

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: 10:30 am
YouTube: Bethany UMC Milton

PASTOR TRAVIS

670 Stamm Rd
Milton, PA 17847
717-968-2254 (Cell)
570-246-5830 (Home)
tallshouse@susumc.org

Upper Room – Now Available

July / August

Daily Bread – Now Available

July / August / September

Announcements:

Dates to Remember:

[No Leadership Team Meeting for July]

[Tuesdays at 11:00 am – Bible Study Acts]

July 2nd - 10:30 am - Gathering of the Family of God
Panther Packs (Bring in fruit packs)
"Sharing the Table" Communion

July 4th – Happy Independence Day (Office Closed) No Bible Study

July 8th – 7:00 pm – Fireworks Fellowship @ Parsonage

July 9th – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God

July 16th – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God

July 23rd – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God

July 30th – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God

August 6th – 10:30 am - Gathering of the Family of God
Panther Packs (Bring in fruit packs)
"Sharing the Table" Communion

August 13th – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God

August 15th – 6:00 pm – Leadership Team Meeting

August 20th – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God


August 27th – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God



**Safe
&
Happy
4th of July!**



July / Aug
2023

 BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

Bethany United Methodist Church

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



Volume 10, Issue 7 & 8

July & August 2023
Summer Newsletter

Milton's Good News

June- "At a Glance"

Looking back in June for Bethany, started out with honoring our cancer members (National Cancer Survivors Day) after service with a cupcake fellowship time.. A new Bible Study began on Tuesdays at 11:00 am, with the study of The Book of Ephesians. A box of candy was given to the men in the church for Happy Father's Day. Hugh **THANK YOU** to **Cindy Mohr** for taking care of this.

"⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." 1 John 4:7-8 (NIV)

-Cheri Buss

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From Pastor Travis	2
Leadership Team Report	3
N.O.W. Here This!	4
Trustees Report	5
Announcements	8



July / August Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 2nd – 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God
Communion will be offered
Bring in fruit for "Panther Packs"



Sunday, July 9th – 10:30 am Gathering of the Family of God

Sunday, July 16th – 10:30 am Gathering of the Family of God

Sunday, July 23rd – 10:30 am Gathering of the Family of God

Sunday, July 30th – 10:30 am Gathering of the Family of God

Sunday, August 6th – 10:30 am Gathering of the Family of God
Communion will be offered
Bring in fruit for "Panther Packs"



Sunday, August 13th – 10:30 am Gathering of the Family of God

Sunday, August 20th – 10:30 am Gathering of the Family of God]

Sunday, August 27th – 10:30 am Gathering of the Family of God

Special points of interest:

- "At a Glance" (pg 1)
- Worship Format (pg 1)
- Leadership Reports (pg 2)
- Events in the Area (pg 3)
- The Tree of Life By Rod Moore (pg 4)
- Our Prayer List (pg 5)
- Financial Stats (pg 6)
- Bible Study (pg 6)
- Fireworks Fellowship (pg 6)
- Church Picnic (pg 6)
- Summer Fun Page (pg 7)



From Pastor Travis's Study



Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Grace to you and peace in the name of our Lord Jesus who is the healer of our brokenness.

I was listening to a podcast the other day. For those who may not know, a podcast is talk radio that can be found on your phone. The conversation of this particular podcast was about a documentary that recently came out. This documentary was about the Duggar family of TLC fame and the Institute in Basic Life Principles (IBLP). I am not going to talk about the documentary itself, but the conversation that the hosts of the podcast were having about the documentary.

The hosts were discussing why they thought theology that is promoted by organizations like the IBLP. One observation that was made was that fear and a need for certainty were forces that draw people to certain theology or organizations. The IBLP was founded in the 70's. The world was definitely messy and many things were uncertain. When things seem out of control, we often try to find ways to control the chaos. One of the ways we do this is through living by established guidelines, rules, or principles. These guidelines, rules, or principles give us a sense of meaning and stability.

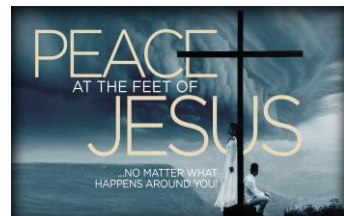
I believe that we are living in a time like this now. So much of our world seems out of control, so we look to establish law and order, putting prayer back into schools, or putting the Ten Commandments in every classroom. We feel as though if we do these things and follow what they say then we will have happiness and success. Unfortunately, this is a bad theology. This type of thinking is what is known as the Prosperity Gospel. The Prosperity Gospel tells us that if we follow Jesus and follow all the rules of the Bible, God will reward us with happiness, wealth, and health.

