

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)
blucas@susumc.org

Upper Room – Now Available
 March / April

Announcements:

Dates to Remember:

- March 1 - 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Communion
- March 8 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
- March 14 – 5 pm – St Patrick's Day Dinner @ Bethany UMC
- March 15– 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God [Special Offering: UMCOR]
- March 17 – 6:00 pm – Leadership Team Meeting (Office)
- March 21 – 4 – 6 pm – St Andrew's Lasagna Dinner @ St. Andrew's UMC
- March 22 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
 10:15 am – March Birthday Celebrations
- March 27 – 5:30 pm- 8 pm– Gym Night @ St. Andrew's UMC
- March 29 – 9:00 am – Combined Breakfast @ St Andrew's UMC
 10:30 am – Combined Worship with St Andrews @ St Andrew's/Palm Sunday
- April 1 – Noon – Bethany & St Andrew's supply soup for Soup & The Word @ 1st Presby.
- April 2 – 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Combined Service @ St Andrew's
- April 5 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God/Happy Easter / Communion
- April 12 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
- April 19 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God [Special Offering: Native American]
- April 26 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
 10:15 am – April Birthday Celebrations

Every Sunday Worship (Gathering of the Family of God) at 9:00 am.



Pastor Brian reads the Bible on Revelation on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** on St. Andrew's Facebook page at 9:00 a.m.

 BETHANY UMC OFFICE
 18 CENTER ST
 MILTON, PA 17847

March / April
 2026

Bethany United Methodist Church
“A Church with the Heart of Christ in the Heart of Milton”

Volume 13, Issue 3 & 4
March & April 2026

Milton's Good News

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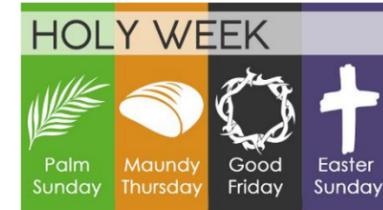
January and February “At a Glance”

Looking back in January and February for Bethany, January we started a 7 week Sermon Series SAD: Spiritual Affective Disorder. Started a new group; Monday Mornings Mocha at Bethany UMC with faith questions. Bethany had a “Take Down Decorations & Lunch Event”, to put away the Christmas decorations. Pastor Brian started up on Facebook with the Book of Revelation. February we start off the Lenten Season with an Ash Wednesday Service held by Bethany and welcoming St Andrew's congregation. Bethany ended the month by celebration the January and February birthdays after church with cake and coffee. Thanks to those who donated of cake/cupcakes.

“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”

Matthew 28:6 (NIV)

-Cheri Buss



Holy Week

Sunday – March 29 – Palm Sunday

- 9:00 am – Combined Breakfast @ St. Andrew's
- 10:30 am - Combined Worship Service @ St. Andrew's

Thursday, April 2 – Maundy/Good Friday Service (Combined Worship Service)

7:00 pm @ St Andrew's UMC

Sunday, April 5 – Easter Sunday (Happy Easter!!) @ Bethany / Communion

9:00 am – Worship Service “He has Risen, Risen Indeed!”

Spring forward

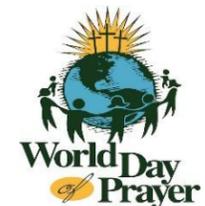


Daylight Saving Time begins – Turn those clocks forward one-hour Saturday night, March 7th, 2026; before turning into bed.

Special points of interest:

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- Holy Week (pg 1)
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March 6, 2026
World Day of Prayer





From Pastor's Study

"The Garden Path"

Dear Church Family,

Sue and I don't plant vegetable gardens, but we do plant flowers and trees, and each spring we look forward to what's going in this year. As I was thinking about this, I realized how much of our faith story happens in gardens – Eden's innocence, Gethsemane's anguish, Easter's empty tomb turned blooming garden. Maybe that's why we feel such a deep connection to growing things, why gardens speak to our souls in ways buildings rarely do.

As we journey through those gardens (especially during Lent and Holy Week) we find that each holds its own lessons, its own invitations to deeper faith. In Eden's garden, we learn about trust and its breaking. In Gethsemane, we witness love's ultimate surrender: "Not my will, but yours be done." And in the resurrection garden, we discover how God transforms endings into beginnings.

