

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



Volume 8, Issue 2

February 2021

Milton's Good News

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January – "At a Glance"

Looking back in January for Bethany, due to covid increase worship & Lessons for Life (Sunday School) was postponed and returning on January 17th. Continued Leadership meetings with Poole & Anderson. Construction team onsite, roof demo work completed.

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. ³It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. ⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

(3 John 1:2-4 NIV)

-Cheri Buss

Ash Wednesday Service

Bethany UMC and St. Andrew's UMC will be joining together for Ash Wednesday Service on **Wednesday, February 17th** at 7:00 pm. The service will be held at St. Andrew's UMC, 102 Lower Market St, Milton PA.



Special points of interest:

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The Word: Virtual Lenten Messages



The Word

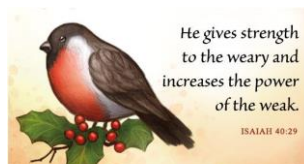
Wednesday Weekly Lenten Virtual On-line Messages

Begins Wednesday, February 24th, 2021

Due to the covid pandemic this year we will not gather for soup and the Word, but will have an on-line virtual message by local area pastors each week.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker by:</u>
February 24 th	TBA
March 3 rd	TBA
March 10 th	TBA
March 17 th	TBA
March 24 th	TBA
March 31 st	TBA

Send Encouragement Cards to Todd:



Magee Rehabilitation
C/O Todd Hauck
 1513 Race St, Room 508
 Philadelphia PA 19102



From Pastor Bill's Study



Greetings to all,

What a wonderful month is February, the shortest month but there is a lot going on. The last storms of winter and the hope of spring with March just a few days away. We get a few holidays thrown in for our enjoyment with maybe some time off as we observe Valentine's Day, Presidents Day, and of course we have Groundhog Day to tell us how early Spring will arrive. Not to break anyone's bubble but either way it is six weeks until Spring starts anyway.

If we look at the bible the shortest Book of the Bible is, do you know as the suspense builds. Yes, if you guessed 3rd John you are correct, if not it is back to Sunday School for you.

In just a few words, 219 in fact John writes to his friend Gaius to encourage him for all he is doing and to praise him for his good works as well. John also was trying to help his friend steer away from what was wrong. He told him not to imitate what is evil, but to follow what is good. This is still good advice for us today.

In the world of today we can be led astray by ideas and ideals that may sound right but go against the will and the way that God teaches and by the example of Christ that show us the way to live our lives.

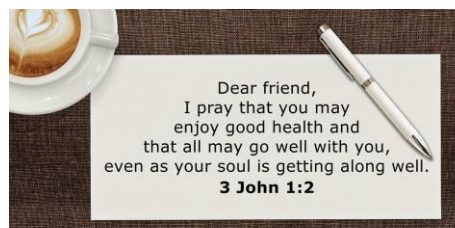
John even says he has much to share with his friend but instead of words he wants to meet with him and share in person what he has to say. Today as well there is much to say about the world, we live in but are we saying or doing anything about it. We speak about each other but do we speak to each other. It is easy with a crowd mentality to tear down and destroy but then who is there to rebuild and maintain what is left. If we are followers of Christ then we need to be the peacemakers who are putting into action the love of Christ for the world.

Again, like February on the surface it is just a short month with a lot happening, so is 3rd John just a short book with a lot of good advice in it for those who call themselves Christians. It is not just what we say but it is what we do that people will remember.

We live in a world that demands action so I pray your actions lead people to see Christ and to seek Christ. Amen

Psalm 121
Know Hope,

Pastor Bill



Lenten Bible Study...



There will be a six-week Lenten Bible Study "**Last Week of Christ's Life**" offered at two different times, one on Tuesdays at 10:00 am and one on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. The Lenten Study will start on Tuesday, February 23rd and Wednesday, February 24th. All are welcome and please take part and reflect in this Lenten Bible Study.

Location will be discussed.



Worship Team “Gathering of the Family of God” Report

Here are February'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.**

February 7th – Immortal, Invisible (103); People Need the Lord (2244); Take Time to Be Holy (395); Psalm 147:1-11; Revelation 6:1-17; *“The Seals”* / Communion

February 14th (Transfiguration Sunday) – Jesus Shall Reign (157); People Need the Lord (2244); Battle Hymn (717); Psalm 50:1-6; Revelation 7:1-17; *“Sealed”*

February 21st – Spirit Song (347); People Need the Lord (2244); Come, Thou Almighty King (61); Psalm 25:1-10; Revelation 8:1-13; *“Trumpets”*

February 28th – Where He Leads Me (338); People Need the Lord (2244); Lord of the Dance (261); Psalm 22:23-31; Revelation 9:1-20; *“Judgements”*

Leadership Reports...

