

Milton's Good News

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November – "At a Glance"

November a time for remembering those who went with the Lord (All Saints Day), a time for honoring our Veterans, Hanging of the Greens, which began with the decorating of the church to prepare for this Advent/Christmas Season, following with a fellowship meal, a time of giving of food to help feed the hungry, a time for giving thanks to God and family for the blessings we do have.

-Cheri Buss

"A devotion from the Pastor's desk..."

LUKEWARM PEOPLE do not live by faith; their lives are structured so they never have to. They don't have to trust God if something unexpected happens--they have their savings account. They don't need God to help them--they have their retirement plan in place. They don't genuinely seek out what life God would have them live--they have life figured and mapped out. They don't depend on God on a daily basis--their refrigerators are full and, for the most part, they are in good health. The truth is, their lives wouldn't look much different if they suddenly stopped believing in God.

- Francis Chan

Special points of interest:

- Be a Santa (pg 4)
- "Sharing the Table" Communion Dates (pg 4)
- Advent Bible Study "Down to Earth" (pg 5)
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"And he told them this parable: The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God" ([Luke 12:16-21](#); see also [Hebrews 11](#)).

Jesus is counter-cultural. I say this because I know many of you who read that paragraph above come from an upbringing where a savings account and a retirement plan were ingrained into you. It would be irresponsible to not have such things. However, Jesus did not teach or instruct on responsibility as we know. When Jesus taught about responsibility, it was that we have the responsibility to serve God and serve our neighbors with everything that we have. It would be irresponsible or selfish to hoard away a savings while others struggled to find enough to eat. You see the world teaches us over and over that we have to take care of ourselves, no one else will look out for us, except for maybe family but even that has limitations. God, on the other hand, promises us that He will provide for our every need if we simply live faithfully with Him. An "on fire" Christian is willing to drain all of their accounts and sell off their possessions, because they know that God will provide. They trust that God will provide and don't live in fear of the future. It's a risk, but so are all relationships, this one just happens to have the greatest possible return.

Traditional Worship Team Report

The following is the work of the Traditional Worship Team which met on Tuesday, October 4th. Here are November's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles.

December 4th – 2nd Sunday of Advent – God the Sculptor of the Mountains (2060); Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (196); O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (211); Heralds of Christ (567); *Matthew 3:1-12*, "Down to Earth Humility"; **Communion**

December 11th – 3rd Sunday of Advent – Here I Am, Lord (593); O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (211); Once in David's Royal City (250); Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (224); O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (57); *Luke 1:47-55, Matthew 11:2-11*, "Down to Earth Lifestyle"

December 18th – 4th Sunday of Advent – The Gift of Love (408); O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (211); Angels from the Realms of Glory (220); Go, Tell It on the Mountain (251); O Little Town of Bethlehem (230); *Psalms 80, Matthew 1:18-25*, "Down to Earth Obedience"

December 24th – Christmas Eve (4:00) – What Child Is This (219); It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (218); O Come, All Ye Faithful (234); There's a Song in the Air (249); Silent Night (239); *Psalms 96, Luke 2:1-20*, "Down to Earth God"; **Communion**

December 24th – Christmas Eve (8:00) – Sing We Now of Christmas (237); Away in the Manger (217); In the Bleak Midwinter (221); Christmas Hallelujah (insert); Silent Night (239); *Psalms 96, Luke 2:1-20*, "Down to Earth God"; **Communion**

December 24th – Christmas Eve (11:15) – Angels We Have Heard on High (238); Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (240); The First Noel (245); Joy to the World (246); Silent Night (239); *Psalms 96, Luke 2:1-20*, "Down to Earth God"; **Communion**

December 25th – Christmas – O Come All Ye Faithful (234); O Holy Night (insert); God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (insert); Little Drummer Boy (insert); *Psalms 98, Hebrews 1:1-12*, "God Came Down to Earth"; **Communion**

Contemporary Worship Report:

The Contemporary Worship Team met on November 16th plan for December's worship services. We are excited to continue to gather for worship together and especially excited to start singing Christmas songs in celebration of the birth of our Savior! We hope to see you there! Here's a look and the songs and sermon titles for the month of December:

December 4th – Majesty; From the Inside Out; God With Us; All the Poor and Powerless; I Celebrate the Day; *Matthew 3:1-12*; "A Down to Earth Kind of Humility"

December 11th – Everything and Nothing Less; Ever Be; Healing Rain; Hungry; Mary Did You Know; *James 5:7-10*; "A Down to Earth Kind of Lifestyle"

