

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



Volume 8, Issue 5

May 2021

Milton's Good News

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April – "At a Glance"

Looking back in April for Bethany, we started off with a joint Maundy Thursday Service "Live Last Supper" narrated by Pastor Bill and Good Friday Tenebrae Service with St Andrew's UMC. Easter Sunday, celebrating our resurrected Lord & Savior. Continued Leadership meetings with Poole & Anderson took place. Construction team onsite, roof shingles being installed, interior walls for rooms inside being constructed, plumbing and electrical work being done.

"The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." Matthew 28:5, 6 NIV)

Cheri Buss

National Day of Prayer

Special points of interest:

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2021 Theme: Lord Pour Out Your Love, Life, and Liberty

Our Dear Heavenly Father, while we come to You in complete humility, we also come to You with boldness in the authoritative name of Your One and Only Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In Jesus' name, fill us now with Your Holy Spirit and lead us as we pray in Jesus' name for America, our Communities, our Churches, and the Loss of the World.



Memorial Day



Monday, May 31st – Memorial Day

This Memorial Day we salute the brave men and women who served to protect our country.

Thank You and God bless!



From Pastor Bill's Study



Greetings to all,

"Healthy things grow. Growing things change. Change challenges us. Challenge forces us to trust God. Trust leads to obedience. Obedience makes us healthy. Healthy things grow..."

I heard this mantra many years ago and I am still struck by the truth within these words. I have preached on these words and if you remember we had the church decorated to bring out these sayings.

In the month of May there are many changes that are taking place all around us. The lawns are turning green along with the hillsides and the farmers fields. Each is on a cycle that is the work of God all around us.

In the time that I have been your pastor many things have changed with us as well. We have taken on new ministries, we have replaced some ministries and some have been dropped. We have gone through the heartbreak of lost loved ones and joy of new members joining with us in worship. We have lost our church building, and our watching as the new church is being rebuilt. We have battled through Covid and the changes that have been forced upon us.

Throughout all of this this phrase has been ever truer. We have been challenged, we have had to trust in God and each other, we have gained strength and stand strong for God.

All of this change comes about because of many factors working together. The flowers and things grow because God has provided soil, sunshine, rain and time so each thing grows. All around us we see the cause and effect of grow as each part of a cycle comes together.

I look upon my life and I see all the changes that I have been through. There have been two constants that have guided my life. God and My wife Janet. Without either one I would not be what I am today. Both have been with me throughout my life. I will have to confess that I have not always followed in the advice either has given me. Both have loved me and never given up on me.

I can never say enough about either one or the influence both have done for me. If not for the prayers of Janet I would not be here today typing this message. If Janet had not supported me in finances, spoken word, prayers, or Spiritual direction I do not know where I would be.

Throughout my Seminary studies, and weeks away from home she was the constant that held us together. Through the moves and the packing, organizing, and setting up she has carried more than the share of the work.

The miles she traveled for work so I could fulfill my duties of ministry were far more then what should have been but she did and maintained her career as well.

We now look upon our final move and again it is Janet who is taking the brunt of the work as we pack and prepare to move one more time.

Because of all of the change that has happened in my life it has also affected Janet. But because of her I have changed for the better.

If my change has affected you in anyway then give thanks to God and give a thanks to Janet as well. For without the both of them I would not have changed and so then you would not have changed and grown either.

Thank you, Janet, for the work you have done to help me grow. I pledge now to help you in our continued life together.

I Corinthians 3:6-7

Grow in Christ

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 May they are due: Sunday, May 9th, 2021.** 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

Here are May's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles. [The songs have been scheduled throughout June 2021.] **In person worship is back again, which will be held at West Milton UMC at 11:00 am (Use masks & keep safety guidelines). Sermons will also be posted on the website and Facebook.**

May 2nd - Hallelujah! What a Savior (165); Living for Jesus (2149); My Jesus, I Love Thee (172); Psalm 22:25-31; Revelation 16:1-21; *"Wrath"/ Communion*