The Easter story as told by John has Mary Magdalene arrive at the tomb in grief and mistake the risen Christ for a gardener. Perhaps that wasn't a mistake at all. Isn't Jesus the ultimate Gardener of our souls? Like any skilled gardener, He knows:

- Some things need pruning to encourage new growth
- The richest soil often contains composted pain
- Seeds must die to bring forth life
- Growth happens in darkness before light
- Patience is as essential as water



In this season, I invite you to walk your own garden path with Christ. Where in your life do you need the Gardener's touch? What needs pruning? What seeds of hope are waiting to sprout? What appears dead but might just be dormant?

Remember, Mary came to the garden grieving, certain that death had won. She left running with joy, having encountered Life itself. That's the promise of Easter – that God can transform any garden of grief into a garden of resurrection. The same power that rolled away the stone still works in our lives today, bringing life from death, hope from despair, joy from mourning.

As we move through these holy days together, let's pay attention to the gardens we pass through:

- Places of decision, like Gethsemane
- Places of grief, like the tomb
- Places of unexpected joy, like the resurrection garden

Each has its purpose, its season, its lesson to teach. And in each, the Gardener walks with us, tending our souls with infinite patience and care.

May this season find you open to growth, ready for pruning when needed, and always expectant for resurrection.

Walking the garden path with you,
Pastor Brian



Leadership Reports...

All Committee/Leadership Reports need to be handed into the church office or pastor, by the second Sunday of each month. **For March & April they are due: Sunday, March 8 & April 12, 2026.** You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Brian at blucas@susumc.org. Thank You!



Fun Page....

Bible Easter Story

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

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| ANGEL | BETRAY | BLESSED | BREAD |
| CROSS | CRUCIFIED | DISCIPLES | DONKEY |
| EASTER | GUARDS | HEAVEN | JERUSALEM |
| JESUS | JUDAS | PALM | PRAY |
| RESURRECTION | TEMPLE | TOMB | WINE |



Bethany UMC Current Expense Income Dec 2025 & Jan 2026 Reports:

Financial Secretary's Report: December 2025

Date	Offering Envelopes	Plate Offering	Advent Offering	Memorial Fund	Price Hardship Fund	Totals
12/07/25	\$385.00	\$655.00	\$0	\$170.00	\$0	\$1,210.00
12/14/25	\$258.00	\$4.00	\$0	\$550.00	\$0	\$812.00
12/21/25	\$348.00	\$20.00	\$105.00	\$0	\$0	\$473.00
12/24/25	\$214.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120.00	\$334.00
12/28/25	\$242.00	\$0	\$1,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$1,242.00
Totals	\$1,447.00	\$679.00	\$1,105.00	\$720.00	\$120.00	\$4,071.00

Financial Secretary's Report: January 2026

Date	Offering Envelopes	Plate Offering	Butler Trust Fund	Totals
01/04/26	\$378.00	\$0	\$0	\$378.00
01/11/26	\$240.00	\$10.00	\$3,660.19	\$3,910.19
01/18/26	SNOW n/a	\$0	\$0	\$0
01/25/26	SNOW n/a	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals	\$618.00	\$10.00	\$3,660.19	\$4,288.19



Finance Report (Dec. 2025 & Jan. 2026 Current Expenses In & Out):

December 2025

Total Income Received: \$4,071.00 + \$47.55 (Bank Interest \$) + 10,000 (Investments) = \$14,118.55

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$13,710.65

Average Attendance: 37

January 2026

Total Income Received: \$4,288.19 + \$15.65 (Bank Interest \$) = \$4303.84

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$13,537.21

Average Attendance: 11 [Attendance down due to Harsh cold and snowy weather/cancel one service.]

Thank You Notes:



Dear Pastor Brian & Members: Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia and delicious "goodies" you sent to me. It was so good to have a nice long visit with Barb, we had a good chat while she was here. My love goes out to all of you. Best to all, Flora Price

Dear Pastor Brian & Bethany Congregation: Thank you very much for the beautiful poinsettia and delicious bag of candies. Edna Kobre

Dear Bethany Congregation: I want to Thank you all very much for the beautiful poinsettia and delicious cookies & candy. Special thanks to Betsy Blyer for delivering and visiting me. Shirley Wesner

Dear Bethany Congregation: Thank you so much to Barb Huff for delivering the beautiful poinsettia & delicious cookies. Barbara Campbell

Trustees Report



Trustee items in process or completed:

