

Milton's Good News

July- "At a Glance"

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Effective in July the Contemporary Worship Service now being held on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm

Together 2016 was held on July 16th in Washington DC to rally for Christ. Pastor Damien and Rod Moore went to this event filled with prayer, Christian music from popular recording artists, and speakers.

Williamsport Crosscutters Baseball Game "All Faith Night" was held on July 26th.

-Cheri Buss

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

LUKEWARM PEOPLE are thankful for their luxuries and comforts, and rarely consider trying to give as much as possible to the poor. They are quick to point out, "Jesus never said money is the root of all evil, only that the love of money is." Untold numbers of lukewarm people feel "called" to minister to the rich; very few feel "called" to minister to the poor.

-Francis Chan

"Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" ([Matt. 25:34, 40](#)).

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter--when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?" ([Isa. 58:6-7](#)).

It has been in the news, it dwells within our politics, it pervades our society, preferential treatment based upon economic status. Human culture favors the haves over the have-nots. Yet Christ calls for an overturning of the human culture, a radical revolutionary movement in which the poor are cared for and their needs become the most important. Yet, somehow lukewarm Christians manage to continue to ignore the poor, expel them from their midst, hide them from their eyes. Lukewarm Christians worry about missions and outreach to the "right" kind of people not attending, those with money and those who can build up the financial well-being of the church adding to the members' security. The early church, on the other hand, gave up everything they owned for the common good, so that no follower of Jesus whether rich or poor when they began would go without. On fire Christians reach out to the poor and disenfranchised with helping and loving hands. Lukewarm Christians reach out to their own. Who do you reach out to? Are you comfortable around the poor?

Special points of interest:

- Message from the Financial Sec. (pg 2)
- Fundraiser "Friends Helping Friends" @ Boscov's (pg 2)
- Bible Studies Fall/Spring (pg 4)
- Sharing the Table (pg 5)
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Contemporary Worship Report

The Contemporary Worship Team met on July 13th to select songs and themes for the month of August. We will be looking at the book of Hebrews for the entire month and following a theme of faith! We hope to see you Sunday evenings at 6:00pm! Take a look at this month's themes, songs, scriptures, and sermon titles:

Aug. 7 – Hook; Open the Eyes of my Heart; Let There Be Light; Christ Be All Around Me; Beautiful One; Be Thou My Vision; Give Me Your Eyes; Fix My Eyes; *“Eyes of Faith,” Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Communion*

Aug. 14 – Avatar; I Will Follow; Lead Me to the Cross; Oceans; Walk By Faith; Step by Step; Every Move I Make; Marvelous Light; *“Legs of Faith,” Hebrews 11:29-12:2*

Aug. 21 – Polar Express; Hear the Sound; Say the Word; Called Me Higher; King of Glory; Give Me Faith; Word of God Speak; Your Love is All Around; *“Ears of Faith,” Hebrews 12:18-29*

Aug. 28 – Pay it Forward; No Turning Back; Touch the Sky; Everything and Nothing Less; I Surrender; I Lift My Hands; What Faith Can Do; Lifesong; *“Lives of Faith,” Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16*

Message from the Financial Secretary

We have an opening again in our Offering Counter rotation and are looking for a volunteer to fill a slot to help keep ensure that counters do not have to fill in for more than their existing slot. It only requires a few extra minutes of your time on Sunday mornings and fills an important role in doing the Lord's business here at Bethany. If you would like to volunteer to fill a slot, please contact Shelly Sholley.

Any monies or checks received during the course of the week between Traditional Worship services when counting is done should be placed in the drop-safe and not in the Financial Secretary's mailbox. Please attach/include a note with the money placed in the safe. There are envelopes and storage bags located near the safe. If you do not know the location of the safe, please ask Pastor Damien or Rod Moore and they will direct you.

Note: Sunday, July 31--NO OFFERING COUNTERS REQUIRED.

Fundraiser for Bethany UMC – Boscov's “Friends Helping Friends”

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Fundraiser from August through October 18, 2016; (**Shopping Day - Tuesday, Oct. 18th from 9:00 am – 11:00 pm.**) Get your \$5.00 passes to save 25% off your purchases at any Boscov's location. For passes, and to help sell them, see Pastor Damien, and/or contact the church office. If you are willing to help sell passes at Boscov's please contact Pastor Damien.

Traditional Worship Team Report

The following is the work of the Traditional Worship Team which met on Tuesday, July 12th. Here are August's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles.

