

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



Volume 7, Issue 10

October 2020

Milton's Good News

September– "At a Glance"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Leadership Team	1
From Pastor Bill	2
Worship Schedule	3
Trustees Report	3
N.O.W. Here This!	4
Announcements	8

Looking back in September for Bethany, Bethany UMC still continued having worship services with safety and health restrictions. The church voted on the design plans for the rebuild and meetings with the new general contractor, Poole Anderson took place. Bible study of the "Book of Acts" started and Lessons for Life (Sunday School) started back up with the studying of devotions in the Upper Room.

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:34 (NIV)

-Cheri Buss

Leadership Team Report

Special points of interest:

- "At a Glance" (pg 1)
- Leadership Reports (pg 2)
- Pastor Appreciation Month] (pg 3)
- Sock Ministry (pg 4)
- "Share the Warmth" Coat Giveaway (pg 4)
- Bible Study (pg 4)
- Financial Stats (pg 5)
- Bethany Fire Update (pg 5)
- Our Prayer List (pg 6)
- Fire & Ice Campaign (pg 6)
- Thank You (pg 6)
- Milton Bridge Walk Change (pg 6)
- Lessons for Life Sunday School (pg 6)
- Fun Page (pg 7)

The September Team meeting devotional began with a reading of Matthew 17:20, the well-known passage that refers to having "faith as small as a mustard seed" and begins to address the wonders that faith can work. But consider this – that we, as faithful people, have each had that grain planted in us. Think of the example of finding a bottle of water near a desert well, it's there for priming the pump. Once we prime, we can bring water up so that we can drink all we want. Or need. Just don't drink the whole bottle first. It's not there so you can get your fill immediately, it's there to get things started so you can successfully draw plenty to drink later. If you empty the bottle before you do anything else, you'll slake a moment's thirst, have no water left, and be unable to bring any up from the well. OK, then, isn't faith a matter of taking spirituality slowly and thoughtfully? Proper things in proper order, in good time well spent. St. Augustine said. "Seek not to understand so that you may believe – instead, believe (comma here or not - it changes the meaning) that you may understand. This is the essence of faith. On a personal level, we stop to think about people in our lives who have shaped our faith. And there have almost certainly been many. Where did our "mustard seeds" come from? And how big are the plants now? Do they need watering? Well, keep pumping.

Pastor reports that the United Methodist Board of Church and Location has approved the Bethany rebuilding plans.

The Team is considering placing electronically-controlled signage outside the refurbished church, as a first step in assessing the feasibility of that, we are seeking the advice of a Harrisburg historical site authority who can advise us on what's allowable.

Bethany officers are working to complete District reporting forms in preparation for Sunday, November 1 Church Conference.

Bosco's (Susquehanna Mall) has been in touch with us about whether we have interest in taking part in this year's Friends Helping Friends program as we have done in the past. The format will be different this time, largely due to certain pandemic-related considerations – but it will be simpler than before, too, with no "hands on" church participation required. As for dates, we're hearing October 14 and 15. We are in touch with the organizers.

Rod Moore



From Pastor Bill's Study

Greetings to all,

In the midst of all that is going on in my life and in the life of the church I try to get away ever now and then through reading of different books. I say this is the time I spend with a book without a highlighter and a notebook, just a time of reading for pleasure. I read a small book I have that deals with the different saying of different regions and some of the beliefs they may have.

Some are well known but some maybe new and you may even know of some that were not in the book. For example one I grew up with was "if you step on a crack you will break your mothers back". Another is that "you never rock a rocking chair with no one in it or someone will die". I remember my grandmother yelling that to me as I lay on the floor and used my feet to rock the rocker we had in the living room.

Several other are do not let a black cat cross your path, and do not walk under a ladder, do not break a mirror or you will have seven years of bad luck. Or did you know that if you see a ring around the moon there will be a storm coming and if you count the stars within the ring that will be the number of days before the storm.

I believe we have all heard most of these sayings and others that have been collected along the way. Do they influence your life as we think about them now? I know for me they do. I cannot walk down a sidewalk without looking at the cracks, I see a black cat and I watch where it goes, it is amazing how we are conditioned by what we know and have been taught.

The same is true in the Bible as well. We are told in many ways to look out for certain things in order to keep our lives in balance with God's teachings. In Isaiah 5: 20 we are to look out for those who call evil good and good evil. In Judges 21: 25 it states that in those days Israel had no king: everyone did as they saw fit. In the Book of Revelation we are told of end times happenings and what it will be like. In Matthew 24:13 we are warned to keep watch because we do not know the day or the hour of Christ's return.

