

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

Volume 5, Issue 12
December 2018

Milton's Good News

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November– "At a Glance"

Looking back on November for Bethany; started off with our Church Conference held at Watsontown UMC. Had another movie night with the showing of "God's Not Dead – A Light In Darkness". A Thanksgiving Eve Service and a Hanging of the Greens & Luncheon weekend.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)

- Cheri Buss

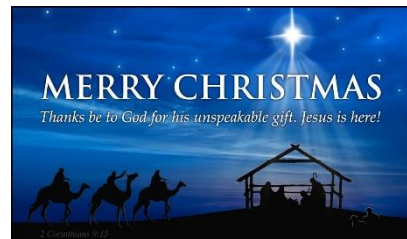
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from your Staff...

Pastor Bill McNeal

Janet McNeal

Roderic Moore

Cheri Buss



Karen Heimbach

Shelly Sholley

Ed Coup

Special points of interest:

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Christmas Eve Prayer Vigil

Christmas Eve Prayer vigil will be held on Monday, December 24th from Noon – 6:00 pm. to keep Bethany Church in prayer. Sign up for time slots and come and pray over the leaders, congregation, church, community, country, and needs of Bethany UMC.

Sign up for 15 minutes, half hour, or more (sheet located in the back of the sanctuary) Keep prayer chain going.



Cookie/Candy Sale

Bethany UMC will have a Cookie/Candy Sale on Saturday, December 8th from 9:00 am – Noon. Proceeds will benefit Vacation Bible School Program. Also some Christmas decorations, as well, for sale. These make great Christmas gifts for your loved ones.

Candy Mint Making: Wednesday, December 5th at 10 am & 6 pm

Set up for Cookie Sale: Friday, December 7th at 6:30 pm

Cookie Sale: Saturday, December 8th at 9am - Noon

Please sign up to make some cookies/candy and to help volunteer for candy making, set-up, & the day of the sale.

We thank you in advance!





From Pastor Bill's Study

Greetings to all,

December 2nd begins a new church year as we begin the Advent season. The meaning of advent is the appearance, arrival, or coming of an event. We will be in the second Advent season as we await our second coming of the Christ as our savior.

The four Sundays before Christmas are usually celebrated with the traditional services of Love, Hope, Joy and Peace. We will still honor that tradition but I would like to take you on an adventure as we look at a sermon series based on "*Christmas is not your Birthday*".

This series is Biblical based and looks at Christmas not as a commercial event but one of seeking understanding and experiencing the joy of living and giving like Jesus.

The five week series will lead us to see Christmas in an old way. That is to say not one of material gain or loss but one of understanding as our role as Christians and followers of Christ.

The first lesson will be from Isaiah 7 and will speak to expecting a miracle. Do we look at Christmas as a day to remember Christ and to expect his return?

The second lesson will be from Luke 1 and it brings to focus our trying to make Christmas a perfect experience but we have a few problems to work out yet.

The third week will look at Hosea 3 and a study of what true love is and how we should be giving it all the time.

The fourth week will be based on Matthew 25 and will look at our wish list and Christ's wish list and how they may be different.

Christmas Eve will be a traditional candle light service with the reading of The Christmas story from Luke 2.

The last Sunday of December will be from Matthew 2 and will be a stepping stone approach to how we can start our New Year in a way to make it a year that is new.

Throughout the month of December there will be many special events both at our church and within the community I pray we may go as a witness to Christ and of Bethany church.

I also want to make a quick note to all within the church that because of the loss of our janitorial services we are trying to maintain the church ourselves and those who are undertaking it know can surely use your help. If you see a mess please help clean it up and tidy up after yourself by picking up your bulletins and papers before you leave the church.

Also, please if anyone can donate an hour or so on Fridays to run the sweeper or a dust cloth your help would be greatly appreciated just let me or Cheri know so we can coordinate dates and time to the best advantage.

Merry Christ with Us

Luke 2:11

Pastor Bill

Worship Team “Gathering of the Family of God” Report

The following is the work of the Worship Team which met on Tuesday, November 6th. Here are December’s songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles.

