

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

Volume 5, Issue 11  
November 2018

# Milton's Good News

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## October- "At a Glance"

Looking back on October for Bethany; first there was the Community Dinner that was held on October 14<sup>th</sup>, and our annual "Share the Warmth" Coat Giveaway held on Oct 13 & 20. A special World Hunger offering was taken. A Bible Study was being held two times a week, studying 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter. Had another movie night with the showing of "God's Not Dead2".

*"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be **thankful**."* - Colossians 3:15 (NIV) - Cheri Buss

## Church Conference



This year's Church Conference will be on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at Watsontown United Methodist Church, 1319 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Watsontown PA 17777. Pastor will have the church conference booklets to be handed out at the meeting. Then will be available in the back of the sanctuary following the meeting.

## Movie Night



**Free Movie Night on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 pm, here at Bethany UMC, Milton PA.  
The showing of "God's Not Dead – A Light In Darkness"



Free popcorn provided – Invite your family & friends, all are welcome!

## Thanksgiving Service



Bethany UMC will have a Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm. A time to give Thanks to our Lord & Savior. "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"; so come out and join in to **Thank** our God; invite your family and friends, all are welcome!

## Hanging of the Greens

Hanging of the Greens is scheduled for Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am to decorate the church for the Advent season. Then we will pause during the lunch hour to enjoy a fellowship meal of soup, sandwiches, and any pot luck side or snack items members choose to bring to share.





## From Pastor Bill's Study

Greetings to all,

November how can it possibly be November? There is so much yet to be done and I look at my calendar and see November coming right along. All of the summer projects that I was going to do will go back into the closet of my mind as I drag out all the winter projects that need to be done.

It is time to get the house in order and to make sure everything is ready for the changes that are sure to come.

I ponder have I made the same mistakes in my own life? All of the things I was going to do and just never found or took the time to do. What have I deemed important enough to undertake and what have I let slip back into the closet of my mind with the hope that I might drag them out again.

This past summer I was thinking about taking up kayaking as a form of entertainment and exercise. Maybe next year I will do that, and so it goes, we make plans and then time slips away before we know it. Life is like that.

Our worship theme and decoration has stated that we should "*Fall in Love with God*". This seems to be a silly thought, but how many of us have put that on a back burner as life has moved on and we have taken Christ along with our walk. We have not walked with Christ but have instead let Christ walk with us just in case we may need him.

I heard a saying that I have picked up and that is "*We cannot give up sin until we love God more than the sin*". I have found this simple statement to be one of great truth. With November here and December quickly coming along can we say our house is in order and we do love God more than anything else in our life? Have we become so busy that God goes back into the closet until the next time we need him?

The church is in the middle of a Bible study on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter and this is a great story about Peter and his reflection on his life with Christ and then his life after Christ had been resurrected. Did Peter love God? I believe yes he did but he did not know how much until the physical presence of Christ was not with him.

So we also delay and lose out on some of the best joy there is. Fall in love with God aging before it is too late. Do not put off the most important decision you can ever make.

Also during this November season remember like Paul to give thanks not just on November 22<sup>nd</sup> but in every day be thankful for all God has given to us and especially for what God has not let us go through.

1 Chronicles 16:8

Give thanks,

*Pastor Bill*

Pastor Bill will be doing an Advent Sermon Series: "It's Not Your Birthday". Coming to you Sunday mornings for worship beginning December 2018.

## Thank You....

A special Thank You for all those who came together on this years Fall decorating to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Room.

The "Fall in Love with God" idea for the sanctuary was from Connie Krebs.

The "Satan Leaves" statement in the Fellowship (Contemporary) Room was Pastor Bill's idea.

The cutting of paper letters and leaves was by Thereasa Hinderliter.

Decorated windowsills by Cindy Mohr and Janet McNeal.

The matching bulletin design by Cheri Buss.

And, the brainstorming of how to make them all happen and pulled together was by Janet McNeal.

Well done church - we all make a great team!

