

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: 9:00 am

REV. BRIAN LUCAS

1035 Sunset Dr
Milton, PA 17847
570-351-1619 (Cell Number)
570-742-2000 (St Andrew's UMC-Office)

lucas@susumc.org

Upper Room – Now Available


May / June

Announcements:

Dates to Remember:

- May 2 – 8:00 am – Church Yard Sale @ St. Andrew's
- May 3 - 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Communion
11:30 am – Fellowship Meal @ St Andrew's
- May 7 – 6:30 pm – National Day of Prayer by Milton Ministerium/Bethany UMC
- May 10 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Happy Mother's Day
- May 17 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
6:00 pm – Calendar Party @ St Andrew's
- May 19 – 6:00 pm – Leadership Team Meeting (Office)
- May 24 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
- May 25 – Happy Memorial Day [Office Closed]
- May 30 – 3 pm – 7pm – Block Party @ St Andrew's
- May 31 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God [Special Offering-Peace with Justice]
10:15 am – May Birthday Celebrations
- June 4 – 6th – Susquehanna Conference @ Community Arts Ctr, Williamsport
- June 7 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Communion
- June 14 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
- June 21 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Happy Father's Day
- June 21 – 11:45 am – Combined Family Church Picnic @ St. Andrew's
- June 22-25 – 1 – 3 pm - Vacation Bible School @ St. Andrew's UMC
- June 28 – 9:00 am – Combined Breakfast @ Bethany UMC
10:30 am – Combined Worship with St Andrews @ Bethany UMC
11:30 pm - June Birthday Celebrations

Every Sunday Worship (Gathering of the Family of God) at 9:00 am, but June 28th at 10:30 am

 BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

May / June
2026

Bethany United Methodist Church

"A Church with the Heart of Christ in the Heart of Milton"

Volume 13, Issue 5 & 6

May & June 2026



Milton's Good News

March and April "At a Glance"

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Looking back in March and April for Bethany, March we were in the Lenten Season and every Wednesdays Soup & The Word at First Presbyterian Church. Bethany & St Andrew's provided soup on April 1st. There was a combined breakfast and Palm Sunday Worship at St Andrew's. April we started off Holy Week and a combined Maundy/Good Friday Service at St. Andrew's. Celebrated Easter the first Sunday of April. Bethany ended each month by celebrating the March and April birthdays after church with cake and coffee. **Thank you Betsy Blyler and Barb Huff** for the cakes.

"⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, love for God⁶ is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did." 1 John 2:5-6 (NIV)
-Cheri Buss



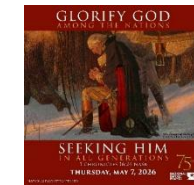
Church Yard Sale



St Andrew's is having a Yard Sale on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at St. Andrew's UMC.

From: 8 am – 2:00 pm

National Day of Prayer -- May 7, 2026



*"Tell of His glory among the nations,
His wonderful deeds among all the peoples."
1 Chronicles 16:24 NASB*

**6:30 pm – Prayer by The Milton Ministerium
(Held at Bethany UMC)**

Honoring Memorial Day



Monday, May 25th – Memorial Day

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

Thank You and God bless! [*Church Office – Closed today*]

Annual Conference Mission Central Collection

Every year the generosity of our Annual Conference is such a blessing. This year the churches in our conference are being asked to help in filling in the gaps for two kits that Mission Central volunteers prepare and ship. The items needed have been spread out across the various districts. **The Northern Wilds district (ours) is collecting soap and clippers.** The clippers should be metal, and both fingernail or toenail clippers are acceptable (no individual nail files or emery boards) The soap should be 2.5 oz or larger, and still in packaging (no Ivory, Jergens or Lisa brand soaps as they dissolve in transit). Plastic totes are available at both churches for collecting these items. **Please bring in your donation by May 31st, bin in Fellowship Hall.**

Special points of interest:

- "At a Glance" (pg 1)
- Yard Sale (pg 1)
- National Day of Paryaar (pg 1)
- Honoring Memorial Day (pg 1)
- Mission Collection (pg 1)
- Leadership Reports (pg 2)
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- Calendar Party (pg 4)
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- Fun Page (pg 7)



From Pastor's Study

"Wild Spirit"

Dear Friends,

Have you ever tried to catch the wind? This morning, watching my wind chimes dance wildly in the breeze, I was reminded that the Spirit is equally uncatchable. We can hear it, feel its effects, see the evidence of its movement – but we can never quite pin it down or predict where it will blow next.