December 2nd – I Know Whom I Have Believed (714); His Eye Is on the Sparrow (2146); Hail to the Lord’s Anointed (203); Psalm 25:1-10; Isaiah 7:10-14; *“Miracle”* / **Communion**

December 9th – Have Thine Own Way, Lord (382); His Eye Is on the Sparrow (2146); It Came upon the Midnight Clear (218); Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:26-34; *“Not Perfect”*

December 16th – There’s a Song in the Air (249); His Eye Is on the Sparrow (2146); Love Came Down at Christmas (242); Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (229); Isaiah 12:2-6; Hosea 3:1-3; *“Real Love”*

December 23rd – Angels We Have Heard On High (238); His Eye Is on the Sparrow (2146); O Little Town of Bethlehem (230); Silent Night, Holy Night (239); Micah 5:2-5a; Matthew 25:31-43; *“Wish List”*

December 24th (Christmas Eve) 7PM – Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (89); Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (229); O Little Town of Bethlehem (230); Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (240); The First Noel (245); Angel We Have Heard on High (238); What Child Is This (219); Silent Night, Holy Night (239); Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 2:1-20; *“Shepherd”* / **Communion & Candle Lighting**

December 30th – Go, Tell It on the Mountain (251); His Eye Is on the Sparrow (2146); Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (240); Psalm 148; Luke 2:41-52; *“Lost and Found”*

Christmas Eve Service

December 24th – 7:00 pm – Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at Bethany UMC (Communion will be offered)

Bethany UMC wants to invite you all to celebrate our Savior, Jesus Christ! Bring your family & friends.



Leadership Team (Ad Board) Report....

The Board received information on the Bethany Shares of Ministry for 2019 as calculated by the General Committee on Finance and Administration, and we note that the amount due to Conference will increase by about 4.5% over 2018.

We are considering grouping our Special Sundays collections for 2019 so that instead of giving on six separate occasions we will give to (say) three at one time and detail to Conference how much of our total donation is to go to each of the Sundays we intend it to cover.

It is now established that Vacation Bible School 2019 will again be a three-church cooperative venture between Bethany, Trinity Lutheran, and Christ Evangelical Lutheran. We are currently working to set dates for the event that do not conflict with the VBS plans of other area churches.

We have learned that the Milton Panther Packs program has started to distribute meals to as many as 300 children per week, up from the 284 we’ve been targeting until now. So we’re increasing our requests for donations to 300 each of fruit cups and individual boxes of cereals.

We have announced to the Lewisburg District that it is our intention to move our church’s leadership into the Simplified Accountability Structure of governance, starting in January 2019 with training and education in that area.

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 300 children per week, of fruit cups and individual boxes of cereals, increased up from the 284 we've been targeting. Please bring in those items of the first of the month for **"Sharing the Table"**. **Next Food Collection Communion Dates: Dec 2nd / Jan 6th**

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

There will be a Milton Harvest Community Dinner on **Monday, December 3rd** 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 9th 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. Also need (3) volunteers to help serve. Servers report at 4:45 pm. Please sign up.

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.**

Secret Prayer Pal

If you would like to be someone's secret prayer pal throughout the year of 2019; (to pray for them, send them encouraging notes & birthday cards in secret) here is how you can get involved.

End of December 2018, your Secret Prayer Pal will be revealed and for those who would like to take part in this next year for 2019, 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 in the bulletin.



Angel Tree



Be an Angel to Someone for Christmas: Angel Tree

We will again be 'adopting' children to give them a joyous Holiday season. Six (6) children Angel Tree' ornaments from The Salvation Army (**Unwrapped gifts with Angel Tag**) & eleven (10) homebound members church ornaments gifts (**Wrapped**) that will be placed in the sanctuary, for the taking. Place gifts under tree.

(Unwrapped with Angel Tag) Deadline for Angel Tree (children) gifts: Sunday, Dec 9th.
(Wrapped) Deadline for Homebound members gifts: Sunday, Dec 16th.

Movie Night

Free Movie Night will be held on December 16th at 6:00 pm with the showing of "The Nativity Story". Refreshment will be provided, invite your family & friends!



Lay Leader's Report

I have completed enrollment in BeADisciple.com's first certification course in spiritual formation, which is identified as IFDC-220, is entitled "Spiritual Disciplines for Personal and Parish Renewal" and is scheduled to run for six weeks from January 21 through March 1, 2019. I have already obtained the three textbooks necessary for it.

On November 12 I traveled to the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg to visit with friends on their staff and to attend an appreciation dinner for supporters of the institution. We know that the commonalities of purpose that we share with the Lutheran churches in the Milton Ministerium have borne a great deal of healthy fruit through such cooperative ventures as VBS and Community Dinners, and I would add that my friendships with the people of LTSG have been some of the most vital and valuable interdenominational experiences I've had over the past several years.

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Rod Moore

Events Happening in the Area

[Please see the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary for more details on these events]

December 31st – 10:00 pm – Watch Night Service held at AME Church, 232 Willow St, Milton PA. Pastor Bill and Pastor Cindy will be leading this service and refreshments to follow service. All are welcome to attend!

February 2nd, 2019– 1:00 pm – Securing & Protecting Our House of Worship (3-Hour Seminar packed with info! Instructed by a retired FBI Unit Chief / Volunteer Firefighter, with over 30 years experience. Will be held at Christ Wesleyan Church. (Watch for more information and Flyer) (Snow date: Feb. 9th)

Advent Offering Envelope

Dear Bethany Family,

Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. This year Advent starts on December 2nd, 2018. This is a time for preparation, anticipation and hope. We find ourselves in preparation for the Christmas season with all of its traditions and meanings. We anticipate the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. And we look with hope for the second coming of Christ.