May 9th (Mother's Day) - Spirit of the Living God (393); Living for Jesus (2149); Family Prayer Song (2188); Psalm 98; Revelation 17:1-18; *"The Women"*

May 16th (Ascension Sunday) - Come, Christians, Join to Sing (158); Living for Jesus (2149); Thy Word is a Lamp (601); Psalm 1; Revelation 18:1-24; *"The Fall"*

May 23rd (Day of Pentecost) - Spirit of the Living God (393); Living for Jesus (2149); Breathe of Me, Breath of God (420); Psalm 104:24-34; Revelation 19:1-21; *"Hallelujah"*

May 30th (Trinity Sunday) - To God be the Glory (98); Living for Jesus (2149); Seek Ye First (405); Psalm 29; Revelation 20:1-15; *"Satan's Doom"*

Leadership Team Report

The Team's April devotions were based on John 20:1-9 and were focused on what the followers of Jesus found inside His tomb on the day they went there to take care of His body. Particularly, the linen that had been placed over His head had been removed, carefully folded, and neatly laid aside instead of just being dropped in a crumpled heap. This was true evidence of His resurrection, since, aside from the sheer amazement of the whole scene, it rang immediately familiar to the disciples as a fulfillment of Jewish custom. The significance of the placement and condition of the cloth was in the way Jews understood master-servant tradition. While they had difficulty fathoming the Scriptures, they knew what had been "said" to them as they entered that burial site. In their custom, nobody would leave the dinner table until the master had left it. If he put his napkin down crumpled, it signified that he was done and not returning. If he folded it and put it on his plate, it meant he would be back. The cloth was Jesus' message from beyond the grave - "I am risen. I'll be back." We are witnesses to something similar today, within our own church. When firefighters emptied Bethany of its precious artifacts and ecclesial belongings on the day of its fire, great pains were taken to protect and preserve what we had cherished for so very long. We have never lost faith that we are coming back from that disaster, and the meticulous preservation of "things Bethany and things Christian" equates to the face cloth neatly folded, a sure sign of our return.

Late-breaking items that the Team discussed beyond what's in the Trustees Report below: We're in the process of obtaining quotes to replace the Parish House roof. A decision has to be made on contractor, material, and cost will be made shortly. Computation is working to supply computer and internet capability to the church proper. Per Conference mandate, but, more importantly, also in keeping with best welcoming practices, a booklet has been assembled for the incoming Allshouse family describing the Parsonage-readying preparations in detail.

Rod Moore

Farewell Retirement Luncheon in honor at Pastor Bill & Janet



Pastor Bill is retiring.....You are invited for Pastor Bill & Janet McNeal's Farewell & Retirement Luncheon on **Friday, May 21st, 2021 at 12:00 pm at Country Cupboard (Kelly Room) 101 Hafer Rd, Lewisburg PA [Masks are required]**

Buffet lunch will be provided so come all for great food & fellowship and to wish Pastor Bill & Janet well in their next chapter! (Country Cupboard will supply gloves at buffet table).

Asking members to contribute \$20.00 per person towards the meal and gift. If you are temporarily unable to contribute that amount, then any amount would be appreciated. Please mark your checks (Payable to Bethany UMC) or mark envelopes for the Pastor's Retirement Luncheon/Gift. **(See Attached Envelope).**

Please RSVP by May 14th, by calling the office at 570-742-9796 (Mon, Wed, Fri 9am- 12:30 pm)

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: May 2nd / June 6th



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

Sponsored by Bucknell University

Monday's Milton Harvest Community Meals are back! These will be pick up only meals on Monday's from 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm at St Andrew's UMC – Parking lot. Walk-in or drive-through only to pick up meals in the parking lot.

[Don't need volunteers, at this time]

Secret Prayer Pal – Update



Please keep the same Secret Prayer Pal you had for 2020 and we will draw new ones in July 2021. End of June 2021, your Secret Prayer Pal will be revealed and for those who would like to take part, in June 2021 there will be a slip of paper in the back of the sanctuary to participate in, simply fill it out and place in basket. Watch for more information. Forms will be available for May 2nd in your bulletin or by calling the church office (570-742-9796).

