

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



Volume 7, Issue 8
August 2020

Milton's Good News

July- "At a Glance"

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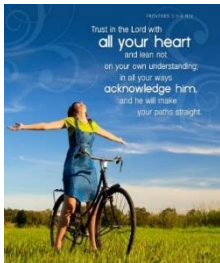
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Looking back in July for Bethany, starting off with Bethany UMC continued worship services with social distancing, wearing of masks, using an offering box, and continued with safety and health restrictions. Weekly Bible Studies of Proverbs on Tuesday and Wednesday nights was completed. Meeting with the architects, engineers, and Leadership Team to view the 4 option designs for church. Meetings with our investment advisors; Hudock & Prudential was held.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. " Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

-Cheri Buss

Leadership Team Report



The July Team meeting devotional was based on Philippians 2: 12-13, the well-known section of that chapter in which Paul encourages the people of the Church of Philippi to "work out" their own salvation with "fear and trembling." In that connection, we consider ways in which we've been led, or inspired by, God in our lives. Immediately we recall and thankfully acknowledge the joyous place of the Holy Spirit in helping and directing us. There is an example of a small boy "taking charge" of a grand piano onstage just before a concert. He audaciously began playing the simple tune "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star", enjoying himself immensely while oblivious to the terrified gathering audience. But when the featured artist came onstage, he didn't shoo the upstart child away - he joined him. The two then created an amazing new masterpiece based on that tune, and everyone was delighted. We discussed some things from our own memory banks that bear witness to the guiding force of The Almighty in our lives. To our simple melodies, God brings new life. That's how He rolls. We're each a handiwork of His, and He loves to invest in His creation at every turn.

The post-fire church demolition that began some months ago is now complete, and roof and ceiling replacement can begin, in keeping with our architect's advice and as soon as contractors are enlisted and materials are chosen. Our Team recently voted to accept one particular architectural plan that has the new sanctuary where the old one was but turned in the opposite direction. But many details need to be worked out in advance of construction.

Prudential will, in accordance with a Team vote, make small adjustments to the largest portfolio we have with them to improve our return on investment as we continue to endure the vagaries of the current market.

The Bethany office, by team vote, will soon be equipped with a more church-friendly software package that can be shared among personnel and will replace the cumbersome QuickBooks accounting suite that we've had in place for some years.

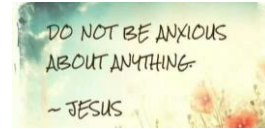
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Rod Moore



From Pastor Bill's Study



Greetings to all,

As I travel about in the area I am being asked by those who know me or learn who I am "How is the Church doing"? I respond by saying the church is doing just fine but the building we use is still not ready for us to move in yet. I do believe we are making progress but like everything else it just is not fast enough.

In Philippians 4:6-7 it states "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

I know these verses and I have spoken on these verses but know I have to live out these verses, and that makes it all too real. I want to see progress being made on the church construction and it just seems like a continuous series of starts and stops as something else comes up that needs attention and approval for or from someone before we can proceed. I also know that everything works out in God's timing but there are times I wish there could be more openness in explanation.

Where we are now is still in the planning stage of the reconstruction with the first priority being the replacement of the roof and the sealing of the church to stop and more weather damage. When that is completed then we can begin the restructuring of the interior and the best use for the space within the building.

This is where prayer is going to be most needed so that we can have one plan and one idea of what we want the church to be, something not just for today but also something to meet the needs of the future. I know I have some grand ideas and I believe others do as well so we will need to seek God's help in making it clear what would best serve the church and the communities' needs.

I know that there is a list that has been started as to what those needs are and the leadership team and myself are ever evolving with new thoughts and ideas as to what those needs will be. If you have any input you would like to see let me or one of the leadership team member know so it can be considered as a part of the new church.

Because of the isolation and shutdowns that have happened with the Covid-19 pandemic I want to remind everyone that once these restrictions are lifted I look forward to becoming a part of the community again through the many different ministries we have been involved in. I look forward to the monthly meals at St. Andrews, the bi-monthly meals at Christ Lutheran Church, and in the next few months the coat give away to help those in need.