All of the signs and wonders of the Bible are before us and how does that influence what we do and how we live our lives? I am not a prophetic preacher but as well as looking at all of the old sayings I know I also now see the signs of Christ's return being close than it has ever been. I know I do not have a day or time to go on but I do know we are called to be ready because it could happen at any time.

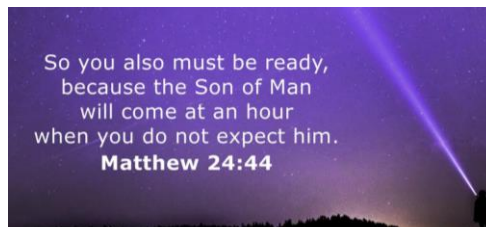
I look around me today and I hear all of the warnings of the Covid pandemic and how it has changed everything we thought we knew. Yet I see people living their lives more afraid of what could happen as opposed to what is happening. My fear is not of Covid my fear is of not being ready when Christ calls me home.

I respect the possibilities of Covid but it will not so influence me as to be swayed away from God and the warnings of what will happen to those who fear false gods and for those who do not fear God enough to follow in his ways to repent and believe in Christ return.

I pray we are ready for all and everything that will try to steer us away from God's message of hope in Christ and remain strong in our faith and belief in the power of Christ to overcome the evil that surrounds us.

Follow the signs to the promises that take us to Christ and not away from his presence!

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 October 11 they are due: Sunday, October 11th, 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, July 14th. Here are October's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles. **Next Worship Team meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13th at 1:00 PM. We are now open for worship held at West Milton UMC at 11:00 am (Use masks & keep safety guidelines).**

October 4th - Jesus Calls Us (398); The Family Prayer Song (2188); How Great Thou Art (77); Psalm 19; Hosea 4:6b-13; *“Charges” / Communion*

October 11th – We Gather Together (131); The Family Prayer Song (2188); It's Me, It's Me, O Lord (352); Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Hosea 5:1-7; *“Judgment”*

October 18th – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (103); The Family Prayer Song (2188); Lord of the Dance (261); Psalm 99; Hosea 6:1-11; *“Unrepentant”*

October 25th – O God, Our Help in Ages Past (117); The Family Prayer Song (2188); Blest Be the Tie That Binds (557); Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17, Hosea 7:1—7; *“Rejection”*

Pastor Appreciation Month – October



....Remember October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Please remember Pastor Bill & Janet in your prayers, send an encouraging letter/email/card or a gesture of appreciation!

Thank you, Pastor Bill, for your love for God's Church at Bethany, for being with us during the fire and postponing your retirement to stay on through this process, for your prayers, leadership, kindness, generosity, and your guidance; we thank you so much for everything you do for the flock from your congregation and staff here at Bethany!

Thank you, Janet, for your love for God's Church at Bethany, for your prayers and for your support of Bethany and to your husband, Bill; we thank you so much from all of us here at Bethany!

Trustees Report...

Progress, although it feels like it's a very slow pace, is continuing toward the rebuilding of Bethany.

- During a special Church Conference Meeting held Monday, August 31 there was an unofficial vote in the affirmative for Hemmler and Camayd Architects' Option 3A. Unfortunately the District Superintendent forgot about the meeting, which is why the vote was unofficial. The rescheduled Church Conference will be held after Worship Service Sunday, September 20. The vote should be a mere formality as it was approved by those in attendance previously.
- The Leadership Team has been meeting, and will continue to meet, on an every other week basis (Thursday mornings at 10:30 at West Milton UMC) with representatives from Hemmler and Camayd Architects and Poole Anderson, the Construction Manager for the project. The professionals are busy receiving and reviewing bids to begin the roof reconstruction.

Another important point of discussion the last few months has been making a change in the software we use to conduct the church's business. After review by the Leadership Team it was decided to move from QuickBooks to PowerChurch software. PowerChurch has the ability to manage our membership list, document contributions, handle the financial accounting, and create and maintain an events calendar. After the decision was made to switch software we discussed the need to upgrade the computers in the office and network them together.

- We sought proposals from two local companies – Me Push and Computation. Upon review Computation was the less expensive option. They will be providing four new computers for the office, the equipment to network them together, installation, and the initial three months of service for approximately \$7,300.
- The other concern we needed to address was the internet speed in the office. Because PowerChurch is a cloud based system we need a more robust internet service in the office. After review it was determined that we could obtain a much faster speed through PenTeleData than we were getting through Verizon and include the phone service to the office at a lower monthly cost.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand, Trustee chair

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



"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"** or into the office Mon, Wed, 9 am -1 pm and Fri from 9 am – 12:30 pm.