- To alleviate safety concerns, a new door with a window is on order with Lezzer Doors to replace the door between the Social Hall and the kitchen. We've paid the required 50% down of the \$2,370 total. It's anticipated the door will arrive and be installed sometime in March.
- Nevin Martin of Komplete Lawn Care has taken over the snow/ice removal duties at the church and office. Thanks to Dave, Joan, and Jeff Warburton for helping to keep the walks clear the last few years.
- Nevin has also agreed to take on the task of cleaning out the basement. There are many items in the basement from prior to the fire which need disposed of.
- We received our annual notice of the required back flow testing of the water supply line. The plumber has been contacted to perform the test.
- Zimmerman Electric recently repaired the Center Street exterior lighting and replaced the batteries in one of the backup lighting units in the electrical room. They are also going to repair or replace one of the auxiliary heaters in the basement.
- We received and signed the 2026 landscaping maintenance contract with Creative Landscapes.
- Entoguard completed their quarterly pest control visit in February.
- The Leadership Team has decided to honor our friend Roderic Moore with the creation of the Roderic Moore Conference Room in the office. We are in the process of purchasing a nice conference table and chairs for the room.

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

- Hudock Capital Group (Pershing) - \$347,326 – an increase of \$8,536 from the last quarter.
- Prudential Investments - \$934,234 – an increase of \$12,022 from the last quarter – this is our 'in lieu of flood insurance' account. We utilized \$10,000 from this account for current expenses in the fourth quarter.
- Prudential Investments – The Raudenbush Account - \$101,437 – an increase of \$2,090 from last quarter.
- BNY Mellon – The Butler Trust – \$262,952 – an increase of \$296. We received a disbursement of \$3,660 during the quarter.
- Parsonage Escrow Account - \$352,300 – (Note: The Leadership Team decided to open a new investment account with Hudock Capital Group with \$325,000 of the funds.)
- Central Penn Bank CD (formerly Mifflinburg Bank) - \$100,000 plus interest at 4.5%. The CD matures February 12. The projected balance at that time is \$106,870. (Note: The Leadership Team decided at their meeting prior to the maturity date to open a new 18-month CD in the amount of \$75,000 at 3.70% interest. The residual funds of approximately \$31,000 was deposited in the checking account for current expenses.)

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

March and April Worship Schedule 2026



Sunday, March 1 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / **Communion**

Sunday, March 8 – 9:00 am Gathering of the Family of God

Sunday, March 15– 9:00 am - Gathering of the Family of God
[UMCOR Sunday – Special Offering]

Sunday, March 22 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God
10:15 am – March Birthday Celebrations

Sunday, March 29 – **10:30 am – Palm Sunday/Combined Worship Service @ St. Andrew's**

Thursday, April 2 – **7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service @ St. Andrew's**

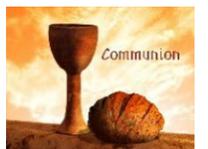
Sunday, April 5 – 9:00 am – Easter Sunday -Gathering of the Family of God / **Communion**

Sunday, April 12 - 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God

Sunday, April 19 - 9:00 am Gathering of the Family of God [Native American – Special Offering]

Sunday, April 26 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God

10:15 am – April Birthday Celebrations



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

Soup & The Word



Soup & The Word
Wednesday Weekly Lenten Luncheons
First Presbyterian Church 47 Walnut Street, Milton PA
Begins Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at Noon

For many years now, the churches of Milton have come together during Lent to provide both physical and spiritual food for the flock. The luncheon meetings will be held at **First Presbyterian Church** of Milton, located at 47 Walnut St., with a large parking lot on Upper Market St. behind the church. These six free luncheons, held at noon, are open to the public. All are invited to share delicious homemade soup and warm Christian fellowship. A message is provided each week by a local pastor. **The Theme this year is “Beholding God’s Glory in the Easter Story”.**

Dates:

February 25	Speaker: Freedom Life Church	Soup: Freedom Life Church
March 4	Speaker: Revival Tabernacle/First Presby.	Soup: Rev Tab/First Presby.
March 11	Speaker: Ryan Brosious/Narrow Way	Soup: Narrow Way Church
March 18	Speaker: Brian Johnson	Soup: Meadowbrook
March 25	Speaker: Jamie Dries	Soup: First Baptist Church Milton
April 1	Speaker: Brian Lucas/St Andrew’s/Bethany	Soup: St. Andrew’s & Bethany

St Patrick’s Day Dinner



Join us on Saturday, March 14th for a St Patrick’s Day Dinner at Bethany .
 5 – 5:30 pm – Reception & Appetizers
 5:30 – 6:30 pm – Traditional Irish Dinner (**Corn Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes & Carrots**)
 6:30 pm - ? – Games & Socialization [**Bring in your favorite board games.**]
Please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall, so we get a count of people to serve. .
 Thank You!