Through these efforts and any we may become involved in I pray that Christ can be glorified and proclaimed so others will learn of the God we serve.

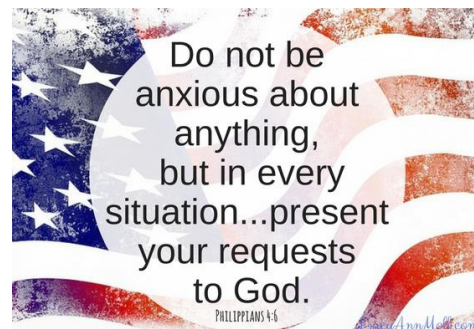
I pray you enjoy your summer but remember to keep Bethany in your prayers and continue to support her financially throughout the summer months.

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 August they are due: Sunday, August 9, 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 August'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).**

August 2nd – Sweet Hour of Prayer (496); I Love You, Lord (2068); Standing on the Promises (374); Psalm 17:1-7; Philippians 3:12-16; *“Press On”* / **Communion**

August 9th – Stand By Me (512); I Love You, Lord (2068); Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (139); Psalm 105:1-6; Philippians 4:4-9; *“Rejoice”*

August 16th – Take My Life, and Let It Be (399); I Love You, Lord (2068); Victory in Jesus (370); Psalm 133; Colossians 1:15-23; *“Reconciled”*

August 23rd – Amazing Grace (378); I Love You, Lord (2068); Onward, Christian Soldiers (575); Psalm 124; Colossians 2:16-23; *“Judgment”*

August 30th – Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (400); I Love You, Lord (2068); Majesty, Worship His Majesty (176); Psalm 105:37-45; Colossians 3:12-17; *“Holy Clothes”*

Trustees Report...

Trustee Report to Leadership Team – July 2020

As most everyone has been in the loop on the slow plodding process of the demolition of the fire damage at the church, the review of the options for rebuilding presented by the architects and the decisions made thus far, I see no need to report on those items to the Leadership Team. The only other Trustee related activity was that the septic tank at the parsonage was pumped and a report was provided to the township as required. Since we are now in the heat of summer and turned the calendar to July it's appropriate to provide a quarterly report of the Trustee's finances. Thankfully after a very rough first quarter the stock market rebounded pretty nicely in the second quarter.

The following balances (rounded) are as of June 30 (unless noted otherwise):

- Hudock Capital Group (Pershing) - \$544,765 – an increase of \$39,061 from the last quarter – We needed to transfer \$15,000 from this account for current expenses in June.
- Hudock Capital Group (Pershing) – Fire Insurance Fund - \$332,698 – this is only an increase of \$48, but these funds are invested in secure government backed treasuries which are currently gaining very little interest.
- Prudential Investments - \$601,156 – an increase of \$70,619 from the last quarter – this is our 'in lieu of flood insurance' account.
- Prudential Investments – The Radenbush Trust - \$95,670 – an increase of \$5,013 from last quarter.
- Prudential Investments - \$7,682 – an increase of \$595 from the last quarter
- BYN Mellon – The Butler Trust – \$200,778 – an increase of \$24,363 which includes the quarterly disbursement of \$2,625 which helps with current expenses.
- Milton Savings Bank – Fire Restoration Fund – Current Balance (July 3) - \$2,705,927

Submitted by Jamie Aurand, Trustee chair

N.O.W. Hear This!..

N.O.W. meeting: Tuesday, August 4th at 6:30 pm @ West Milton UMC, basement



"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, Fri from 9 am – 1 pm.



Next Food Collection Communion Dates: August 2nd / September 6th

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

There will **not** be any Milton Harvest Community Dinners they are postponed until further notice due to the covid 19, per Sarah Wochele, at Bucknell. Sarah still trying to see if can offer takeout meals.

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.

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



Planning stages will begin for the annual "Share the Warmth" Coat Giveaway for October 2020: Since the fire we have lost most of our inventory of coats and winter items, which now we are in great need of them.

If you're doing end of summer clean-out of your closets, we accept coats/hats/scarves & warm clothing and blankets all year for the Mission. 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!