Next Food Collection Communion Dates: October 4th / November 1st

Milton Harvest Community Dinner (St Andrew's UMC – 201 Lower Market St, Milton PA)

Unsure at this time if Milton Harvest Community Dinners for October will take place, per Lynn Pierson, Bucknell. Lynn will let us know if they can start back up. Lynn is still working through permissions and such so we wait a bit more.

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

The Community Dinners are postponed until further notice due to the covid 19. Looking into a takeout basis.

Bethany's
Effort
Toward
Health

"Washed Clean Kits"



BETH "Washed Clean Kits" (Hygiene Kits) Update:

The items that we are accepting for the packs are:

Soap, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body sprays, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand/body lotion, wash cloths, hand towels, disposable personal/baby wipes, feminine products, toilet paper, and both baby and adult diapers. The small individual, hotel-sized bottles are preferred but any donations are welcomed.

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.



"Share the Warmth" Coat Giveaway Update:



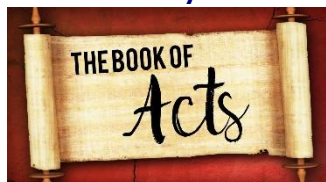
After much prayer, brainstorming & consideration on ALL of our parts it has led us to the conclusion that we would be unable to hold the Giveaway in the traditional manner this year. Pastor has made the suggestion that we should wait a year and build inventory. If a request comes into the office we will do our best to fill that need but we would not advertise as a giveaway.

You can bring in your winter coats/hats/scarves & warm clothing to rebuild the inventory. Always looking for coats in children's sizes and large adult sizes.

Can start bringing in donations now and drop them off at the church office on Monday & Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm and Friday 9:00 am - 12:30 pm.

Thank You!

Bible Study "The Book of Acts"



"Book of Acts" Weekly Bible Study on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Join in anytime, all our welcome. Discussion questions are available in the back of the sanctuary or call the church office for a copy. Tuesday morning group will meet over at West Milton UMC and Wednesday evening at Bethany UMC-office.

Bethany UMC Current Expense Income August 2020 Reports:

Envelope Income To Date---2020

		Current Expense	Reno	Benev. (Price Fund)	Miscell.	Weekly Total	Year To Date
August	2	\$730.00				\$730.00	\$25,345.00
	9	\$680.00		\$15.00		\$695.00	\$26,040.00
	16	\$735.00		\$15.00		\$750.00	\$26,790.00
	23	\$640.00				\$640.00	\$27,430.00
	30	\$635.00		\$15.00		\$650.00	\$28,080.00

Plate Income To Date---2020

		Plate	Known Givers	Benevolences (Price Fund)	Weekly Total	Year To Date
August	2	\$17.00			\$17.00	\$1,449.93
	9	\$10.00			\$10.00	\$1,459.93
	16					\$1,459.93
	23	\$5.00			\$5.00	\$1,464.93
	30					\$1,464.93

Lessons For Life Income To Date---2020

		Weekly Total	Year to Date
August	2	CANCELLED	\$157.10
	9	CANCELLED---\$2.00	\$159.10
	16	CANCELLED---\$2.00	\$161.10
	23	CANCELLED---\$2.00	\$163.10
	30	CANCELLED---\$2.00	\$165.10

Bethany UMC Miscellaneous Contributions 2020

Milton Bridge Walk in Spirit	Year To Date
8/23/20--\$20.00	
8/23/20--\$225.00	\$245.00

Fire Restoration Fund Income To Date---2020

		Known Givers	Anonymous	Weekly Total	Year To Date
August	2				\$18,805.78
	9				\$18,805.78
	16		\$50.00	\$50.00	\$18,855.78
	23				\$18,855.78
	30				\$18,855.78

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

Total Income Received: \$3,735.95

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$11,753.44

Average Attendance: 19

Bethany Fire Update:



Hired a general contractor (Poole Anderson) Collecting bids for roof repair.

Total Income Received (Aug): \$271.61

(Account Balance: \$2,651,165)

Total Expenses Paid Out (Aug): \$45,716.65



Our Prayer List.....