August 7th – Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise (103); A Charge to Keep, I Have (413); Wounded World that Cries for Healing (2177); I Know Whom I Had Believed (714); *Isaiah 1:1, 10-20, “False Religion and True Belief” Communion*

August 14th – Abide with Me (700); How Firm a Foundation (529); O Day of God Draw nigh (730); God of Love and God of Power (578); *Psalms 80, Isaiah 5:1-7, Luke 12:49-56, “The Family Vineyard”*

August 21st – You Are My All in All (insert); Whom Shall I Send (582); Take My Life and Let It Be (399); Called Me Higher (insert); *Psalms 71; Jeremiah 1:4-10, “Holy Confidence” (Blended Worship Service)*

August 28th – You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (629); Pass It On (572); O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (57); Gather Us In (2236); *Psalms 81, Jeremiah 2:4-13, “Forgetting God”*

Trustees' Report

At our most recent meeting architect Ted Strosser presented his plans for the renovations to the basement and the restroom and kitchenette area in the Chapel/Elm Street Lounge. As previously reported, the Trustees approved the cementing of the dirt floor under the sanctuary, the creation of handicapped accessible restrooms, and the construction of the walls and 'roughed in' plumbing for a future kitchen in the basement, in addition to the restroom and kitchenette renovations in the Chapel/Elm Street Lounge. The Trustees directed the architect to submit plans to the Milton Borough for approval and permits for what we have deemed Phase 1 of the project. Phase 2, which has not been approved by the Trustees, would include renovations to the Social Hall, demolition and removal of the old kitchen and bringing the rear exit from the basement up to current building code. Phase 2 may include an elevator, but is not required by building code. If the permitting process goes smoothly we expect construction to begin mid to late August.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

Christian Education Committee....

There is no report from Christian Education, other than to say that Disciple I Bible Study should complete its course sometime around the beginning of September. The committee will meet again on August 17th, to plan the launch of the next short term Bible study and select candidates for the special invitations to the first study in the series.

Ad Board

The Board and the Finance Committee are working to fine-tune certain features of the church's financial reports, the clarification of a few of the line items in the budget, and the finalization of some aspects of signing and approving expense vouchers. The church's working accounts, meanwhile, continue to show healthy balances, and all obligations are being met on a timely and efficient basis.

Despite some occasional (but unavoidable) problems with the scheduling of post-service income counters, that function in general continues to proceed as planned. But, as noted above by the Financial Secretary, Bethany still and again needs another counting volunteer in order to shore up the rotation. Duo-team counting is a UMC Discipline mandate, but doing it isn't difficult, and it definitely isn't thankless. So please be that person and get on "the list."

It has become necessary to change the times of the Community Meal planning sessions, because those meetings are currently in conflict with Bethany's Contemporary service. The situation is being addressed, and an acceptable solution is imminent.

It's planned that the whole Bethany Contemporary team will attend future Community Meals so that worship can be provided along with (or in conjunction with) the dinners themselves. That also presents an opportunity for us to recruit new musicians for our developing Praise Band. Pastor Damien would lead services in that situation until other pastors come on board to make a leadership "rotation."

The skyrocketing popularity of the new computer app known as "Pokemon Go" has wildly increasing numbers of people walking all over the area playing it. While the app is catching on with folks in all age groups, its most avid devotees are kids. Bethany is a Pokemon Go "PokeStop" and "PokeGym", and we see many young people around the church and the Parish on a daily basis looking for "catches" on their phones. So we have set up a Pokemon Go hospitality station on the porch of the Parish House – cold water and cups, a USB recharging strip, and a bench for resting and playing – because "Go" is a walking-intensive and phone-power-gobbling pastime. This all has such great potential in terms of Bethany's community outreach that it begs us to take advantage of it.

Rod Moore

Missions/Outreach Committee...

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.

Next Mission/Outreach meeting will be on August 24th at 7:00 pm.

Community Dinner Volunteers

Milton Community Dinner

There will be a Community Dinner on **August 14th at 5:00 pm**. Location: Christ Evan. Lutheran Church Looking for Prep / Servers / Clean-Up Volunteers.

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.

Date: Sunday, August 14, 2016

Time: 5:00 pm (Dinner)

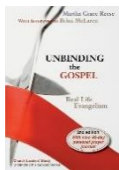
4:30 pm (Prep & Servers report)

5:30 pm (Clean up volunteers report)

Meal is going to be a cook-out theme and Bethany UMC is providing hot dogs, hamburgers and condiments that go with them. Sign up in the church sanctuary or call the church office.

Next meeting has not been scheduled yet, please look for updates in the weekly bulletins.

Upcoming Bible Studies in the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017



Unbinding the Gospel (Church Leader's Study- 8 Weeks) – [This Fall]

Unbinding the Gospel is a book for church leaders to study. Reese presents a clear-spoken, hopeful vision for a future and gives us a way to get there without gimmicky formulas, but hand in hand with God



Unbinding Your Heart – [Spring 2017]

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.



Unbinding Your Soul - [Spring 2017]

Unbinding Your Soul is for small groups. Four short chapters, three weeks of personal prayer journal, prayer partner activities & group exercises prepare church members to *invite unchurched friends* interested in spirituality and faith issues into a *second* three weeks of prayer with four group meetings.