December 18th – I Surrender; Called Me Higher; Your Grace is Enough; Starry Night; What Child is This; *Matthew 1:18-25*; "A Down to Earth Kind of Obedience"

December 24th – (Christmas Eve) Mary Did You Know; What Child is This; Angels We Have Heard On High; Oh, Come All Ye Faithful; Silent Night; *Luke 2:1-20*; "Down to Earth"

December 25th – Hark the Herald Angels Sing; Go Tell it on the Mountain; I Celebrate the Day; Adore Him; Joy to the World; *John 1:1-14*; "Earth Meets Heaven"

Lay Leader's Report

My Lay Speaker qualification courses are nearing an end. I have completed the District's personal evaluation sessions with my submission of two trial formats for leading full traditional services, I recently finished a two-week online course on leading public prayer, and I'm better than halfway through my final online course on Spiritual gifting.

Cindy Mohr, Dorothy Hower, Jamie Aurand and I attended a six-hour Conference-sponsored Discipling workshop gathering at First Church Williamsport on October 29. There were mass-attendance worship services at the beginning and at the end of the day, with something like a dozen workshops offered in between in morning and afternoon sessions. For the most part, each of us attended a different workshop by pre-arrangement with the organizers.

The study course called "Unbinding the Gospel" ended for all three groups of Bethany leaders with final identical sessions on November 14, 17, and 20. The next part of the "Unbinding" series will be open to all members of the church and will take place in the Spring of 2017.

The Bible study of the Book of Zechariah ended on November 15. This was a course written by Pastor Damien. There were 7 attendees at the six weeks of sessions. I led one class in Pastor's absence.

It was my pleasure to conduct the full Communion-inclusive Contemporary worship service on Sunday, November 6 in the absence of the Pastor. In the process, I delivered the sermon that the Pastor had already composed for the evening.

Bethany's first-ever Trunk or Treat Halloween community candy offering was a success. Following Contemporary services on the evening of October 30, and with Borough of Milton permission and the help of their signage, we blocked off Center Street between Elm and Front, parked several of our cars in that area and proceeded to dispense candy to all comers. The turnout was good, considering the damp weather and the fact that we were far from the only Trunk or Treat venue around that weekend.

The Bethany organ was given a scheduled tune-up on November 9. The technicians encountered no problems at that time, and, in fact, had already repaired the chime mechanism just a few weeks prior. So our faithful instrument is now in top condition for the winter.

101816-111516

Rod Moore

Trustees' Report.....

Renovations to the basement continue. The walls are painted and the floors are completed in the new restrooms and kitchen. The plumbing fixtures and ceiling will be installed by the time this newsletter is printed and distributed.

The Trustees recently approved the continued renovation of the basement. The Social Hall will have new paint, flooring, lighting and ceiling. In addition, the stairway will have new paint and stair treads. The old kitchen is in the process of being removed, including the old paneling on the walls. The floor, which is structurally not sound in the old kitchen, will be removed. A new concrete floor with drainage underneath to handle any storm water will complete the project.

The Trustees are still considering options for possible renovations to the Parish House first floor for additional office space. As requested last month, since no definitive decisions have been made, please continue to pray for guidance to the Trustees in this important decision.

Submitted by, Jamie Aurand

“Sharing the Table”



“Sharing the Table” 2016 / 2017 Schedule (Sponsored by Mission/Outreach Ministries)

“**Sharing the Table**” is a way you can help those in need every month by bringing in canned goods and non-perishable food items for the local food bank.

The first Sunday of the every month during Communion Service we will be collecting food.

Next Food Collection Communion Dates: December 4th / January 1st / February 5th / March 5th

Be a Santa to our Home Bound Members

Be a Santa to our Home Bound Members

Add a Home Bound Member to your Christmas List.



- 1) Select a church ornament tag from one of our Home Bound Members.
- 2) Purchase gifts for the member from the gift ideas listed on the church ornament tag.
- 3) Place purchased items along with the church ornament tag attached and place in the collection box.

From: **Sunday, Dec 4th through Sunday, Dec 18th.**

Final gift collection for Bethany's Home Bound Members: December 18th.

Missions / Outreach....

Milton Panther Packs Program (New Mission: Monthly)

Bethany UMC Mission Committee and St Andrew's UMC will be looking to expand the Milton Panther Packs Program to help provide weekend food items for elementary students in need in the Milton Area School District.

Bethany UMC will be in charge of providing 120 Fruit Cups, which equals ten donations of a 12 pack of fruit cup for each month.

Please bring in your (12 pack) of Fruit Cup and place in the box located in the back of the sanctuary.