In preparation for the Christmas season, many of us try to find the perfect gift in order to give to someone. This giving of gifts has become part of the season's tradition, much like the wise men bringing gifts for the Christ child. The joy of giving brings feelings of peace and comfort. Your Finance Committee would like you to prayerfully consider giving a gift to your Church. Your Advent offering can help ease our current expense needs and routine costs. Please use the enclosed Advent envelope to bring your gift to church on, or before, Christmas Sunday, or mail it to Bethany United Methodist Church, Attn: Shelly Sholley, 18 Center Street, Milton, PA 17847.

We thank you in advance for your continued financial support.

May Hope, Joy and Peace be with you and your loved ones during this beautiful time of year. And may we continue to pray for God's love to warm the hearts and lives of all humankind.

Sincerely,
Your Finance Committee



Bethany UMC Current Expense Income October 2018 Reports:

BUMC Current Expense Income October 2018

Envelope Income To Date---2018

		Envelopes	Reno.	Benev. (Price Fund)	Weekly Total	YTD
October	7	\$924.00		\$20.00	\$944.00	\$32,342.00
	14	\$1,135.00			\$1,135.00	\$33,477.00
	21	\$630.00			\$630.00	\$34,107.00
	28	\$930.00		\$40.00	\$970.00	\$35,077.00

Plate Income To Date---2018

		Plate	Benev.	Weekly Total	YTD
October	7	\$22.00		\$22.00	\$2,842.00
	14	\$285.00		\$285.00	\$3,127.00
	21	\$10.00		\$10.00	\$3,137.00
	28	\$7.00		\$7.00	\$3,144.00

Sunday School Income To Date---2018

		Weekly Total	YTD
October	7	\$9.00	\$528.95
	14	\$12.00	\$540.95
	21	\$9.00	\$549.95
	28	\$11.00	\$560.95

Butler Trust Contributions 2018

January 7, 2018---	\$2,625.00
April 8, 2018---	\$2,625.00
July 8, 2018---	\$2,625.00
October 7, 2018---	\$2,625.00
Yearly Total: \$10,500.00	

Bethany UMC Special UM Sunday Contributions 2018

World Communion Sunday-----10/07/2018
10/7/18---\$266.00

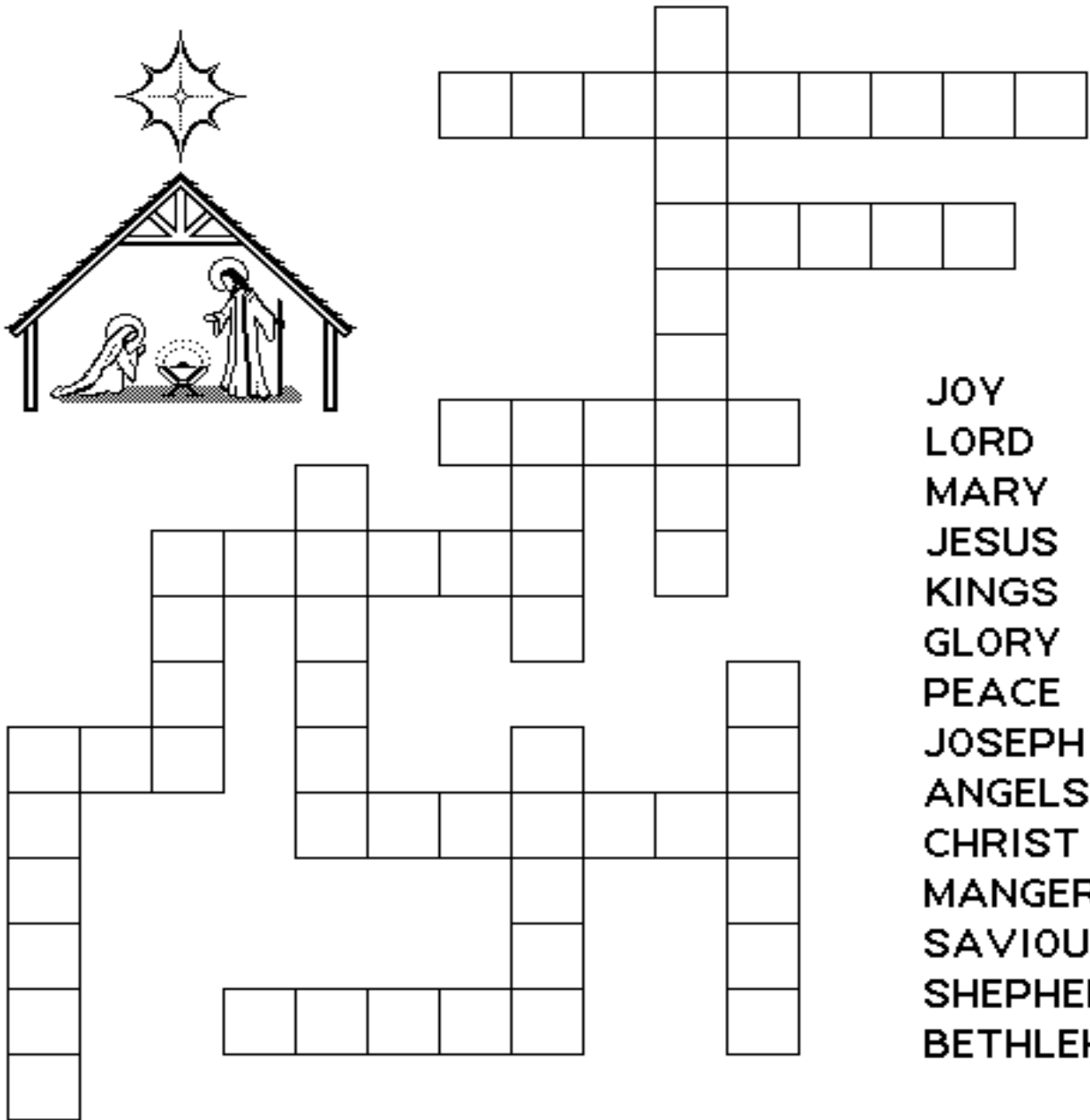
Bethany UMC Miscellaneous Contributions 2018