As we approach Pentecost on May 24th, I'm struck by how often we try to tame what God intended to be wild. We like our faith orderly, predictable, manageable. We create programs, schedules, and committees (and trust me, as a United Methodist, I appreciate good organization!). But the Holy Spirit seems to have a different approach entirely.

Look at what happened on that first Pentecost in Acts 2: "Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them." There's nothing tidy about violent wind and fire. The bystanders didn't know what to make of it – some thought the disciples were drunk! The Spirit showed up in a way nobody expected and turned everything upside down.

I think about the sci-fi fans among us (myself included) who know the famous line from Jurassic Park: "Life finds a way." The Holy Spirit is a bit like that – always finding a way through our carefully constructed barriers, our comfortable routines, our neatly boxed-in expectations of how God should work.

Jesus himself told Nicodemus, "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). Even Jesus used the untamable nature of wind to describe the Spirit's work. We can't control it. We can only position ourselves to receive it.

And isn't that both terrifying and wonderful? Terrifying because we like control. Wonderful because a God who can be fully controlled by human beings isn't much of a God at all. The wild Spirit reminds us that God is always bigger than our plans, always more creative than our imaginations, always more loving than our hearts can fully grasp.

So what does it look like to open ourselves to this wild Spirit in our daily lives?

It might mean saying yes to an unexpected invitation to serve

It might mean starting a conversation you've been avoiding

It might mean letting go of your five-year plan and asking God, "What's your plan?"

It might mean sitting in silence long enough to hear the wind blow

John Wesley, our Methodist forefather, experienced this wild Spirit himself. His heart was "strangely warmed" at Aldersgate – not logically convinced, not theologically persuaded, but strangely warmed. There's that beautiful wildness again, working not through the mind alone but through the whole person.

As we move into summer, when schedules loosen and routines shift, perhaps we have a unique opportunity to let the Spirit blow a little more freely through our lives. What might happen if we loosened our grip on control just a bit? What wild and beautiful thing might God do if we stopped trying to direct the wind and simply opened our sails?

Come, Wild Spirit. Blow through our lives, our church, our community. Disrupt what needs disrupting. Ignite what needs igniting. And carry us wherever you please.

Open to the wind,

Pastor Brian

P.S. On Pentecost Sunday, May 24th, wear red and come ready for a worship experience that just might be a little "wild" by our usual standards. You won't want to miss it!



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 and June they are due: Sunday, May 10 & June 14, 2026. You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Brian at blucas@susumc.org. Thank You!

Fun Page....



SUMMER TIME



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| C | X | F | N | R | L | R | C | C | B | A | J | H | S | H | E | A | T | D | K |
| S | A | N | D | C | A | S | T | L | E | B | R | S | E | D | A | H | S | F | S |
| I | N | I | K | I | B | Q | S | R | N | O | C | O | B | Z | M | Z | S | N | R |
| S | J | K | B | V | E | A | B | O | I | H | A | M | M | O | C | K | U | F | I |
| M | A | L | N | P | N | T | L | S | E | S | S | A | L | G | N | U | S | K | J |
| V | Y | Q | Z | D | B | E | O | V | O | W | K | H | H | A | P | K | A | A | L |
| X | W | Y | A | K | M | S | O | P | A | P | V | T | W | P | P | C | U | M | P |
| P | A | L | O | R | V | C | P | R | I | C | O | A | I | G | I | G | U | S | C |
| J | S | L | E | W | N | A | D | S | Q | X | A | P | E | U | N | X | U | U | I |
| Z | F | T | E | X | E | M | S | U | Y | W | X | T | S | Q | S | E | Q | N | N |
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| A | Q | R | H | C | C | E | R | B | L | H | A | G | R | L | N | L | V | W | P |
| O | J | T | S | E | S | U | D | P | G | L | N | S | E | Q | G | F | E | Z | S |
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| I | A | D | R | A | U | G | E | F | I | L | Z | Q | B | X | Q | S | L | A | G |