[Watch for more information and details for the Coat Giveaway]

Bethany UMC Current Expense Income June 2020 Reports:

Envelope Income To Date---2020

		Current Expense	Reno	Benev. (Price Fund)	Miscell.	Weekly Total	Year To Date
June	7	\$615.00		\$15.00		\$630.00	\$18,273.00
	14	\$1,070.00				\$1,070.00	\$19,343.00
	21	\$805.00		\$15.00		\$820.00	\$20,163.00
	28	\$873.00				\$873.00	\$21,036.00

Plate Income To Date---2020

		Plate	Known Givers	Benevolences (Price Fund)	Weekly Total	Year To Date
June	7	\$45.00			\$45.00	\$895.00
	14	\$52.93			\$52.93	\$947.93
	21	\$2.00			\$2.00	\$949.93
	28	\$152.00			\$152.00	\$1,101.93

Lessons For Life Income To Date---2020

		Weekly Total	Year to Date
June	7	CANCELLED	\$142.10
	14	CANCELLED---\$12.00	\$154.10
	21	CANCELLED	\$154.10
	28	CANCELLED	\$154.10

Bethany UMC Miscellaneous Contributions 2020

Initial Offering	Year to Date
6/7/20--\$50.00	
6/28/20--\$1.00	\$120.00

Fire Restoration Fund Income To Date---2020

				Year to Date
June	7			\$18,555.78
	14			\$18,555.78
	21			\$18,555.78
	28	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$18,705.78



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

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

Total Income Received:	\$21,847
Total Expenses Paid Out:	\$16,152
Average Attendance:	19



Bethany Fire Update:



Clean up has been completed and reviewing designs from architects.

Total Income In (June): \$2,640,527.64

Total Expenses Out (June): \$400.00

Thank You Letters to those below who donated to the Fire Fund, recently.
Michael & Willa Stewart; St. John's UMC of Penns Creek.

Bethany thanks all those who contributed to the Fire Fund.



Our Prayer List.....

Jeff S. – Health
Eddie G. – Health
Rich H – Health

Richard W & Shirley – Recovery / Health

Shelly S & Jamie A.– Employment

Sarah H – Fell / Health

Judy C – Eyes / Cataract surgery

Those dealing with Cancer – Dan, Mandy, Terrie, Gary, David, Barry, Rita, Doug

Barry O. – Cancer / Hospice & wife, Dee – For support & well being.

Anspach Family– Carol passed away.

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.

Praise:

Ryan (Jamie's nephew) – Good health & Fisher Family – Home from hospital.

Tom Y. - Health

Patti S – Health / Appointments

Sharon F - Health

Covid 19 / Elderly / Nursing Homes

Florence Y - Health

President / Country / Riots

Our Nation



When we pray,
God hears more than we say,
answers more than we ask,
gives more than we imagine...
in His own time & His own way.

Cancelled Events:....

The 2020 Milton Island Love Inc 5K Run/Walk in August has been cancelled in light of Covid-19. Possible virtual walk might be done instead, call Love Inc for more information and updates at 570-742-3561.

The 2020 Milton Harvest Festival in September has been cancelled in light of public health concerns associated with the Covid --19.

Milton Bridge Walk....

Milton Ministerium presents: "Milton Bridge Walk"

Hosted by Bethany United Methodist Church, Pastor Bill McNeal

Walk will start at First Presbyterian Church and goes to Milton Island State Park (where a prayer tent will be) then back to First Presbyterian Church.



Date: Sunday, October 11, 2020

Registration Time: 1:30 pm

Walk Time begins: 1:45 pm

Start & End Location: First Presbyterian Church – 47 Walnut St, Milton PA

Fee Donation: All proceeds will be divided between Milton HandUp & Milton Salvation Army
(Checks payable to: Milton Ministerium)

For Registration/Sponsor Forms are located in the back.