Lasagna Dinner (Dine In or Take Out) at St. Andrew’s UMC

St. Andrew’s UMC is having a Lasagna Dinner on March 21, 2026 from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. For tickets call, 570-742-2000. Cost: Adults \$15.00 Dine in or Take Out



Lasagna Dinner
 March 21st, 2026
 Dine In or Take Out
 4:00-6:00pm
 Cost: (Age 13 & Up) \$15.00
 (Age 6-12) \$7.50
 (Under 6) Free
 Meal includes: Lasagna, Dressing, Salad, Applesauce, Cake, Coffee / Iced Tea / Water

Open Gym Night



On **Friday, March 27, 2026** from 5:30 pm – 8 pm at St. Andrew’s, come out and fellowship with one another at this open Gym Night. All are welcomed! Bring in your favorite board games.

Loss of our dear Church Member: Florence Young

Florence Young went with our Lord and Savior on January 4, 2026 at the Milton Nursing Home. Florence was a member of Bethany United Methodist Church since 2019. Florence will be missed.

Leadership Team Report.....

Leadership Team Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 20, 2026 | 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Cindy Mohr. In attendance were Cindy Mohr, Mike Logenberger, Bob Fitch, Jamie Aurand and Pastor Brian.

All reports were accepted by unanimous consent upon a motion by Bob Fitch, seconded by J. Aurand.

Old Business

- **Action Items:** Team members will look into these three items:
 - Table & Chairs for conference room: Jamie Aurand
 - AED: Bob Fitch
 - Camera’s for four outside doors:
 (Motion by Bob Fitch, Second by Jamie Aurand & approved)
- **Sidewalk buckle:** : Jamie will look into.
- **Panther Packs:** Bethany to help more often.
- **Christmas take down:** Only took 45 minutes, no lunch served.

New Business

- **Old Christmas Tree:** Donate to Travis.
- **Piano in Center St closet:** Move to fellowship Hall. Have Darren take a look.
- **Extra Sound Equipment stored in Closet:** Pastor Brian will look into selling un-used equipment.
- **Team Members:** Will ask for volunteers to serve on Team.
- **Soup & The Word:** Bethany & St. Andrew’s to supply soup for April 1, 2026 Noon meal.
- **Church Cancellations due to weather:** Pastor Brian will honor any guidelines established by the church or conditions deemed as un-safe.
- **Financial Report ready for Audit:** Pastor Brian will ask Dave Stahl (St. Andrew’s) to audit for Bethany.
- **Creative Landscape:** Signed contract for 2026 season. Contract states of Annual Landscape Maintenance/Pruning/Mulching, Monthly Perpetual Landscape Maintenance/weeding/spraying, Plant Care/Fertilization; Annual/Plant care cost \$1,184; Plant care \$232 per 4 applications, and Monthly \$80-\$100. (Motion by Bob Fitch, Second by Jamie Aurand). Approved.
- **CD Maturity:** (Motion by Jamie Aurand, Seconded Bob Fitch) Approved.
- **Escrow Account:** (Motion by Bob Fitch, Seconded by Jamie Aurand) Approved.

Miscellaneous: Do more with St. Andrew’s to build a relationship with each other.

Announcements & Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the Moore Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted by,
 Cindy Mohr

Our Prayer List.....

Concerns:

- Elwood & Judy Carl – Health/Illness-Getting better.
- The Family of Florence Young – Florence passed away Jan. 4, 2026.
- Elias Allshouse (Pastor Travis & Jessica’s son)– Upcoming Heart surgery in June.
- Anna P – Continued prayers for cancer treatments / health / vision loss
- Nora S. – Cancer / Treatments / Pet Scan
- Barb H – Recovering from Carpal Tunnel Surgery.
- Family/friends with Cancer:** Anna P, Nora S., Dot (Judy’s neighbor); Becky B (Lucas’ friend).
- Leadership Team:** Cindy M, Jamie A, Bob F, Mike L, Amy S. and Pastor Brian.

Joys:

- Jamie A – New Employment and James S – Took gold in bowling.