Word list:

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| BEACH | LEMONADE | SAND | SUNDRRESS |
| BIKINI | LIFEGUARD | SANDALS | SUNGLASSES |
| CAMP | PARK | SANDCASTLE | SUNSCREEN |
| FISHING | PICNIC | SEASHELLS | SUNSHINE |
| HAMMOCK | POOL | SHADE | SWIMSUIT |
| HEAT | POPSICLE | SUN | VACATION |
| ICECREAM | RELAX | SUNSET | WATERMELON |



Bethany UMC Current Expense Income Feb & March 2026 Reports:

Financial Secretary's Report: February 2026

| Date | Offering Envelopes | Plate Offering | Fuel & Cool | Mifflinburg CD | Totals |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 02/01/26 | \$666.00 | \$45.00 | \$0 | \$0 | \$711.00 |
| 02/08/26 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 02/15/26 | \$1,083.00 | \$23.00 | \$10 | 31,870.57 | \$32,986.57 |
| 02/22/26 | \$270.00 | \$29.00 | \$0 | \$0 | \$299.00 |
| Totals | \$2,019.00 | \$97.00 | \$10.00 | \$31,870.57 | \$33,996.57 |

Financial Secretary's Report: March 2026

| Date | Offering Envelopes | Plate Offering | Price Hardship | Totals |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 03/01/26 | \$1,323.00 | \$90.00 | \$100.00 | \$1,513.00 |
| 03/08/26 | \$800.00 | \$15.00 | \$25.00 | \$840.00 |
| 03/15/26 | \$338.00 | \$96.00 | \$0 | \$434.00 |
| 03/22/26 | \$205.00 | \$125.00 | \$25.00 | \$355.00 |
| 03/29/26 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Totals | \$2,666.00 | \$326.00 | \$150.00 | \$3,142.00 |



Finance Report (Feb & March 2026 Current Expenses In & Out):

February 2026

Total Income Received: \$2,126 Contributions + (Bank Interest \$18.56) + (Investments CD \$31,870.57) = 34,015.13
 Total Expenses Paid Out: \$13,872.76
 Average Attendance: 14

March 2026

Total Income Received: \$3,142 + (Bank Interest \$4.12) = \$3,146.12
 Total Expenses Paid Out: \$15,863.75
 Average Attendance: 19

ON line Giving by QR CODE:
 Use camera and will take you to giving site.



On line Giving by Givelify

Bethany UMC now has an online giving available, on Face Book and our Website, just click the link and now you can give online to Bethany UMC. Thank you for your donations. Go to this link: <https://giv.li/qoirj1>
 Or use QR Code above.

Happy Mother's & Father's Day 2026



May 10, 2026

To all the women and men out there who nurtured and adopted God's children; bless you and have a wonderful Mother's Day and Father's Day!



June 21, 2026

Trustees Report



Trustee items in process or completed:

- The new door between the social hall and the kitchen has been installed. The window should alleviate the potential safety hazard of someone being hit with the door.
- Nevin Martin of Komplete Lawn Care took on the task of cleaning out the basement. The job has been completed and the basement looks much better.
- The annual required testing of the back flow preventer on the water supply lines has been completed by Keiser's Plumbing.
- Although Zimmerman Electric thought they had repaired the Center Street exterior lighting, recently the lights along the sidewalk were not working again. Upon investigation the breaker had tripped. The team from Zimmerman came and found a problem with the wiring underground and repaired it. They tried to repair the auxiliary heater in the basement, but could not. They will order a new one and install it later.
- The new conference table and chairs for the Roderic Moore Conference Room in the office has been ordered and is expected to be delivered in early May.
- Spirit Sprinkler recently completed the inspection and testing of the sprinkler system at the church.
- After many years of faithful service keeping the lawn looking nice, Mike Longenberger had to step away from that responsibility. The torch has been passed to Dave Warburton. Thank you Mike for all your years of service and thanks to Dave for his willingness to take on the task.