All Committee/Leadership Reports need to be handed into the church office or pastor, by the second Sunday of each month. **For February they are due: Sunday, February 14, 2021.** You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Bill at pastorbill@gmail.com. Thank You!

Leadership Team Report

The Team's January devotions were based on the beneficence of God and why and how often we may be taking His blessings for granted. Sometimes it's because we trust in the presence of something – or someone – or rely on the existence or the unseen promise of a certain set of conditions. Too many times in life we fall back on cold logic, the power of human reason, or best-case expectation when we should be looking to the guidance and will of God. Many times we believe we did something without remembering that it was actually the doing of our watchful, caring, and provisioning Father. We were asked to think about some things in our lives that, though our initial impulse is to think of them as the joyful outcome of pure circumstance, are, at the very core, blessings from the Lord of us all. We have been gifted with good health and the resilience to return to it when we momentarily lose part of it. We have kept jobs, maintained means, and enjoyed pleasant social balances in very trying times. We have seen great progress, and have often played a part in making it possible. We have something when we might have had nothing. We have so much to be thankful for, and so much to be in awe of – and God has managed it all, birthing it solely out of His love for us. Is that a beautiful thing to keep in your heart, or what?

Here are some things that the Team recently learned in connection with our post-fire restoration:

The church is now under contract for the security system, the audio-visual system, and the pews and chairs that are to be installed in the renovated Bethany. New tables and chairs for the refurbished fellowship area are being studied. Bids for them are coming in to the architect.

The old flooring in the church will be removed. Hopefully, the resulting lumber can be sold, which will help offset the cost of the new floor. We do have a lead on a purchaser.

During the latest phases of the construction work it was discovered that the north and south walls of the main sanctuary are slightly different heights, which will require remediation through new concrete leveling before trusses for roofing can be put up. The trusses are already being made.

Rod Moore

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: February 7th / March 7th

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.

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...

Thank You Notes....



Dear Rod & Bethany UMC, Thank you for the beautiful red poinsettia. It will brighten my dining room and my spirits for a long time. Happy New Year!
- Dorothy Hower

To My Friends of the UM Church, I want to thank you for the beautiful Poinsettia and candy you sent out to me. Thank you for the cards. I miss being in church and also miss seeing all of you. It has been a different kind of year, but we will survive.
Thanks again,
- Sincerely, Thereasa Hinderliter

Dear Bethany UMC, Thank you all for thinking of me at Christmas and for the gifts.
-Sincerely, Peggy Shellenberger

Dear Congregation of Bethany UMC: Thank you so much for your very generous donation of 7 tubs of food to the Panther Packs Ministry at St. Andrew's UMC.
-Mary Richie, Treasurer St Andrew's UMC

Church Auditors Needed:

Please contact Pastor Bill if you could help audit the 2020 church records beginning in February 2021.



Pastor's Office Hours

Pastor Bill's office hours will be by appointment only until further notice. You can reach him at 717-968-3500 or email pastorbill@gmail.com to schedule an appointment. Thank You!

Bethany UMC Current Expense Income December 2020 Reports:

Envelope Income To Date---2020

		Current Expense	Reno	Benev. (Price Fund)	Miscell	Weekly Total	Year To Date
December	6	\$245.00		\$15.00		\$260.00	\$38,171.00
	13	\$459.00		\$65.00		\$624.00	\$38,795.00
	20	\$1,159.00		\$15.00		\$1,174.00	\$39,969.00
	27	\$227.00		\$15.00		\$242.00	\$40,211.00
	31	\$857.00				\$857.00	\$41,068.00

[In house worship was cancelled for December 2020]**Plate Income To Date---2020**

		Plate	Known Givers	Benevolences (Price Fund)	Weekly Total	Year To Date
December	6	\$0				\$1,859.93
	13	\$0				\$1,859.93
	20	\$0				\$1,859.93
	27	\$0				\$1,859.93

Lessons For Life Income To Date---2020

		Weekly Total	Year To Date
December	6	\$0	\$315.00
	13	\$0	\$315.00
	20	\$0	\$315.00
	27	\$0	\$315.00

Bethany UMC Miscellaneous Contributions 2020

	Totals
Advent Offering	
12/6/20 - \$100.00	
12/13/20 - \$100.00	
12/20/20 - \$10.00	
12/27/20 - \$10.00	\$5,405.00
Fuel & Cool Campaign	
12/27/20-\$200.00	\$3,360.00
Verizon Utility Overpayment Reimbursement	
12/6/20--\$13.99	\$13.99
Poinsettia Dedications	
12/20/20-\$16.00	
12/31/20--\$20.00	\$192.00
United Methodist Student Day---11/29/2020	
12/7/20--\$210.00	\$210.00

Fire Restoration Fund Income To Date---2020

		Known Givers	Anonymous	Weekly Total	Year To Date
December	6				\$19,205.78
	13	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	\$20,205.78
	20				\$20,205.78
	27				\$20,205.78
	31	\$500.00		\$500.00	\$20,705.78

Please contact the office if you would like the complete Year 2020 totals of contributions. Thank You!