Diane & Specht Family – Loss of husband, Jeff.
 Eddie G. – Health
 Rich H – Health
 Cheryl – Health / leg amputation
 Jamie A. – Employment
 Sarah H – Health / Recovery
 Judy C – Back / Eyes - Cataract surgery
 Mike & Willia Stewart Family – Loss of brother, Timothy
 Ryan B (Friend of Shelly)– ATV accident
 Melisse K – ICU with Covid 19.
 Milton Rehab and Milton Towers (Covid)
 Those dealing with Cancer – Dan, Mandy, Terrie, Gary, David, Rita, Doug, Ann
 Bethany Congregation / Restoration & reopening business / churches.
 Leadership Team: Cindy, James A, Rod, Shelly, Bob F, James M, Dick K, Dave W, Mike L, Dorothy, Pastor Bill.

Praises:
 Judy C. 1st cataract surgery went well. Jeff's breakthrough and receives his disability. Virginia (Jamie's aunt) Celebrates 100th birthday. Sarah H recovering well back at rehab. Dan A medical scare turned out not to be.



Fire & Ice Campaign....

It is that time again, this fall, I would like you to prayerfully consider making a contribution to **Fire & Ice**. Your contribution will assist in heating and cooling the church as needed for all of our various ministries in the name of Christ and continue to offset the cost of the new system. It will also provide you one more opportunity to share the many blessings God has offered you in your life, to act in faith and also to experience the spiritual growth that comes from giving. .

An envelope is provided, but if mailing this to Bethany it will need to be put in a larger envelope, per post office. Mail to: Bethany UMC, 18 Center St, Milton PA, 17847.

Thank You, in advance for helping Bethany UMC!!

Thank You Note....

Dear Congregation of Bethany UMC, Thank you so much for your generous donation of 7 bins of food to the Panther Packs Ministry.

–Mary Richie, Treasurer St Andrew's UMC

Milton Bridge Walk Canceled and now a "Walk in the Spirit"....



Milton Ministerium presents: "Milton Bridge Walk in the Spirit"

Due to the ongoing uncertainty of the COVID situation and if we can gather or not I am making a decision to not hold the Bridge Walk this year. But because of the ongoing need of the community in which we serve, I would ask that each church within the Milton Ministerium hold a **"Walk in the Spirit"** day on the second Sunday, October 11th with a special offering to be taken to support the Salvation Army and Hands Up in their effort to help meet the needs of the community we serve. All monies raised will be forwarded to the Milton Ministerium and split equally between the two mentioned charities.

Lessons for Life (Sunday School):



Lessons for Life (Sunday School) is now started back up on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am held at West Milton UMC, 310 High St, West Milton. We will be using the Wednesday's devotion prior to that Sunday. In the back of the Upper Room find that Wednesday date for the discussion questions that the class will go over. Please pick up an Upper Room (September/October) if you haven't already to use for this class.