## Worship Team “Gathering of the Family of God” Report

The following is the work of the Worship Team which met on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Here are November’s songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles.

**November 4<sup>th</sup> - (All Saints Sunday)** - My Hope Is Built (368); Awesome God (2040); We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations (569); Psalm 24; Philippians 4:4-9; *“Evident”* / **Communion**

**November 11<sup>th</sup>** – Amazing Grace (378); Awesome God (2040); Pass It On (572); Psalm 127; Titus 1:5-9; *“Mission”*

**November 18<sup>th</sup>** – Crown Him with Many Crowns (327); Awesome God (2040); Stand By Me (512); Psalm 146:1-10; Titus 2:1-8; *“Teachers”*

**November 21<sup>st</sup> – (Thanksgiving Service- 7:00 PM)** – Come, Ye Thankful People, Come (694); His Eye Is on the Sparrow (2146); Awesome God (2040); For the Beauty of the Earth (92); Psalm 126; Matthew 6:25-33; *“Thanks”* / **Communion**

**November 25<sup>th</sup>** – Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty (64); Awesome God (2040); Where He Leads Me (338); Psalm 132:1-12; Titus 3:1-8; *“Doing Good”*

## Leadership Team (Ad Board) Report....

The Board was pleased to learn that the Bethany collection for the 2018 CROP Walk (part of Church World Services) was \$178.00 over two Sundays. That amount has been sent to the organizers.

Pastor Bill announced that he has enrolled Bethany with an on-line organization known as “Tech Soup”, which serves non-profits and libraries, and through which it stands to be possible for the church to obtain needed computers, technological supplies, and software at what would basically be manufacturer’s cost.

The church’s Worship Committee is changing its meeting schedule. It will next convene on Tuesday, November 6 at 11 AM (still on the customary “first Tuesday” but at an earlier time of day) to plan for December 2018, and again on Tuesday, December 11 at 1 PM (a “second Tuesday” and at an afternoon time) for the purposes of planning for the months of January, February, and March 2019. Thereafter, that group will meet quarterly instead of monthly.

The next meeting of the Bethany Leadership Team will be held at the church at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, November 13. This is a week earlier than originally scheduled, and is shown on Page 8 of his newsletter. Rod Moore

## Trustees Report

If you happened to look up at the steeple recently you may have noticed several pigeons trying to get back into their comfy home. Apparently the bird netting to keep them out was in bad shape for quite some time. Thanks to the T-Ross Brothers crew, the netting has been replaced and the birds will need to seek lodging elsewhere.

The only other outstanding project at this time is the exterior lighting on the stained glass windows. The Trustees were not pleased with the trial light that was installed, so we have contacted another company for advice and recommendation.

As has become a recent tradition, I’d like to take this opportunity to provide a quarterly report of the Trustee’s finances. The following balances (rounded) are as of September 30, 2018:

- Hudock Capital Group - \$619,453 – a decrease of approximately \$39,400 from the last quarter – Primarily the decrease is due to the withdrawals we’ve made for current expenses and recent improvements (new doors, lighting, and landscaping). Year to date, we have drawn out \$85,000. The good news is our current expense account was healthy enough in October that we did not need to draw down funds for current expenses and it looks like that trend will continue in November.
- Prudential Investments - \$580,404 – An increase of approximately \$15,750 from last quarter – this is our ‘in lieu of flood insurance’ account.
- Prudential Investments – The Radenbush Trust - \$84,306– an increase of approximately \$475 from last quarter.
- Prudential Investments - \$6,641 – An increase of approximately \$150 from the last quarter.
- BYN Mellon – The Butler Trust - \$219,306– an increase of approximately \$3,800 from the last quarter, and includes the normal quarterly withdrawal of \$2,625, which was deposited in the checking account for current expenses.