Fire & Ice Campaign
10/07/18---\$2,600.00
10/14/18-----\$100.00
CROP Walk
10/07/18---\$105.00
10/14/18-----\$73.00
Santander Account Closeout
10/14/18-----\$.82
Community Dinner Donation
10/14/18-----\$20.00
Salvation Army Loose Change to Make a Change Collection
10/14/18-----\$53.92
"Our Daily Bread" Donation
10/21/18-----\$20.00

Fun Page

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.



JOY
LORD
MARY
JESUS
KINGS
GLORY
PEACE
JOSEPH
ANGELS
CHRIST
MANGER
SAVIOUR
SHEPHERDS
BETHLEHEM



Christmas Blessings!

Peace – Joy – Love – Hope

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

BETHANY UMC

107 S. Front St.
Milton, PA 17847
(570) 742-9796

miltonbethanyumcoffice@gmail.com

Website:

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

Upper Room – Now Available

November / December

Daily Bread – Now Available

December / January / February

Announcements:**Dates to Remember:**

[Note: No regular scheduled meetings for Leadership (Ad Board) & Trustees for this month of December]

Nov 20th – 10:00 am – Bible Study (1st & 2nd Peter)

Nov 21st – 7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Service

Nov 24th – 9:00 am – Hanging of the Greens Luncheon & decorate the church

Nov 25th – 10:30 am – United Methodist Student Day (Special Offering)

Nov 27th – Noon – Riverwoods Auxiliary Luncheon @ Riverwoods

Nov 29th – 6:30 pm – Planning Meeting for Community Dinners @ Christ Lutheran

Nov 29th – 7:00 pm – Bible Study (1st & 2nd Peter)

Dec 2nd – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God / “Sharing the Table” Communion

Dec 2nd – 2:00 pm – Rockwell Communion

Dec 3rd – 5:00 pm – Milton Harvest Community Dinner @ St Andrew's UMC

Dec 4th – Noon – Milton Ministerium @ Revival Tabernacle

Dec 5th – 10:00 am & 6:00 pm – Mint Candy Making Sessions

Dec 7th – 6:30 pm – Set-Up for Cookie/Candy Sale

Dec 8th – 9:00 am – Noon – Cookie/Candy Sale

Dec 9th – 10:30 am – [Deadline for Children's Angel Tree Gifts] Unwrapped w tag

Dec 9th – 5:00 pm – Community Dinner @ Christ Lutheran

Dec 11th – 1:00 pm – Worship Team Meeting (Note: New Time change)

Dec 16th – 10:30 am [Deadline for Homebound Members Gifts] Wrapped

Dec 16th – 6:30 pm – Movie Night “The Nativity Story”

Dec 24th – Noon – 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Prayer Vigil

Dec 24th – 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service (Communion & Candlelight)

Dec 26th – Office Closed

Dec 31st – 10:00 pm – Watch Night Service @ AME Church

Rockwell Bible Study: 9:00 am every Thursday at Rockwell. (No meeting Dec 27)

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

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



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

Dec

2018