Watch the Messages....Our Website



You can now watch the sermons by Pastor Bill McNeal on our Website: bethanyumc-miltonpa.org – under the Watch the Messages tab. You may also view them each week via Facebook: [miltonbethanyumc](https://www.facebook.com/miltonbethanyumc). Let us stay connected during these uncertain times and pray for one another!

Revelation Sermon Series continues...

Wooden Prayer Crosses....



Eli Manges (Poole Anderson crew member), Eli's father, Nathaniel Manges made these wooden prayer crosses out of one of our old pews. If you would like one, please come into the office (Monday, Wednesday, or Friday 9am – 12:30 pm), to get one while supplies last.

We thanked Nathaniel & Eli and for what a wonderful gift this was to Bethany!

Hoagie / Pizza Fundraiser for Todd Hauck



Purchase \$6.00 hoagie and/or \$8.00 12" pizza coupons to help with expenses for Todd Hauck. Come to the church office to purchase your coupons and then redeem them at The Breaking Bread Sub Shop on 281 Hepburn St, Milton PA (Corner of Turbot & Hepburn) for your hoagie and/or pizza. Half the proceeds will go to Todd Hauck. Coupons are good until the end of June 2021.

[Coupons are here in the office or on Sunday's Service at West Milton UMC]

Thank You for your support!

Bethany UMC Current Expense Income March 2021 Reports:

	2021 Offering Envelopes					
Month	Date	Curr. Exp.	Price Fund	Reno	Total	YTD
March	7	1537	30		1567	7975
	14					7975
	21	1972	115		2087	10,062
	28					10,062

	2021 Plate Offering					
Month	Date	Curr. Exp.	Price Fund	Reno	Total	YTD
March	7	3			3	386
	14					386
	21	4			4	390
	28					390

	2021 UMC Special Sundays				
Month	Date	Curr. Exp.	Total	YTD	
March	7				
	14				
One Great Hour of Sharing	21	3,030	3,030	3,030	
	28				

	2021 Miscellaneous Income			
March				281.98
Initial Offering (\$1), Lenten Offering (\$5,096)	7	5097	5097	5378.98
	14			5378.98
Fuel & Cool Fund(\$20), Lenten Offering(\$125.00)	21	145	145	5523.98
	28			5523.98

	2021 Fire Restoration Fund			
Month	Date	Reno	Total	YTD
March	7			3615
	14			3615
	21	100	100	3715
	28			3715



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

Total Income Received: \$11,933.19

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$18,077.67

Average Attendance: 18

Bethany Fire Update: (Follow building progress on FaceBook & Website)



Roof shingles / siding are going up. Inside drywall being installed, plumbing, electrical work being done.

Total Income Received (March): \$130,884.61

Total Expenses Paid Out (March): \$479,932.16 / Balance: \$1,503,556.12

Thank you to Dennis & Virginia Lucas, Mike & Willa Stewart, Nathaniel & Kristen Manges, and Cindy & Harold Mohr who recently donated to the Fire Restoration.



Trustees Report

Although I am not able to participate in the meetings with the architect and construction manager, it's obvious that the rebuilding is moving along nicely now. The roof on the south side is complete and the north side looks about 75% complete at this time. I've heard the work crews have made significant progress on the inside also.

We've also made quite a bit of progress in preparation for the parsonage changeover from the McNeals to the Allshouse family. The roofing material, gutters and downspouts have been chosen and the signed contract and down payment has been sent to Hillside Roofing. Jay Buck completed the new railing around the stairs leading from the garage to the basement and enclosed the stairs leading from inside the house to the basement. Flooring for the laundry room has been chosen and we are waiting for Carpetman to come measure the room. Now that we know move dates (McNeals move out June 7 and the Allshouses move in June 11) we've been in contact with Servpro to clean the house. They will be scheduling a walk-through of the house in the near future and then submit a proposal.