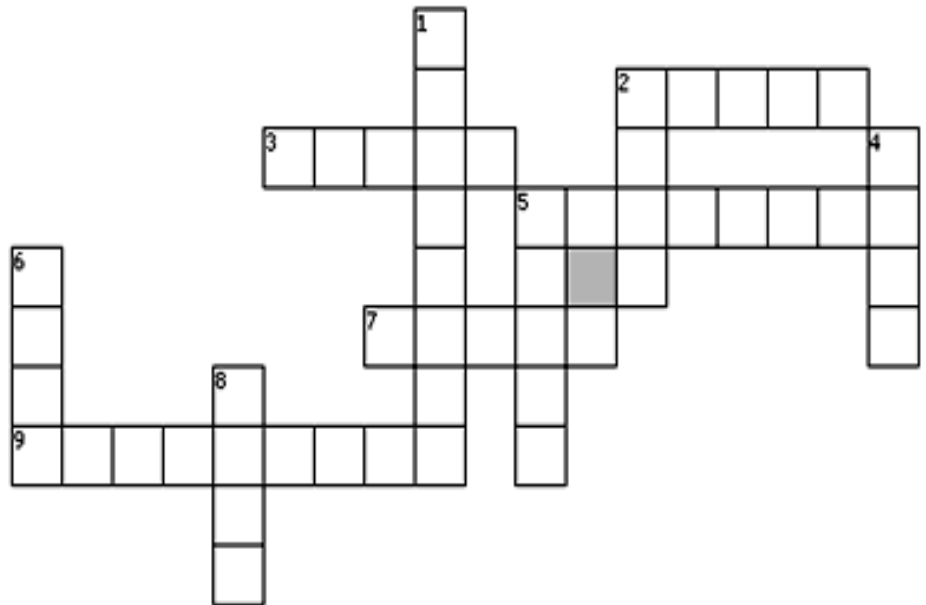
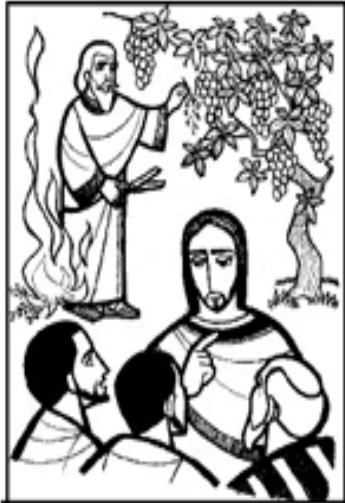
Needing volunteers: Please let Pastor Bill know if you are willing to help in any way!

[Will need Bethany UMC volunteers at the registration table, at Prayer Tent, and (Water Handlers) - passing out of water.]

Fun Page

The True Vine

John 15:1-8 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. The part of a vine or tree which is eaten
3. Not dirty
5. A person who works with plants and flowers
7. To toss something through the air
9. Those who follow Jesus

DOWN

1. Arms that grow out from the trunk of a tree
2. Burning flame
4. The opposite of false
5. Praise or honor
6. Something that is spoken
8. A plant that climbs or creeps along the ground

true	fruit	clean	fire
vine	word	glory	disciples
gardener	branches	throw	

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]

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

July / August

Daily Bread – Now Available

July / August / September

Announcements:

Note: Lessons for Life (Sunday School) Will Hopefully resume in the Fall, watch for updates.

Stay turned a new Bible Study will begin after Labor Day in September, 2020.

Dates to Remember:

[Pastor Bill out of office August 10th – 15th]

August 2nd – 11:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Communion

“Sharing the Tale / Panther Packs”

August 2nd – 2:00 pm – Rockwell Communion (If opened)

August 4th – 6:30 pm – N.O.W. Meeting @ West Milton UMC, basement

August 18th – 6:30 pm – Leadership Team (Finance & Ad Board) @ West Milton UMC

Oct 3rd – Annual Conference @ Williamsport Community Arts

Oct 11th – 1:30 pm – Milton Bridge Walk (Sponsored by Milton Ministerium)

Hosted by Bethany UMC @First Presbyterian Church

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

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

Church's New Email Address...

Bethany church has a new email address, shorter so when giving it out it is not so long of an address. Can start using the new email now:

Bethany18office@gmail.com

Thank You!



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

August
2020