

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: 10:30 am
YouTube: Bethany UMC Milton

PASTOR TRAVIS

670 Stamm Rd
Milton, PA 17847
717-968-2254 (Cell)
570-246-5830 (Home)
tallshouse@susumc.org

Upper Room – Now Available

January / February

Announcements:

Dates to Remember:

- Jan 5th - 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Communion / Epiphany Sunday
- Jan 6th – 10:00 am – Bible Study (Bible 101) Begins
- Jan 12th – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Baptism of the Lord
- Jan 12th – 11:45 am – Christmas Decorations Take Down Luncheon & Putting away the Christmas decorations
- Jan 18th – 25th – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Jan 19th - 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God/Human Relations (Special Offering)
- Jan 26th – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God
11:45 am – Jan Birthday Celebration

*Every Sunday Worship (Gathering of the Family of God) at 10:30 am.
Every Monday (Bible Study) at 10:00 am*

BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

January
2025

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Bethany United Methodist Church
“A Church with the Heart of Christ in the Heart of Milton”



Volume 12, Issue 1
January 2025

Milton's Good News

December “At a Glance”

Looking back in December for Bethany, starting off this month with Advent and delivery of toys/clothes to the Salvation Army. **A huge Thank You to Cindy Mohr, Allshouse Family, Betsy Blyler, Bob & Janet Fitch, Linn Chesney, and Amy Snyder;** who purchased gifts for the Salvation Army Children. **A huge Thank You** to our cookie bakers; **Linn Chesney, Betsy Byler, and Anna Pyle.** **A huge Thank You** to our deliver’s, **Barbara Huff, Betsy Blyer & Pastor Travis,** of the Poinsettias & cookies to our Homebound Members to spread some Christmas Cheer! There was a total of 14 children tags (Salvation Army) this year (1 family) and 10 homebound members. Outstanding job Bethany, well done!!! **Thank you Tim Buss, Dave Warburton, and Rod Moore** for shoveling our first snow off the sidewalks. **Thank you to all** who donated to help a family in need this Christmas Season. Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 3:00 pm this year. Ending our December month with a Christmas Hymns Service. Also end of the month we celebrate the December birthdays after church with cake and coffee.

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD.” Jeremiah 17:7 (NIV)
- **Cheri Buss**

Happy New Year 2025!

Bethany UMC wishes you a happy New Year!

May the faith of God be with you this year. May the peace of God surround you this year, and may you be blessed each day!



Special points of interest:

- “At a Glance” (pg 1)
- Happy New Yer (pg 1)
- Week of Prayer (pg 1)
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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Join the many faithful from Christian denominations around the world for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, **Jan. 18-25, 2025.**

“Do You Believe This?”
John 11:17-27



From Pastor Travis's Study

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Grace to you and peace in the name of Jesus our Savior and healer of our brokenness.

It is the beginning of a new year. Christmas gatherings have happened, presents have been opened, New Year's celebrations have been celebrated, and resolutions have been made. We also begin a new year in the life of the church. The story of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection has started anew.

What goals have you set for this new year? What do you want to accomplish? How do you want to grow as a Disciple of Jesus in the new year? Have you set such a goal? For many of us we set New Year's resolutions to try to be better in the year to come. I have actually given up setting a resolution because usually by February I have not stuck with what I said I was going to do. Have you ever had this problem?

In the course of my studies and my ministry as a pastor I have come to love the Covenant Prayer that John Wesley wrote (found below). This has become a tradition in the church to have this Covenant Prayer said on New Year's Day or the first Sunday of the New Year to say this prayer. A covenant is stronger than a resolution because a covenant is made with God and with others to hold you accountable, but a resolution is usually just a personal thing. I am asking that we all make this covenant with God and with each other that we live into this new year as a people committed to be a Church with the heart of Christ in the Heart of Milton.

Wesley's Covenant Prayer

"I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."



May God abundantly pour out His blessing on all of you in this new year, and may we all covenant together to live out what God has called us to in this new year.

The Best is Yet to Be!