Here is the quarterly report of the financial assets of the Trustees. The following balances (rounded) are as of March 31 (unless noted otherwise):

- Hudock Capital Group (Pershing) - \$559,706 – a decrease of \$41,915 from the last quarter. We withdrew \$50,000 for current expenses this quarter, predominantly to meet our required apportionments with the Conference.
- Hudock Capital Group (Pershing) – Fire Insurance Fund - \$332,711 – which only increased \$8 in the last quarter. These funds are invested in secure government backed treasuries which are currently gaining very little interest.
- Prudential Investments - \$696,358 – an increase of \$12,442 from the last quarter – this is our 'in lieu of flood insurance' account.
- Prudential Investments – The Raudenbush Trust - \$95,190 – a decrease of \$3,710 from last quarter.
- Prudential Investments - \$8,737 – an increase of \$74 from the last quarter
- BNY Mellon – The Butler Trust – \$236,284 – an increase of \$6,196 which includes the quarterly disbursement of \$2,200 which helps with current expenses. Note: the quarterly disbursement has been reduced by the Trust Advisors due to market conditions and projections.
- Milton Savings Bank – Fire Restoration Fund – Current Balance (March 5) - \$1,961,007 – a decrease of \$481,329 from the last quarter. All expenses related to the rebuilding of the church are being drawn from this account.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

Our Prayer List.....

Transition of new appointed pastor & family for July: Pastor Travis & Jessica Allshouse

Transition for Pastor Bill & Janet for their journey into retirement.

Florence Y – Cancer surgery/recovery & Thomas Y – Lou Gehrig's disease diagnosis.

Cindy & Short M – Cindy's cancer recovery from surgery.

Jeff S (Jamie's nephew) – Health / diabetes.

Richard W – Health

Terrie & Todd H – Continue prayers for recovery.

Sarah H – Future long-term care needs.

Katy M – Health / Kidney

Those dealing with Cancer – Cindy, Florence, Thomas, Dan, Mandy, Terrie, Gary, David, Rita, Doug, Debbie,

Shirley

Rita P – Geisinger with pneumonia.

Julia – Health / Positive covid results

Patti & Bill S - Health

Jeff B - Depression

Judy C – Health / Recovery Surgery

Thomas Family – Loss of Gary Thomas.

Sarah (Niece) Recovery from thyroid surgery.