Milton's Good News

"Sharing the Table"



"Sharing the Table" 2016 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: August 7th / September 4th / October 2nd / November 6th

Milton Harvest Event Chairperson needed.....

Bethany is in need for a Chairperson for our Milton Harvest Event/Food Stand for preparing for the event on Saturday, Sept. 17th, Food stand, anyone interested please see Pastor Damien or call the church office.

Events Happening in the Area.....

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

Senior Expo 2016- Thursday, July 28th from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at Shikellamy High School Cafeteria, 600 Walnut St, Sunbury PA. Free health screenings for 55 years and older, refreshments, and the first 300 participants will receive a free tote bag.

Albright Care Services 100 Years Celebration – August 4 -7, 2016 (See Event Schedule on church board)

The Magic of Brent Kessler (Magician Show) – Saturday, August 6, 2016 at 2:00 pm at Christ Lutheran Church, 1125 Mahoning St, Milton. Ice Cream & Backpack Giveaway following show. (Free event)

Evangelical Hospice Volunteer Training – September 12, 13, and 14, 2016 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Hospice of Evangelical 235 Hospital Dr, Lewisburg. Fee: Free For more information or to request an application, call the Volunteer Liaison at 570-522-2955.

Lay Leader's Report

In the absence of the Pastor, I conducted Bethany's full Traditional Worship services on May 29, July 3, and July 10, using music of my own choosing, prayer formats and sermons of my own composition, and personally-written devotional flyers for the weeks that followed each of those Sundays.

Starting July 3, the Contemporary service, which had been Saturdays at 6:30 PM, was moved to Sundays at 6:00 in an effort to improve attendance. In the absence of the Pastor, we brought in David Gehrum, a Lay Speaker from Watsonstown UMC, to conduct the July 3 service and engaged Calvin Hoffman to do the July 10 service. Although those were two very ably handled events (and note that the Lay Speaker would not accept payment for his effort), they were, by their nature, anomalous in terms of evaluating attendance, and we will have to see over time if and how the Saturday-Sunday move is working.

I have taken on the duty of distributing the checks that Treasurer Donna Riccio writes on the Current Expenses and Trustees accounts, seeing to their timely mailing or other dispensation as required.

Some of us from Bethany went up to McEwensville on July 14 for what might be called "the Annual St. Peter's Reunion Picnic." It was great to see so many friends from our sister church again, and to celebrate with them the sense of family that's every bit as strong with those folks today as it was when they were under one Hepburn Street roof. God continues to bless them all.

It's worth mentioning that the church's new air conditioning system is working extremely well and with amazing efficiency. Even when the main sanctuary is at its warmest, cooling happens almost unbelievably quickly, and it's all very quiet and unobtrusive.

Once again I thank and praise the wonderful people of Bethany for helping me with their prayers and their assistance before, during, and immediately after my second cataract surgery on June 30. Precious attention, seamless outcome, and my gratitude is boundless.

6/22/16 – 7/15/16

Rod Moore

BETHANY UMC

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Website:

bethanyumc-miltonpa.org

Saturday Worship:

Contemporary Service: 6:30 pm

Sunday Worship:

Traditional Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:00 am

PASTOR DAMIEN

670 Stamm Rd
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570-412-1943
570-246-5514

dbrooks@susumc.org

Announcements

Altar Stewards Needed

Bethany is in need for more Altar Stewards for the months of **August & December**. Please prayerfully consider on giving to this ministry to help serve the Lord! Please sign up on the sheet located in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!

Dates to Remember:

July 26th - 7:05 pm – Williamsport Crosscutter Game “All Faith Night” @ Williamsport PA
July 31st 7:00 pm - August 5th - Pastor away at Youth Camp @ Wesley Forest
August 3rd – 7:00 pm – Trustees Committee
August 7th – 10:30 am - Traditional Worship “Sharing the Table” / Communion
August 7th – 3:00 pm – Rockwell Communion
August 7th – 6:00 pm – Contemporary Worship / Communion
August 9th – 7:00 pm - PSPRC
August 10th – 7:00 pm – Contemporary Worship Team
August 14th- 5:00 pm – Community Dinner / Picnic @ Christ Evan Lutheran Church
August 16th – 6:30 pm – Finance Committee
August 16th – 7:00 pm – Ad Board
August 17th - 7:00 pm – Christian Ed Committee
August 19th – Haas/Smith Wedding Rehearsal
August 20th – 3:00 pm – Haas/Smith Wedding
August 21st – 10:30 am – Blended Worship (Traditional & Contemporary)
August 24th – 7:00 pm – Missions/Outreach Committee
September 10th & 17th – Milton Harvest Festival

Disciple I Bible Study: 6:00 pm every Monday.

Rockwell Bible Study: 9:00 am every Thursday @ Rockwell. (Note: New time)

Praise Band Practice: 7:00 pm every Thursday.

Contemporary Worship Services: 6:00 pm every Sunday evening.



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
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