## 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 288 Fruit Cups, which equals 24 donations of a 12 pack of fruit cup for each month and individual cereal packs (generally comes in 8-packs) Please bring in those items of the first of the month for “Sharing the Table”. Next Food Collection Communion Dates: Nov 4<sup>th</sup> / Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>

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

There will be a Milton Harvest Community Dinner on **Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>** at 5:00 pm. Bethany will be in charge of serving and report at 4:45 pm. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

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

There will be a Community Dinner on a **Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.** Bethany will be in charge of the vegetable which we will be serving cut green beans (but dressed up with a little flair); as well as candy canes or a small favor for the place settings. Members may bring in cans of cut green beans or give money to Shelly or Pastor Bill and we will purchase the large (#10) cans of beans to be used. Watch for a sign up sheet.

Bethany's  
Effort  
Toward  
Health



“Washed Clean Kits”

### **BETH “Washed Clean Kits” (Hygiene Kits) Update:**

We delivered 20 BETH Washed Clean kits to the HandUp women's shelter and also handed out many of the items to guests coming to the Coat Giveaway, which is awesome, but has depleted our supplies.

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! **Items mostly needed are hand towels, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, feminine products, and individual packets of tissues.**

### **Feed-A-Friend/Harvest Home** (HandUp Foundation) (All donations will STAY LOCAL)

Ways you can help support this local cause:

- 1) Non-Perishable food items collection from: **October 28<sup>th</sup> thru November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**  
(Suggested items: Boxed stuffing, Canned vegetables (corn, green beans, mixed), Instant Mashed Potatoes, Canned Yams, Canned Fruit, Gravy (Instant or Canned).
- 2) Monetary Donations collection from: **October 28<sup>th</sup> thru November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018. (Purchasing Turkeys)**  
(The food can be displayed in the table/crate in front of the sanctuary or in the fellowship room).



### **Be an Angel to Someone for Christmas: Angel Tree**

We will again be 'adopting' children to give them a joyous Holiday season. We will be getting 'Angel Tree' ornaments from The Salvation Army that will be placed on our Christmas tree for the taking. We will also again be hanging ornaments on the tree for our homebound members with needed/desired items. Watch for more information in your bulletins and December's Newsletter.

**“Loose Change To Make a Change”** jar for donations at the back of the sanctuary was taken to the bank and we'd accumulated \$53.92 to be taken to The Salvation Army. Great job sharing the wealth!

### **“Share the Warmth” Coat Giveaway Update:**

Our annual 'Share The Warmth' Coat Giveaway was once again a huge success! We ministered to 71 families giving away 103 coats, 7 blankets, many hats, scarves, pairs of shoes, & gloves as well as many children's clothes that came in the last week! We also donated 21 coats that had been here for a few years and not 'moved' to Community Aid where they will stay local. We also had our 'B.E.T.H. 'Washed Clean' Kit items available and offered them to guests who very thankfully depleted our supplies, proving that new ministry to be needed and a success!



Enormous thanks to Pastor Bill & Janet, Elaine Billhime, Betsy Blyler, Linn Chesney, Sharon Foust, Edie Getz, Dorothy Hower, Barb Huff, Mike Longenberger, Kathy Martin, Cindy Mohr, Rod Moore, Jimmy Shields, Dave & Joan Warburton for their hard work on the event and many, many thanks to all of the members who donated coats, clothes, money, and treats.

The **next meeting of the N.O.W. Committee will be Monday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** at Bethany. If you'd like to get involved in any of our exciting ministries and events, come on down!

## Equipping Vital Congregations

-By Kay L Kotan, Director of Equipping Vital Congregations ([www.equippingvitalcongregations.org](http://www.equippingvitalcongregations.org))

### What Does it Mean to be the Church?

A recent Barna Study produced some heart-breaking information. “Fifty-one percent of churchgoers don’t know of the Great Commission.” ([tinyurl.com/ya7dz7cg](http://tinyurl.com/ya7dz7cg)) In other words, more than half of churchgoers were not aware of the purpose for which the church exists. Churchgoers did not report knowing the church exists for the purposes of making (new) disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This surprising study not only causes reason for pause and reflections, but, it also explains why so many churches are not aligned, intentional, nor living out the purpose of making disciples in their churches.