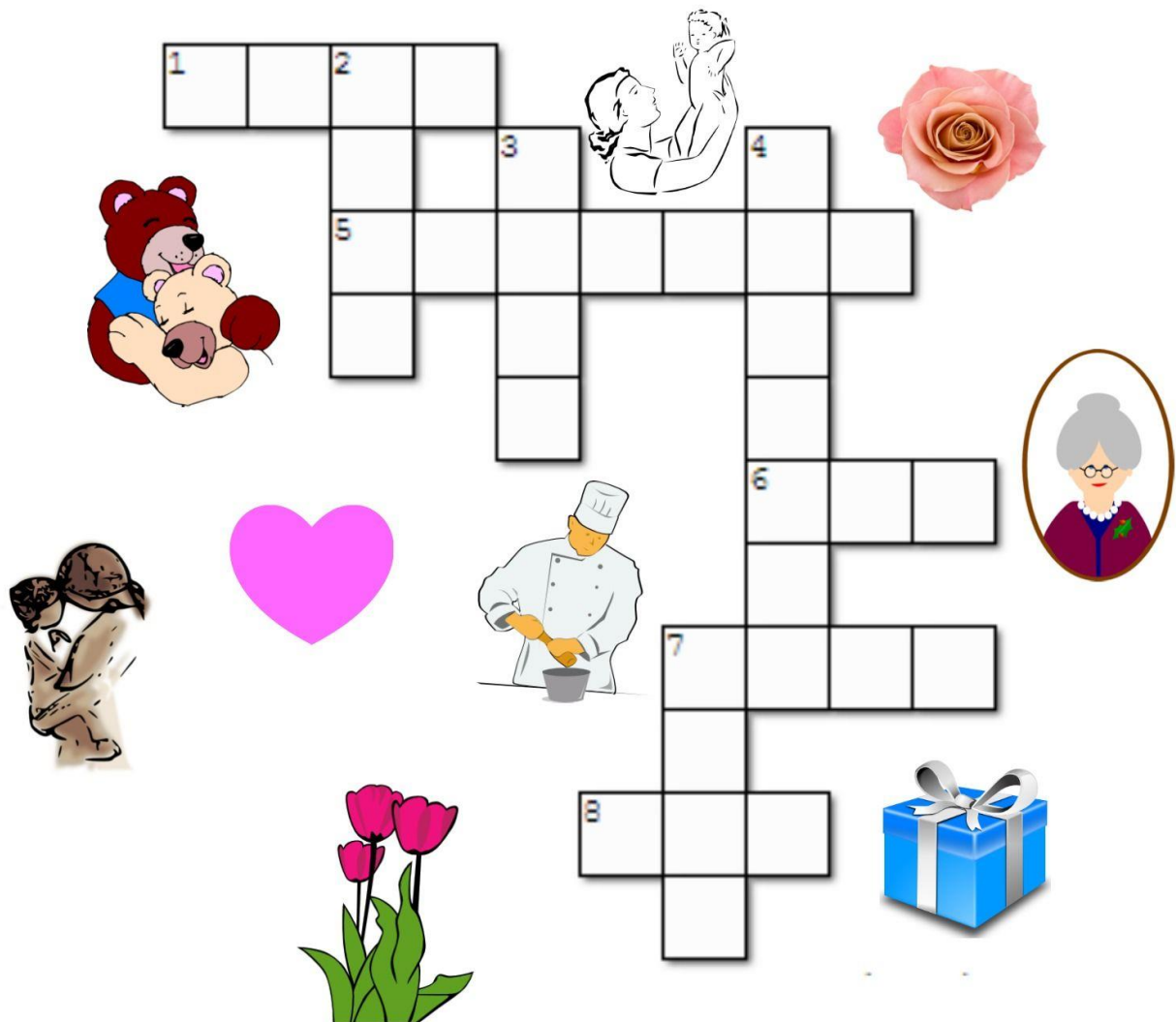
Bethany Congregation / Restoration & reopening business / Churches.

Leadership Team: Cindy, James A, Rod, Shelly, Bob F, James M, Dick K, Dave W, Mike L, Dorothy, Pastor Bill.



Fun Page

Mother's Day Crossword Puzzle

**Across**

1. I love ____ and kisses from my mom.
5. Mom plants _____ in her garden
6. Happy Mother's ____.
7. I will make my mom a Mother's Day ____.
8. ____ is short for mother.

Down

2. This is another word for a present.
3. I ____ my mom.
4. I call my mom's mom and my dad's mom ____.
7. My mom is a great _____. I love everything she makes.

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

May / June

Daily Bread – Now Available

May / June / July

Announcements:**Dates to Remember:**

[We will not be meeting for Lesson for Life (Sunday School) until further notice.]

[Cheri, Adm Asst. will be out of the office April 28th – 30th]

April 29th - 10:30 am - Leadership Team W Poole Anderson

May 2nd – 11:00 am -- Gathering of the Family of God

“Sharing the Table” Panther Packs / Communion

May 2nd – 2:00 pm – Rockwell Communion

May 6th – National Day of Prayer

May 9th – 11:00 am – Happy Mother’s Day

May 13th – 10:30 am – Leadership Team W Poole Anderson

May 16th – 11:00 am – Ascension Sunday

May 17th – 9:00 am – Pastor’s Cluster Meeting @ St Andrews

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

May 21st – Noon – Farewell Retirement Luncheon (Pastor Bill & Janet) @ Country Cupboard (Kelly Room)

May 23rd – 11:00 am – Day of Pentecost

May 27th - 10:30 am - Leadership Team W Poole Anderson

May 30th – 11:00 am – Trinity Sunday (Peace with Justice – Special Offering)

May 31st – Happy Memorial Day (Office Closed)

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



Sunday, May 9th, 2021

To all the women out there who gave birth, nurtured, and adopted God’s children, bless you and have a wonderful Mother’s Day!



**BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847**

May
2021