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

- Hudock Capital Group (Pershing) – General Investment Account -\$350,458 – an increase of \$3,132 from the last quarter.
- Hudock Capital Group (Pershing) – Parsonage Escrow Account -\$323,178 – a decrease of \$1,822 since opening the account earlier in the year.
- Prudential Investments - \$916,531 – a decrease of \$17,703 from the last quarter – this is our 'in lieu of flood insurance' account.
- Prudential Investments – The Raudenbush Account - \$99,963 – a decrease of \$1,474 from last quarter.
- BNY Mellon – The Butler Trust – \$252,172 – a decrease of \$10,780. We received a disbursement of \$4,383 during the quarter.
- Central Penn Bank CD - \$75,000 - The 18-month term of the \$100,000 CD at Central Penn Bank (formerly Mifflinburg) ended February 12. A new 18-month CD in the amount of \$75,000 at 3.70% interest was started and the residual funds of approximately \$31,000 was deposited in the checking account for current expenses.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

May and June Worship Schedule 2026



- Sunday, May 3** – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / **Communion**
- Sunday, May 10** – 9:00 am - Gathering of the Family of God / Mother's Day
- Sunday, May 17** – 9:00 am - Gathering of the Family of God
- Sunday, May 24** – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / **Pentecost (Wear Red)**
- Sunday, May 31** – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
 [Peace with Justice Sunday – Special Offering]
- 10:15 am – May Birthday Celebrations**
- Sunday, June 7** – 9:00 am -Gathering of the Family of God / **Communion**
- Sunday, June 14** - 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
- Sunday, June 21** - 9:00 am - Gathering of the Family of God / Father's Day
- Sunday, June 28** – **9:00 am – Combined Breakfast @ Bethany UMC**



- 10:30 am – Combined Worship with St Andrew's @ Bethany UMC**
- 11:30 am – June Birthday Celebrations**

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

Cancer Survivor



Sunday, June 7, 2026 is National Cancer Survivors Day and Bethany wants to honor our members surviving with cancer:

**Cindy Mohr
Nora Stuart
Shirley Wesner**

**Anna Pyle
Barbara Huff**

Stay after worship on June 1st at 10:15 am, for some Donuts and Coffee to honor our Cancer Survivors.

Calendar Party @ St. Andrew's UMC

You're Invited to the Calendar Party!

Sunday, May 17th | 6:00 PM | St. Andrew's UMC Social Hall

What do snowflakes, fireworks, falling leaves, and fresh-baked pie all have in common? You might just find them all under one roof at our **Calendar Party** — a one-of-a-kind evening that celebrates every month of the year in a single, unforgettable night!

Open Invitation

This celebration isn't just for St. Andrew's — our friends at **Bethany UMC** are warmly invited to join us! The more, the merrier. Spread the word and let's fill every seat at every month of the year.

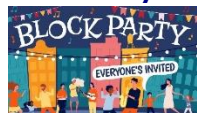
When: Sunday, May 17th at 6:00 PM

Where: St. Andrew's UMC Social Hall

Cost: Absolutely free!

Who: Parishioners of St. Andrew's UMC and Bethany UMC

Block Party @ St. Andrew's UMC



On May 30, 2026, from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm will be a Block Party at St. Andrew's.

Watch for more information in your bulletins.

This block party takes a village, and **we need YOU**. Whether it's flipping hot dogs, running a game, scooping sno-cones, or painting tiny faces, there's a place for you to serve. Members of both **St. Andrew's UMC** and **Bethany UMC** are encouraged to roll up their sleeves and help make this day unforgettable for our community.