Pastor Travis



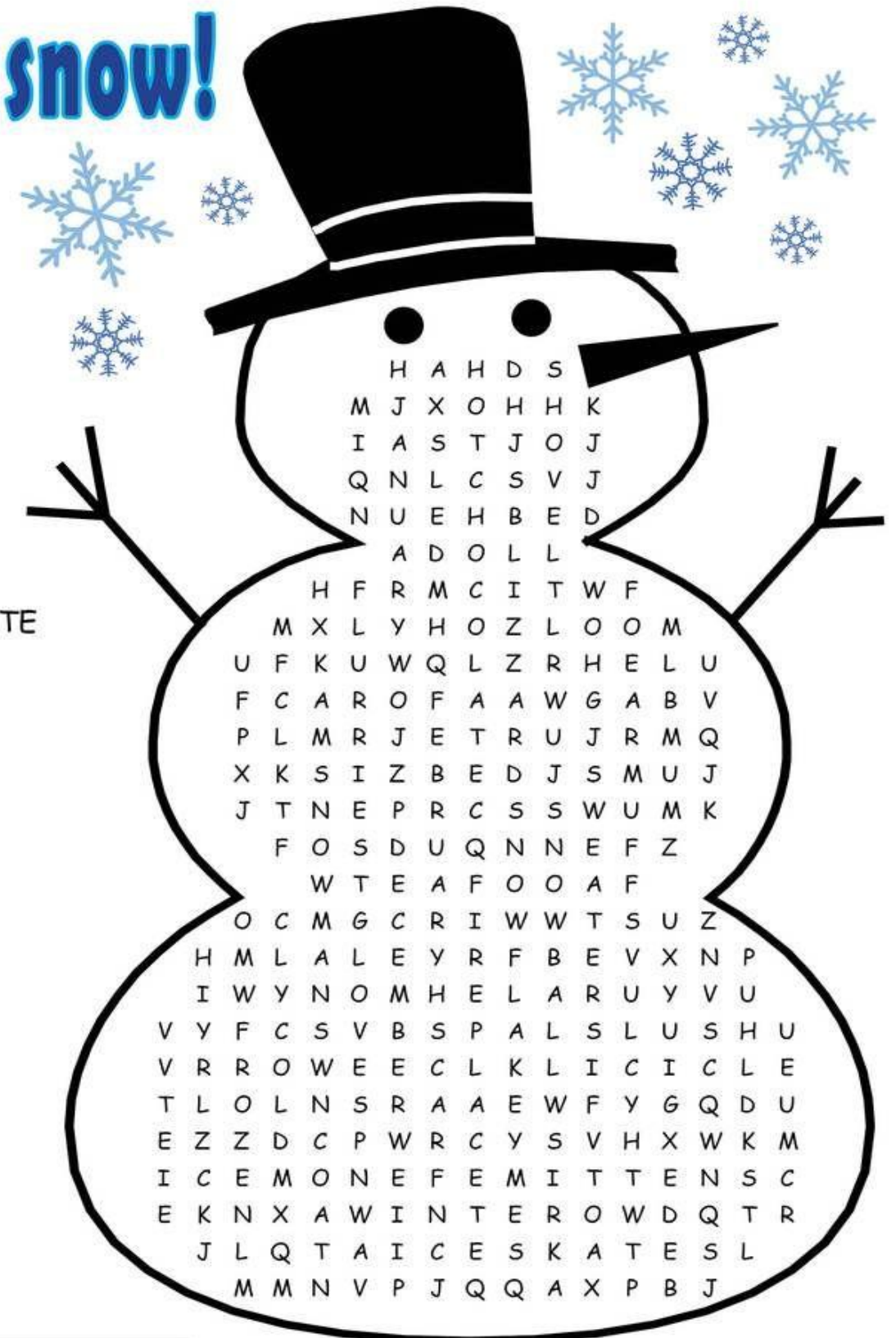
Leadership Reports...

All Committee/Leadership Reports need to be handed into the church office or pastor, by the second Sunday of each month. For January they are due: Sunday, January 12, 2025. You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Travis at tallshouse@susumc.org. Thank You!

Fun Page

Let it snow!

- BLIZZARD
- COAT
- COLD
- DECEMBER
- EARMUFFS
- FEBRUARY
- FIREPLACE
- FLURRIES
- FROZEN
- GLOVES
- HOT CHOCOLATE
- ICE
- ICE SKATES
- ICICLE
- JANUARY
- MITTENS
- SCARF
- SHOVEL
- SLED
- SLUSH
- SNOWBALL
- SNOWFLAKE
- SNOWMAN
- SWEATER
- WINTER



Name: _____

Bethany UMC Current Expense Income November 2024 Reports:

Financial Secretary's Report: November 2024

Date	Offering Envelopes	Plate Offering	Poinsettia Flowers	Advent Offering	Fuel/Cool Fund	Price Fund	Community Meal	Totals
11/03/24	\$503.00	\$15.00	\$150.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$668.00
11/10/24	\$743.00	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$0	\$0	\$1,078.00
11/17/24	\$3,473.00	\$40.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200.00	\$0	\$3,713.00
11/24/24	\$538.00	\$22.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30.00	\$75.00	\$665.00
Totals	\$5,257.00	\$82.00	\$180.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$230.00	\$75.00	\$6,124.00

Finance Report (November Current Expenses In & Out):

November 2024

Total Income Received: \$6,124.00 + (\$1.38 interest) + (14,141.65 Closed Fire Fund Account) = **\$20,267.03**

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$26,213.56

Average Attendance: 19

Fire Fund: [Account Closed]

Balance \$14,141.65 transferred to General Account



Treasurer Retiring...

A **HUGE Thank You to Rich Handy**, he was our treasurer since March 2019! Thank you for all your hard work and keeping Bethany's records in great shape. Cheri Buss, our Administrative Assistant will be taking over as our Treasurer in 2025. Please be patient with her, as she learns and processes in this new journey.

Thank You Note.....

Bethany UMC – Thank you so much for buying gifts for the area children. – Salvation Army (Milton)

January Worship Schedule 2025



Sunday, Jan 5 – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God / **Communion**

Sunday, Jan 12 – 10:30 am Gathering of the Family of God
11:45 am – Take Down Christmas Decorations / Luncheon

Sunday, Jan 19 – 10:30 am - Gathering of the Family of God
[Special Offering: Human Relations Day]

Sunday, Jan 26 – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God
11:45 am – Dec Birthday Celebrations
(Barbara Campbell, Dale Williams, Tina Coates, Joyce Coup, Bryan Mohr, Rita Sanford, Connie Krebs, & Matthew Longenberger)



Trustees Report

Trustee items in process or completed:

- Due to needing the funds for current expenses we closed out the fire fund account at Milton Savings bank and deposited the \$14,141.65 in the general checking account. The only funds remaining from the insurance proceeds is the \$100,000 we recently placed in a CD at Mifflinburg Bank.
- At our most recent Leadership Meeting, we decided to close out the small mutual fund account with Prudential, as we'll need funds to meet our current expense obligations. A check was recently received in the amount of \$12,807.69, which was deposited in the general checking account.
- We received a bill from Hemmler and Camayd Architects in the amount of \$4,500 for some of the work that was completed to design the proposed roof over the Center Street entrance and handicapped ramp. Due to the estimated cost of construction, the Leadership Team decided not to complete the project at this time.
- The contract for the gas supply in the Parish House expired on December 9. I had been researching rates and signed a 12-month contract with Shipley Energy for \$0.529 per CCF, compared to \$0.699 for the contract that recently expired. The new contract will not go into effect until the next meter read in early January.
- A technician with Stanley Door came and reset the motor that controls the opening of the handicapped doors. If it malfunctions again the motor will need to be replaced.
- Stan, from Poole Anderson repaired the loose wall in the north Front Street entrance vestibule and the door frames for both the men's and ladies' restroom doors. Some touch up paint will be required to finish the job.
- Creative Plantscapes completed their fall maintenance of the landscaping at the church and parsonage in late November.
- Air Tech HVAC completed the fall service on the HVAC systems at the church, Parish House, and parsonage on December 11.
- We received our annual reminder that the backflow preventer in the water line is required to be tested. I will be contacting the plumber to schedule.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

2025 Leadership Team...



Members of the Leadership Team are as follows:

- Chair of Leadership Council..... Cynthia Mohr
- Recording Secretary..... Roderic Moore
- Lay Leader / Lay Member to Annual Conference..... Roderic Moore
- Chair of Trustees..... James Aurand
- Chair of Pastor/Parish Relations Committee..... Roderic Moore
- Finance Chair..... Cynthia Mohr
- Treasurer..... Cheri Buss
- Financial Secretary..... Bob Fitch
- Worship Ministries Coordinator..... Pastor Travis
Dorothy Hower, David Warburton, and Mike Longenberger

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

Hygiene Kits Ministry...



Bethany UMC is proud and excited to announce that we are collecting items again for personal hygiene packs ministry for children in our schools and community!
Please put into the bins in the Fellowship Hall.

The items that we are accepting for the packs are:

Soap/shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand/body lotion, feminine products. The small individual, hotel-sized bottles are preferred but any donations are welcomed!