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

Total Income Received: \$3,624.30

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$12,083.53

Bethany Fire Update: (Follow building progress on FaceBook)



Roof demo is completed and now repairs to structure before roof trusses can be installed.

Total Income Received (Dec): \$1,878.82

Total Expenses Paid Out (Dec): \$44,997.35

Thank you's to David Nickey, First Baptist Church of Lewisburg, Nancy Shockley, Harold & Cindy Mohr Jr, Jim & Kelly Sheele, Karen Harvey, and Marlin Haurer Jr who recently donated to the Fire Restoration Fund.



Trustees Report

We've put 2020 in the rear view mirror. Although it was a crazy year with the pandemic and the political upheaval, after a big drop early in the pandemic, the financial markets rebounded quite well. Here is the quarterly report of the financial assets of the Trustees. The following balances (rounded) are as of December 31 (unless noted otherwise):

- Hudock Capital Group (Pershing) - \$601,621 – an increase of \$48,884 from the last quarter.
- Hudock Capital Group (Pershing) – Fire Insurance Fund - \$332,703 – 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 - \$683,916 – an increase of \$54,696 from the last quarter – this is our 'in lieu of flood insurance' account.
- Prudential Investments – The Raudenbush Trust - \$98,900 – an increase of \$1,877 from last quarter.
- Prudential Investments - \$8,663 – an increase of \$575 from the last quarter
- BNY Mellon – The Butler Trust – \$230,088 – an increase of \$20,233 which includes the quarterly disbursement of \$2,625 which helps with current expenses.
- Milton Savings Bank – Fire Restoration Fund – Current Balance (Jan. 5) - \$2,442,337 – a decrease of \$168,633 from the last quarter. This is the account that the majority of the insurance settlement and any donations went into and all expenses related to the rebuilding of the church are being drawn from.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

Our Prayer List.....

Dave W – Eye Cataract recovery
 Todd H – Fell, broken neck / recovery
 Karen H – Health
 Patti S – Health
 Donna G – Health/ Cold
 Dick K – Fell, Broken knee cap
 Sarah H – Health / Nursing Home
 Judy C – Health / Back
 Bob F – Health / Recovery
 Katy M – Health / In hospital
 Cheryl Messner Family (Pastor Bill's sister) – Passed away 12/24.
 Tom Y – Home now, recovering from pneumonia & Florence Y - Health
 Dan & Suki – Dan's cancer & support for Suki
 Those who lost loved ones.

George Family (Tina & Wendy) – Richard passed away 1/13/2021.
 Dale F – Serious eye injury
 Lontz Family – Passing of Mary Bell
 Debbie D - Cancer
 Sharon F - Health
 Jeff B - Depression
 President / Country / Nation
 Covid 19 / Elderly / Nursing Homes
 Passing of Doug Baumwoll (Shelly's friend)
 Janet M – Eye Cataract recovery

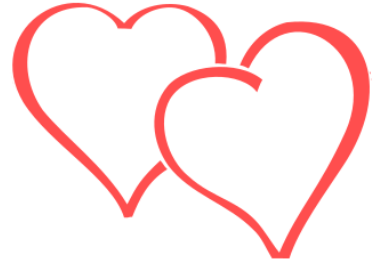


Those dealing with Cancer – Dan, Mandy, Terrie, Gary, David, Rita, Doug, Ann, Debbie, Shirley
 Bethany Congregation / Restoration & reopening business / churches.

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

Fun Page

Valentine's Day Word Search



Circle each word in the Valentine's Day word search puzzle below.

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

1: HEART

6: POEM

11: FLOWERS

2: CUPID

7: CHOCOLATE

12: PINK

3: CARD

8: CANDY

13: SWEETHEART

4: VALENTINE

9: KISS

14: GIFT

5: LOVE

10: ROSE

15: HUG

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

January / February

Daily Bread – Now Available

January / February / March

Announcements:

Dates to Remember:

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

Feb 4th – 10:30 am – Leadership Team W Poole Anderson

Feb 7th – 11:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Panther Packs / Communion

Feb 15th – 9:00 am – Pastor's Cluster Meeting @ St Andrews

Feb 16th – 6:30 pm – Leadership Team (Ad Board / Finance) @ West Milton UMC

Feb 17th – 7:00 pm – Ash Wednesday Service @ St. Andrews

Feb 18th - 10:30 am - Leadership Team W Poole Anderson

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

Lenten Bible Study: 10:00 am (Beginning on February 23rd)

Lenten Bible Study: 7:00 pm (Beginning on February 24th)



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

Feb
2021