Interested in volunteering? Please reach out to **Pastor Brian** or **Deb Haulman** for service opportunity.

Combined (Bethany & St Andrew's) Church Family Picnic



Bethany & St. Andrew's will have a combined Family Church Picnic on Sunday, **June 21, 2026 at St. Andrew's Pavilion at 11:45 am.**

Watch for more details in the worship bulletins.

Vacation Bible School @ St. Andrew's UMC



St. Andrew's UMC is have a Vacation Bible School from **June 22nd through 25th. Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.** If you wish to help out with this ministry, please contact St. Andrew's at 570-742-2000.

Leadership Team Report.....

The March meeting of the Bethany UMC Leadership Team took place on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm. The following persons were present: Cindy Mohr, [Jamie Aurand](#), Amy Snyder, and Rev. [Brian Lucas](#).

Pastor Brian opened the meeting with prayer and a devotional.

The minutes of the last meeting, and the various reports, were approved on a motion by [Jamie Aurand](#) with a second by Amy Snyder.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A bid from Huffman's Office Equipment for a table and eight chairs for the conference room was discussed. A motion to purchase the 9'4" table and chairs was made by [Jamie Aurand](#) and seconded by Amy Snyder.
- Guardian has visited the church regarding our request for some upgrades to the video surveillance system but has not yet submitted a quote.
- A motion to rescind a prior motion to purchase an AED system was made by Amy Snyder and seconded by [Jamie Aurand](#). The team feels that without interested persons receiving training, it would be useless to have the tool.
- Uneven sidewalk: Amy Snyder suggesting contacting Groundworks in Shamokin Dam.
- Old Christmas Tree: It was reported that Pastor [Travis Allshouse](#) had been offered the tree but declined. St. Andrew's will be having a yard sale on May 2 and it was suggested that the tree be offered to them to sell.
- Old sound equipment and piano: Pastor [Brian Lucas](#) stated that he had not had the opportunity to go through the equipment yet, however he spoke to an individual who said the best thing is to try to sell on Facebook Marketplace, but since the technology changes so quickly, it might not be worth much. [Jamie Aurand](#) stated that once the tree is removed from the closet, the piano will be moved out into the fellowship hall.
- The team was informed that the annual audit report has been completed with the assistance of two individuals from St. Andrew's, and it showed that all things balance.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Our date to cohost the "Soup and the Word" with St. Andrew's is rapidly approaching. Cindy Mohr will be contacting Carol Layton to see how the work can be divided between the two churches.
- It was reported that [Darren Stitely](#) will be having hand surgery the beginning of May and would need some time off. Various options were discussed and Pastor Brian will discuss them with Darren and report back to the team.
- Pastor Brian directed the team's attention to the section of his report regarding using an electronic giving system called "Givelify." This was supported by a motion by Amy Snyder and seconded by [Jamie Aurand](#).
- [Jamie Aurand](#) reported that the fire alarm system is being monitored and we are current in paying for it. Spirit Sprinkler will be contacted to conduct a test of the system in the coming weeks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. [Brian Lucas](#), Pastor

Our Prayer List.....

Concerns:

Mike L – Health

The Family of Joanne Aurand – Joanne passed away on March 3rd.

Bob F – Recovery from surgery / Health

Barb H – Recovery from Carpal Tunnel Surgery and doing well.

Lynn L – Recovery from brain bleed and healing.

Elias A. – (Pastor Travis & Jessica's son) – Heart Surgery in June.

Anna P – Continued prayers for cancer treatments / health / vision loss

Nora S. – Cancer / Treatments (Joy – Good results on her recent Pet Scan)

Family/friends with Cancer: Anna P, Nora S., Dot (Judy's neighbor); Becky B (Lucas' friend).

Leadership Team: Cindy, Jamie A, Bob F, Amy S, Mike L, and Pastor Brian.



Elwood P - Foot