What do we do when we are afraid or uncertain? In John 14:27 Jesus tells us "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." We are promised peace through Jesus. We are not promised that our lives will not be messy or uncertain. We are not promised that all will be orderly, and just the way we think it should go. We are promised that we have peace through Jesus in the uncertainty and chaos. Let us give thanks to God for that promise.

Looking ahead, I am writing a sermon series based on themes that we find in movies. I am asking for your help in this. What are some of your favorite movies that you would like me to use for a sermon. They do not necessarily have to be "Christian" movies, but realize I will be showing clips from these movies in church. Please let me know by either calling the office, my cell phone, or emailing me.

May God shine His love and light on you in the days ahead.

The Best is Yet to Be,
Pastor Travis



Leadership Reports...

All Committee/Leadership Reports need to be handed into the church office or pastor, by the second Sunday of each month. **For July & August they are due: Sunday, July 9th & August 13th, 2023.** You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Travis at tallshouse@susumc.org. Thank You!

Fun Page



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

BEACH
BASEBALL
ICE CREAM
SWIMMING

PICNIC
VACATION
SUNFLOWER
WATERMELON

SANDCASTLE
HEAT
BOATING
POOL



Bethany UMC Current Expense Income May 2023 Reports:

Financial Secretary's Report: May 2023



Date	Offering Envelopes	Plate Offering	Free Will Offering	Totals
5/07/23	\$728.00	\$55.00	\$0	\$783.00
5/14/23	\$728.00	\$80.00	\$30.00	\$838.00
5/21/23	\$3,075.00	\$15.00	\$0	\$3,090.00
5/28/23	\$672.00	\$24.00	\$0	\$696.00
Totals	\$5,203.00	\$174.00	\$30.00	\$5,407.00

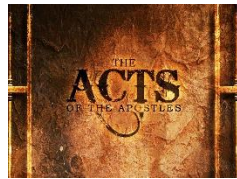
*In the spirit of giving,
we thank you for
your generosity!*

Finance Report (May Current Expenses In & Out):

Total Income Received: \$5,488.18 + \$10,000 = \$15,488.18 (Transfer from Fire Fund)
Total Expenses Paid Out: \$15,966.99
Average Attendance: 25

Fire Fund: Income Received: \$17.70 (Interest)
Total Expenses: \$10,053.00 (\$53.00 CD + \$10,000 to General Account)
Balance \$178,958.92

Summer Bible Study....



Summer Bible Study (**The Book of Acts**) will be on Tuesday's, starting **June 27th, 2023, from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**, here at the Bethany UMC (Fellowship Hall).
No Bible Study on Tuesday, July 4th.

Fireworks Fellowship....



Pastor Travis & Jessica invite you to come to the Parsonage, 670 Stamm Rd, Milton PA, on **Saturday, July 8th at 7:00 pm**, for some desserts and fireworks fellowship. Dessert will be provided. Please bring your chairs and your favorite drink.



Church Picnic....



Bethany UMC will be having a Church Picnic in September, 2023.

Please watch your bulletins / September Newsletter for more information!

Leadership Team Report...

Our church has a new coat rack / umbrella stand in its most-used entryway. Following Team approval of its purchase, Cheri Buss singlehandedly ordered, assembled, and placed it just inside the Center Street door, and we're more than appreciative of her diligence.

We are working to solve the winter-time problem of snow / ice falling from the church roof onto the Center Street ramp. Contact has been made with a business that promises to evaluate the possible installation of a protective awning above the vulnerable area.

Much-needed directional and space identification signage is being added to the church. Rooms, areas, closets and passageways will thus be easier for people to find quickly and navigate with certainty. Some such signs are up already, and others are being planned.

The Leadership Team has decided to have a church-wide picnic in late September, details of place, date, and time to be worked out shortly. Any questions or input on this should be directed to either Pastor Travis or Bob Fitch.

The Team has voted to place a full-page church advertisement in Milton High School's 2023 football game programs. We will work on a special format for that.

With Harvest Festival coming up, the Team is investigating the possibility of adding popcorn and/or cotton candy handouts to parade-day passers-by as well as bottled water. Popper and candy-spinning device rentals are being priced now.