Milton Community Dinner

There will be a Community Dinner on **December 11th at 5:00 pm**. Location: Christ Evan. Lutheran Church.

Looking for Clean-Up Volunteers and to provide 16 cans of Cranberry Sauce and 4 large jars of Applesauce. Please sign up on the sheet in the sanctuary or by calling the church office at 570-742-9796.

Community Dinners are between Bethany UMC, Christ Evan. Lutheran, Trinity Evan. Lutheran, United in Christ Lutheran, and New Hope Ministry Center HandUp Foundation to feed low income people in need.

Next Community Dinner Meeting will be in Thursday, January 12th 2017 at 6:30 pm at Christ Evan. Lutheran Church.

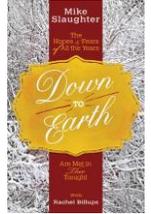
Advent Bible Study – “Down to Earth” by Mike Slaughter

Advent Bible Study “Down to Earth” by Mike Slaughter. (4 weeks)

Offering two different times:

Tuesdays starting Nov. 29th at 10:00 am OR Thursdays starting Dec. 1st at 7:00 pm.

A virgin birth. God’s son...a helpless baby. Fleeing certain death. Nothing about the Christmas story is ordinary. Mike Slaughter says it’s enough to confound the mind and make the heart contrite. In his book, *Down to Earth*, Slaughter presents a four-week Advent study that opens up God’s Christmas surprise to us and examines how it changed everything.



Please sign up now on the sheets in the sanctuary or by calling the church office at 570-742-9796.

Advent Offering Envelope

Dear Bethany Family,

Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. This year Advent starts on November 27, 2016. 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 your 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

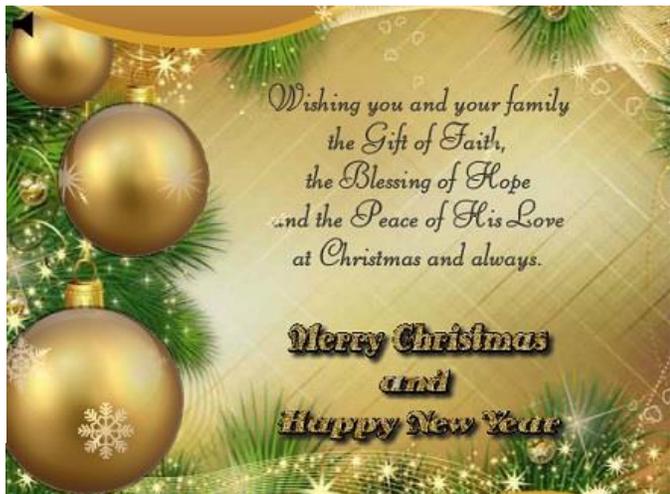
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from your Staff...

Pastor Damien Brooks

Roderic Moore

Cheri Buss

Calvin Hoffman



Shelly Sholley

Donna Riccio

Karen Heimbach

Daniel Holmes

Events Happening in the Area....

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

December 2nd – Milton Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony – Friday, December 2nd at 6:00 pm in Lincoln Park. The Milton High School Band will play and the Milton High School students will lead the caroling. Refreshments and children's activities will follow at the Warehouse, Milton YMCA, 12 Bound Ave.

December 6th - The West Branch Chorus will perform a winter concert on Tuesday, December 6th at 7:30 pm at St. John's UCC, McEwensville, PA, with refreshment following the concert.

December 6th – Sun Home Health & Hospice, a Geisinger Service will have an interactive workshop for adults who have experienced the death of a loved one; "Facing the Holidays After a Loss" on Tuesday, December 6th from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm at Sun Home Health, 61 Duke St, Northumberland. To register call 1-800-634-5232 Ext. 24005.

December 10th – 13th: - Christ Wesleyan Theatre Productions will present "A Christmas Carol: The Musical", based on the classic story by Charles Dickens. Show times are on **December 8th, 10th, and 11th** 7:00 pm, at Christ Wesleyan Stamm Rd in Milton. Tickets are available online at www.cwc.life; \$13 for adults and \$8 for children.

Secret Prayer Pal

End of December 2016, your Secret Prayer Pal will be revealed and for those who would like to take part in this next year for 2017, watch for information in the bulletin.



Cookie Sale and Christmas Movies



December 10th – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm – Cookie and Candy Sale
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm - Christmas Movies

Get your Cookies for Christmas on Saturday, December 10th from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Also some Christmas decorations, as well, for sale. These make great Christmas gifts for your loved ones.

Please sign up to make some cookies/candy and to help volunteer for the day of the sale. We thank you in advance.