Given the study results and the number of declining churches across the country, I thought it might be helpful to provide a top ten list to help us recognize if we are truly “being the church.” So, in the spirit of Jeff Foxworthy, here is your **“You Might Not Be the Church if...”**

- your church as no first-time guests and/or returning guests.
- your church has no new professions of faith.
- your church has more focus on the facility than the mission of making disciples.
- your church has no intentional faith development process.
- your church’s financial capacity is limited to building and salary expenses leaving nothing for ministry.
- your church is relying heavily on endowments.
- your church has a lack of competent, compelling, and contextual worship (regardless of style).
- your church as too few people to serve on required committees.
- your church is lacking community impact (becoming invisible in the community).
- your church lacks flexibility in shifting the vision to reach the neighborhood (contextual relevance).
- your church lacks alignment of all the church does with the mission (purpose) and vision (God’s preferred future for how your church uniquely makes disciples).

Recently, I discovered that 467 of our churches in the Susquehanna Conference had NO professions of faith in the past appointment year. Another 66 churches had only one profession of faith. In other words, approximately two-thirds of our churches had either zero or only one profession of faith. So, the very reason our church was planted (many times with great sacrifice and hard work) by our ancestors (to share the Good News with our neighbors) is not being accomplished by approximately two-thirds of our churches today.

For those of you who know me or have heard me speak, you know I am pretty upbeat and generally approach everything from a positive perspective. I share this information with you not from a cup two-thirds empty, but from a cup two-thirds full. Friends, we have work to do! There is so much potential! The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. There are more unchurched people than ever before in recent decades. Church is not about you and me. The church is to be the vehicle for which people come to know Christ. Church is not the building. The mission is sacred not the facility! The church is the people – both those who are already gathered AND those yet to be gathered. For this season, the Bride of Christ is under our care. We care called to be faithful to her in purpose, I am prayerfully challenging ALL of us to once again claim our purpose and go to work to make it happen as we have vowed to do through our UMC membership vow to “witness.” Let’s rally together, get back to our purpose, re-tool as needed, stop doing what isn’t effective, start doing what is fruitful towards our mission fulfillment, and make the church once again “the church” as it was intended.

## Bethany UMC Current Expense Income September 2018 Reports:

### BUMC Current Expense Income Sept. 2018

#### Envelope Income To Date---2018

		Envelopes	Reno.	Benev. (Price Fund)	Weekly Total	YTD
September	2	\$675.00		\$10.00	\$685.00	\$28,234.00
	9	\$786.00			\$786.00	\$29,020.00
	16	\$725.00			\$725.00	\$29,745.00
	23	\$996.00		\$40.00	\$1,036.00	\$30,781.00
	30	\$607.00		\$10.00	\$617.00	\$31,398.00

#### Plate Income To Date---2018

		Plate	Benev.	Weekly Total	YTD
September	2	\$15.00		\$15.00	\$2,635.00
	9	\$43.00		\$43.00	\$2,678.00
	16	\$120.00		\$120.00	\$2,798.00
	23	\$21.00		\$21.00	\$2,819.00
	30	\$1.00		\$1.00	\$2,820.00

#### Sunday School Income To Date---2018

		Weekly Total	YTD
September	2	\$10.30	\$469.95
	9	\$15.00	\$484.95
	16	\$11.00	\$495.95
	23	\$12.00	\$507.95
	30	\$12.00	\$519.95

#### Bethany UMC Miscellaneous Contributions 2018

Susquehanna Conference Tax Reimbursement
09/02/18----\$30.79
Everlasting Flower Fund
09/09/18----\$20.00
Susquehanna Conference St. Peter's Loan Acct. Closeout
09/16/18----\$902.16
Fire & Ice Campaign
9/30/18----\$80.00

## Daylight Savings Time Ends....



Daylight savings time ends – so don't forget Saturday night, November 3<sup>rd</sup> to turn those clocks back one hour.



## Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Mark choice of Color:  Red  Pink  White

Poinsettias are \$6.50 each

Deadline for ordering: **Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**. Please give your order with money to Shelly Sholley

## Lay Leader's Report

The Wilke Institute for Discipleship at Southwestern College (Winfield, KS) has announced that it will offer three new on-line Lay Ministry certifications in 2019, in the categories of children's ministry, spiritual formation, and evangelism. Each certification will be contingent on the completion of four courses over a year's time. Upon learning of these opportunities, I immediately (and successfully) applied to take the series on spiritual formation, and I now await further details on the timing and the requirements.

091818-101518

Rod Moore

## Fun Page

### Sudoku Time

#### How to play Sudoku:

The goal of Sudoku is to fill in a 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, row, and 3x3 section contain the numbers between 1 to 9. At the beginning of the game, the 9x9 grid will have some of the squares filled in. Your job is to use logic to fill in the missing digits and complete the grid. Don't forget, a move is incorrect if:

Any row contains more than one of the same number from 1 to 9

Any column contains more than one of the same number from 1 to 9

Any 3x3 grid contains more than one of the same number from 1 to 9

				4	3	5	7	
1	4				6		8	
6			7	8	9			
2	1	3				6		
7		4				9		5
		6				1	3	8
			9	2	7			1
	7		6				9	2
	9	2	5	1				

**BETHANY UMC**

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[miltonbethanyumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:miltonbethanyumcoffice@gmail.com)

**Website:**

[bethanyumc-miltonpa.org](http://bethanyumc-miltonpa.org)

**Sunday Worship:**

Lessons for Life: 9:00 am  
Gathering of the Family of God: 10:30 am

**PASTOR BILL**

670 Stamm Rd  
Milton, PA 17847  
717-968-3500 (Cell)  
570-246-5830 (Home)  
[pastorbill@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbill@gmail.com)

**Upper Room – Now Available**

November / December

**Daily Bread – Now Available**

December / January / February

**Announcements:**

**Dates to Remember:**

[Note: No regular scheduled Trustees Meeting for this month of November]

- Nov 4<sup>th</sup> - 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God / “Sharing the Table” Communion
- Nov 4<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 pm – Charge Conference @ Watsontown UMC
- Nov 5<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm – N.O.W. Meeting
- Nov 6<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 am – Milton Ministerium @ St Andrew’s UMC
- Nov 6<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 am –Worship Team Meeting (Note: Time change for November)
- Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 pm – Rockwell Communion
- Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am – [Deadline for Feed-A-Friend Donations]
- Nov 12<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 pm – Milton Harvest Community Dinner @ St Andrew’s UMC
- Nov 13<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm – Leadership Team (Ad Board)
- Nov 18<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am – [Deadline for Poinsettia Orders]
- Nov 18<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm – Movie Night “God’s Not Dead – A Light In Darkness”
- Nov 21<sup>st</sup> – 7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Service
- Nov 24<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 am – Hanging of the Greens Luncheon & decorate the church
- Nov 25<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am – United Methodist Student Day (Special Offering)
- Nov 27<sup>th</sup> – Noon – Riverwoods Auxiliary Luncheon @ Riverwoods

**Bible Study: 10:00 am every Tuesday, possibly ending Nov 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**Bible Study: 7:00 pm every Thursday, possibly ending Nov 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Rockwell Bible Study: 9:00 am every Thursday at Rockwell. (No meeting Nov 22)**

**Lessons for Life: 9:00 am every Sunday morning.**

**Gathering of the Family of God: 10:30 am every Sunday morning.**



A Thankful blessing that we can all worship our Lord Jesus Christ with one another and may you all have a blessed Thanksgiving with all your loved ones!!!

**Happy Thanksgiving!!!**



BETHANY UMC OFFICE  
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Nov.  
2018