Fun Page

BibleWise

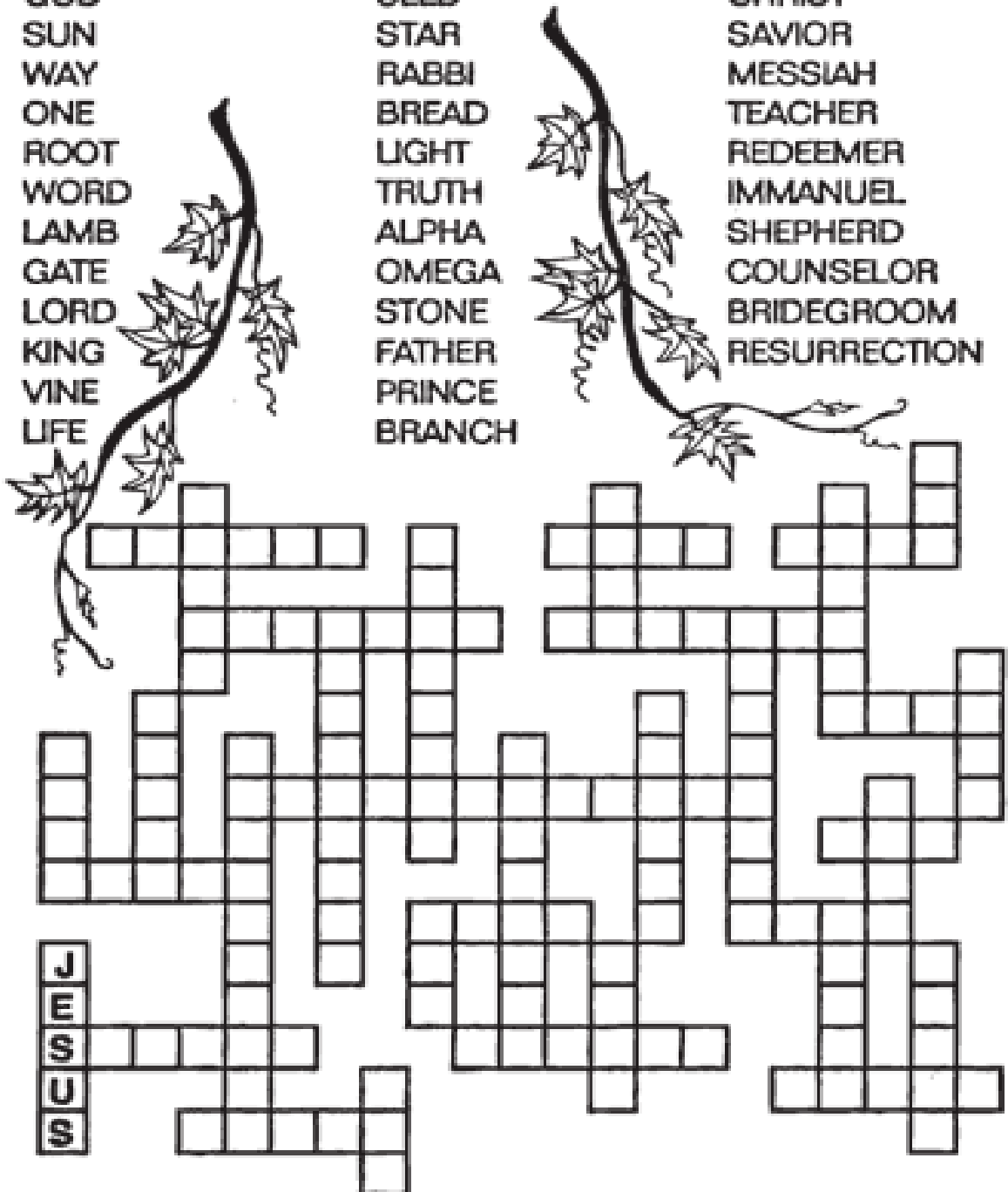
And His Name Shall Be Called . . .

Jesus had many names. All the words below were used to refer to Jesus in the Bible. Fit the names into the puzzle. (Hint: Start with the longest names.)

GOD
SUN
WAY
ONE
ROOT
WORD
LAMB
GATE
LORD
KING
VINE
LIFE

SEED
STAR
RABBI
BREAD
LIGHT
TRUTH
ALPHA
OMEGA
STONE
FATHER
PRINCE
BRANCH

CHRIST
SAVIOR
MESSIAH
TEACHER
REDEEMER
IMMANUEL
SHEPHERD
COUNSELOR
BRIDEGROOM
RESURRECTION



BETHANY UMC

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

bethany18coffice@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

September / October

Daily Bread – Now Available

September / October / November

Announcements:**Dates to Remember:**

Oct. 1st - 10:30 am - Leadership Team W Poole Anderson @ West Milton UMC

October 3rd – 9 am – 4 pm - Annual Conference [Virtually On Line Meeting for Pastors]

October 4th – 10:00 am – Lessons for Life (Sunday School)

11:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Communion

“Sharing the Table / Panther Packs” [World Communion –Special Offering]

October 4th – 2:00 pm – Rockwell Communion

October 6th – 10:00 am - Bible Study “Book of Acts” @ West Milton UMC

October 7th – 7:00 pm - Bible Study “Book of Acts” @ Bethany UMC/Office

October 11th – 11:00 am– Milton Bridge “Walk in the Spirit” - Special Offering

October 13th – 1:00 pm – Worship Team Meeting @ West Milton UMC

Oct. 15th - 10:30 am - Leadership Team W Poole Anderson @ West Milton UMC

October 20th – 6:30 pm – Leadership Team (Finance & Ad Board) @ West Milton UMC

Oct. 29th - 10:30 am - Leadership Team W Poole Anderson @ West Milton UMC

November 1st – 1:00 pm – Church Conference @ Watsontown UMC

Bible Study “Book of Acts”: 10:00 am every Tuesday @ West Milton UMC

Bible Study “Book of Acts”: 7:00 pm every Wednesday @ Bethany UMC/Office

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

Lessons for Life (Sunday School): 10:00 am every Sunday morning.

Gathering of the Family of God: 11:00 am every Sunday morning.

Golden Rule Love Inc is looking for someone to help in the office answering the phones (Part time). If interested please call Love Inc to inquire and for more information at 570-742-3561.

[Office hours: Monday – Thursday 8:30 am – 11:30 am.



BETHANY UMC OFFICE

18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

Oct
2020