
Sunday, Nov 16– 9:00 am - Gathering of the Family of God
Sunday, Nov 23 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
Sunday, Nov 30 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / **1st Sunday of Advent**
10:15 am – November Birthday Celebrations



Sunday, Dec 7– 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / **Communion** / **2nd Sunday of Advent**
Sunday, Dec 14 - 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / **3rd Sunday of Advent**
Sunday, Dec 21 - 9:00 am Gathering of the Family of God / **4th Sunday of Advent**
Wednesday, Dec 24 – **3:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Bethany UMC**
Sunday, Dec 28 – 9:00 am – Combined Breakfast / Dec Birthday with St Andrew's @ Bethany
10:30 am – Combined Worship with St Andrew's @ Bethany



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

Loss of our dear Church Member: Sarah Heimbach

Sarah Heimbach went with our Lord and Savior on September 8, 2025. Sarah was a member of Bethany UMC Congregation for 86 years. She was baptized at Bethany in 1939, a longtime member. Sarah was in the choir, church secretary, and friends to many in the nursing home. Sarah will be missed by many. Prayers for the whole Heimbach (Stitley) Family.



Bible Study

Bible Study will continue with the Gospel of John, on Wednesday's at 1:00 – 2:30 pm at St. Andrew's UMC, throughout the months of November & December. [No Bible Study on Nov 26th, Dec 24th & 31st]

Small Groups

Small groups (sometimes called "Life" groups) are important pieces for discipleship and have a strong history in Methodism dating back to the "Holy Club" the Wesleys started at Oxford. Although we do have a few small groups (including Sunday school classes and choirs) Pastor Brian is looking for new ones and so he is starting "**Men of the Table**," a men's small group that will meet at 8:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month at the (Parsonage, 1035 Sunset Dr., Milton) for breakfast and fellowship. The first gathering will take place on September 6th. Please contact Pastor Brian to express your interest or for more information.

“Hanging of the Greens” Decorate the Church



This year for “Hanging of the Greens” to decorate the church for Bethany will be on Saturday, **November 22, 2025; at 10:00 am.** After decorating the church we will have lunch for everyone.

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

Christmas Candlelight Service – Two Service Options:



Bethany UMC - Christmas Candlelight Service will be held on Wednesday, December 24th – 3:00 pm. at Bethany UMC, with special music.

St Andrew's UMC - Christmas Candlelight Service will be held on Wednesday, December 24th at 6:30 pm beginning with music and service at 7:00 pm held at St. Andrew's UMC.

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

Christmas Poinsett



Christmas Poinsettia time again! Getting prices around and soon will be taking orders, so please watch in your bulletins for more information about price's and deadline. Thank you!

Leadership Team Report.....

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 | 6:00 PM Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Cindy Mohr. In attendance were Pastor Brian, Jamie Aurand, Dorothy Hower, Mike Longenberger, and Cindy Mohr. Bob Fitch, Jim Masser, and David Warburton were absent.

Pastor Brian opened the meeting with a prayer. All reports were accepted by unanimous consent upon a motion by Aurand, seconded by Hower. [Note: These minutes are only a draft until approved by the board at our next meeting in November.]

Old Business

- **Action Items:** Three items will remain under old business until such time of completion.
- **Parsonage Sale:** Jamie has shown the house to two interested parties with no follow up from said parties. For sale signs have been ordered and pictures of home put on Facebook.
- **Church Sign on corner of Center & Elm:** Sign needs to be removed from the Parish House. We will ask Tim Buss if he can take care of this.

New Business

- **Clean Up Day:** Scheduled for October 18, 2025, from 9:00 am until done, to clean out basement and second floor of Parish House. Pastor Brian will ask for help from St. Andrew's to complete this project.
- **Harvest Festival Parade:** Due to lack of volunteers, we will only do a free water give away next year.
- **Bank Signature List:** Cheri will be added to the Milton Savings Bank Accounts. Aurand made the motion and seconded by Hower to add Cheri for the sole purpose of being able to deal with problems that may arise with the bank accounts. Cheri will not sign checks.
- **Uneven Sidewalk:** Jamie will contact some people he knows who can help with this.
- **Ladies Tea:** Will be held October 25, 2025 at 2:00 pm. Both churches will be included. An activity will be packing treat bags to hand out to the YMCA children on Halloween.
- **Thanksgiving Meal:** The decision was made to not do a community meal this year. We can be thinking of an alternative activity.

Announcements & Adjournment

Next Meeting: November 18, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Moore Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Mohr

Concerns:

Thereasa H - Health
 Rita S – Hip Replacement Recovery.
 The Family of Diane Specht – Diane passed away Aug 28, 2025
 The Family of Bart Reichard– Bart passed away Sept 17, 2025
 The Family of Sarah Heimbach – Sarah passed away Sept 8, 2025
 The Family of Nancy Carl – Nancy passed away.
 Kris (Lara's grandmother) passed away.
 Earl L (Pastor Brian's brother) – Heart Ablation / Health
 Judy C. – Home / Health & recovery.
 Anna P – Continued prayers for cancer treatments / health
 Nora S. – Cancer / Treatments
 Florence Y – Cancer return / Hospice care.

Family/friends with Cancer: Rita S, Anna P, Florence Y, Dot (Judy's neighbor); Kenny (Sally's friend). Alicia (Sally); Dale R (Sally's friend); Becky B (Lucas' friend); Nora S.

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