We thank you in advance for your support of this exciting ministry!!

Bible Study News.....



Next Bible Study will be January 6, 2025 at 10:00 am on Monday's. Will be studying the history of the Bible "Bible 101".

Every Monday at 10:00 am. All are welcome!

Christmas Decoration Take Down & Luncheon



January 12th, 2025 after church worship we will have a luncheon and "Christmas Decoration Take Down". Please stay for lunch and help put the Christmas decorations away! Thank You!

Our Prayer List.....

Concerns:

Bob F – Now home & recovering from surgery / health.

Adam (Thereasa's grandson) – Rolled his car, face & back injuries, prayers for healing & praise to be alive.

The Alec Family & School District (Jess's school district) – Alex passed away of cancer.

Larry & Susan (Travis' Uncle & Aunt) – Larry is in the Pittsburgh Hospital, health declining, confused & weight loss. Pray for doctors to find the cause and heal him. Prayer's for Susan as she care for him.

Lindsay T – Health concerns, strength & healing.

Joel (Jim's friend) – Continued prayers for his health

Family/friends with Cancer: Rita S, Anna P, Florence Y, Tim C (Friends of Allshouse); Dot (Judy's neighbor); Kenny (Sally's friend). Alicia (Sally); Dale R (Sally's friend).

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



Church/Charge Conference Report...

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, MILTON, PA

MINUTES of the DISTRICT CHURCH CONFERENCE of NOVEMBER 13, 2024

The 2024 Church Conference for Bethany was held at St. Andrew's UMC, Milton, at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 for the purpose of presenting reviews for 2024 and projections for 2025.

Rev. Dr. Nancy Hale led the Bethany delegation through its business session.

Reverend Hale was provided with a copy of the completed 2024 Bethany Church Conference packet of submissions, and copies of the same were in the hands of all Bethany attendees.

It was unanimously affirmed that, as stated in the Bethany packet, Rod Moore would act as the recording secretary for the session at hand.

Proceedings:

Bethany confirmed its completion, acceptance, and finalization of the following:

- The **Minutes of Bethany's Church Conference session of November 19, 2023** were opened for discussion and were subsequently approved as presented (J. Aurand moving, C. Mohr seconding, unanimous voice "aye").
- The Bethany internal **Financial Audit for Calendar 2023**, as reported on Conference Form 12, was approved as presented (C. Mohr moving, J. Aurand seconding, unanimous voice "aye").
- The Bethany **Church Trustees Report for Calendar 2023**, as reported on Conference Form 9, was approved as presented (J. Aurand moving, C. Mohr seconding, unanimous voice "aye").
- The **Pastor's Report on Membership**, on Conference Form 2, includes 18 names of people now listed as Year 1 candidates for removal from the Bethany rolls. All of these were accepted into that status (C. Mohr moving, J. Aurand seconding, unanimous voice "aye"); then the entire form was voted into acceptance (J. Aurand moving, C. Mohr seconding, unanimous voice "aye").
- The Bethany **Certification of Election by the Charge (Church) Conference of Lay Members of Annual Conference** (Form 3), specifying Rod Moore as its sole elected Lay Member to Annual Conference and naming no alternate, was unanimously accepted as presented (not voted on).
- The Bethany **List of Church Lay Leadership Team Members for 2025** (not a Conference form requirement) was unanimously approved as presented (not voted on).
- Bethany's report of completion of its annual **Parsonage Safety Inspection**, per Conference Form 5, was approved as presented (J. Aurand moving, C. Mohr seconding, unanimous voice "aye").
- The Bethany report on **Safe Sanctuaries** was accepted as presented on Conference Form 7 (C. Mohr moving, J. Aurand seconding, unanimous voice "aye").
- Bethany's **Recommendation for 2025 Pastoral Compensation**, on Conference Form 6, was accepted as presented (J. Aurand moving, C. Mohr seconding, unanimous voice "aye"). Categorically, the amount of \$12,000 entered on line G1 for the coming year's fair rental value of the Parsonage was accepted as correct, as was the \$5,000 entered on line G2 as a Parsonage furnishings exclusion.
- The Bethany **Lay Servant Report** (by Rod Moore, covering the period 9/1/23 – 8/31/24) was accepted as presented on Form 8 (J. Aurand moving, C. Mohr seconding, unanimous voice "aye").

Following the above actions, the meeting, having run approximately 30 minutes, was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Roderic R. Moore

Bethany UMC / Milton Lay Leader and Recording Secretary