After the cookie sale stay and watch some favorite Christmas movies until 7:00 pm.



Ad Board Report

The necessary books have been ordered for those who will be taking part in the Mike Slaughter Advent Bible study called "Down to Earth."

Pastor Damien announces that he will be attending the Bishop's Retreat for Clergy Family, Monday, January 16 through Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

The Pastor will be on vacation Monday, December 26 through Sunday, January 8. Rod Moore will conduct the morning traditional services on both of the two Sundays included in that period (January 1 and 8), and will administer Communion on January 1.

The Thanksgiving-oriented non-perishable foods and turkey-purchase cash collected at Bethany for the 2016 "Feed-A-Friend" drive went to the HandUp Foundation on schedule, November 21.

The Board acknowledged the recent completion of the Zechariah Bible study and the imminent completion of the "Unbinding the Gospel" series. It was also announced that the books for the Advent study "Down to Earth" will be ordered as soon as the number of course participants is determined.

Details are being worked out for the potluck meal that follows the "Hanging of the Greens" on November 26 and a possible invitational baking session at the parsonage ahead of the December 10 cookie sale.

The Board has submitted its 2017 budget request.

The Board will not meet in December. Its next regularly scheduled meeting will be on January 17, 2017.

Rod Moore

Christmas Eve Worship Service Schedule...

December 24th – Christmas Eve Services at Bethany UMC
(*All Worship services will have Communion)

- 2:00 pm – Rockwell Christmas Eve Service @ Rockwell
- 4:00 pm – Traditional Worship Service *
- 6:00 pm – Contemporary Worship Service *
- 8:00 pm – Blended Worship Service (Traditional & Contemporary) *
- 9:15 pm – Carol Singing (Singing Christmas songs around the piano)
- 11:15 pm – Traditional Worship Service with Candlelight *

Bethany UMC wants to invite you all to celebrate our Savior, Jesus Christ!



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Presented by _____

In loving memory of _____

In honor of _____

Poinsettias are \$6.00 each
Please give your order with money to Shelly Sholley

Deadline for ordering: **Sunday, December 4th.**

BETHANY UMC

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

miltonbethanyumcoffice@gmail.com

Website:

bethanyumc-miltonpa.org

Sunday Worship:

Sunday School: 9:00 am
Traditional Service: 10:30 am
Contemporary Service: 6:00 pm

PASTOR DAMIEN

670 Stamm Rd
Milton, PA 17847
570-412-1943
570-246-5514

dbrooks@susumc.org

Upper Rooms

January & February are now
available in the sanctuary

Our Daily Bread

December, January & February
are now available in the
sanctuary

Announcements**Dates to Remember:**

November 26th – 2:30 pm - Hanging of the Greens
November 26th – 5:00 pm – Fellowship Meal
November 27th – United Methodist Student Day (Special Offering) at both services.
November 29th – 10:00 am – “Down to Earth” Advent Bible Study (Nov 29th – Dec 20th)
December 1st - 7:00 pm – “Down to Earth” Advent Bible Study (Dec 1st – Dec 22nd)
December 4th – 10:30 am - Traditional Worship “Sharing the Table” / Communion
December 4th – 3:00 pm – Rockwell Communion
December 4th – 6:00 pm – Contemporary Worship / Communion
December 6th – 6:30 pm - Traditional Worship Team @ Parsonage
December 10th – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm - Cookie Sale
December 10th - 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Christmas Movies
December 11th – 5:00 pm – Community Dinner @ Christ Evan Lutheran Church
December 14th – 7:00 pm – Contemporary Worship Team
December 24th – 2:00 pm – Rockwell Christmas Eve Service @ Rockwell
December 24th – 4:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service / Communion (Traditional)
December 24th – 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service / Communion (Contemporary)
December 24th – 8:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service / Communion (Traditional & Contemporary)
December 24th – 9:15 pm - Carol Singing (Singing Christmas songs around the piano)
December 24th – 11:15 pm – Christmas Eve Midnight Service / Communion (Traditional)
December 25th – 10:30 am – Traditional Worship Service - Merry Christmas!
December 25th – 6:00 pm – Contemporary Worship Service – Merry Christmas!

(Note) No Ad Board or Finance or PSPRC or Trustees meetings in December.

Rockwell Bible Study: 9:00 am every Thursday @ Rockwell.

Praise Band Practice: 7:00 pm every Friday.

Sunday School: 9:00 am every Sunday morning.

Traditional Worship Service: 10:30 am every Sunday morning.

Contemporary Worship Service: 6:00 pm every Sunday evening.



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