We would like to set aside some periodic Sunday post-service time to honor the birthdays of our church parishioners, a monthly event that would happen on last Sundays and honor the birthdays that occurred during that period. We're looking to begin doing that on July 30. More to be announced in bulletins.

Rod Moore

Event in the Area....

Valley Fest – July 8, 2022 from 2 pm – 10:30 pm at Christ Wesleyan Church 363 Stamm Rd, Milton PA. Valley Fest is back with food, fireworks, live music, and time with friends, as we celebrate together at this one-day, massive event as a church and community.

Food

- ◇ Feel free to bring additional food to enjoy. Pack a picnic (no grills or open fires). Parking spaces will be very limited, so be prepared to park offsite. Shuttle bussing will be provided.
- ◇ Food trucks will be available on-site to purchase food. The Well Coffee House will be open also.

Fun

- ◇ Live concerts with featured artists: Leeland, and Blanca
- ◇ We'll have yard games like cornhole, volleyball, horseshoes, and fun games for kids
- ◇ Fireworks! (We'll provide them. Please leave your supply at home and just enjoy the show!)

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. **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: July 2nd / August 6th / September 3rd

The Tree of Life; Article by Rod Moore..

The Tree of Life

In the March 2023 Bethany newsletter I quoted an article on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil considered as God's “test” of Adam and Eve. At the end of it, I promised “more to come.” Here, then, is the “more”- a small personal essay about the other named tree in Scripture, the Tree of Life.

The Tree of Life, first mentioned in Genesis 2:9, is certainly to be thought of as a source of longevity into eternity, as indicated in Gen. 3:22 – but it also represents the sustaining of the life of obedient peace and abundance that God intended his people to enjoy.

Once Adam and Eve fell to the awareness of sin, their ejection from Eden became necessary. God had given them the ability to decide, and they had failed His test of that freedom. So God forbade that they or their progeny should have access to the Tree of Life. Thus, in Genesis 3:24, God, having declared human eternal life to be a totally unfitting reward for such blatant disobedience, placed guards around the Tree of Life. Imagine – two people on earth, and guards had to be placed! Temptation had won the first free-will skirmish, resulting in the institution of original sin.

The next - and only other - time we come across the Tree of Life in this particular context is at the other end of the Bible, in Revelation, where John records it in two places. In Rev. 2:7, the Spirit is dictating a letter to the churches at Ephesus; but the Ephesian and other churches being addressed in Revelation aren't the last and only ones to which heaven is sending messages - all churches; the ones being spoken to (and spoken of) - the ones to follow - and, yes, our own - are all to hear the critiques of the Spirit. Now we find that the Tree of Life is “in the midst of the paradise of God.” Channeling John Milton, Paradise Lost has become Paradise Regained. We are being told here of the New Jerusalem, where the fruit of the Tree of Life will be freely available to those who “overcome”, referencing the righteous - those who repent, those who conquer.

The next mention of the Tree of Life is found in Revelation 22:2, where it's described as being a permanent part of the great city, the New Jerusalem, the centerpiece of the New Heaven. It bears twelve kinds of fruit constantly, and the leaves are “for the healing of the nations.” The Tree straddles the river of the pure waters of the love of God and the Christ, an eternal stream flowing from them. Finally, in Revelation 22:14, we hear “Blessed are they who do His commandments, that they may have right to the Tree of Life, and may enter in through the gates unto the city.” An arboreal mystery for sure, starting at the Bible's very beginning and ending up in John the Evangelist's vision of what is to come. We can reasonably conjecture that the Tree of Good and Evil was uprooted and mulched once Adam and Eve left Eden, its damage having been done, more to mankind's everlasting discredit. But we see that the Tree of Life was – and is - maintained as a tree of reward, and is already standing tall, broad, and thriving in the middle of the New Jerusalem. Just like Christ Jesus. And the twelve fruits? What are they? Could they be the fulfillments of God's promises? Just know that partaking of the bounty of the Tree of Life is, and will forever be, an earned privilege of the sanctified and of the army of God's truly faithful.

-- Rod Moore

Trustees Report

A relatively short Trustee report this month:

- The condensation drain line for the air conditioning unit in the kitchen was clogged recently causing it to back up and leak. A technician from Air Tech opened the line and also made some adjustments to the line to hopefully keep the problem from reoccurring.
- During the process of changing the electricity and natural gas suppliers, I realized that the Parish House was considered residential by UGI, the natural gas provider. I contacted UGI about changing from residential to non-residential with no response. We recently received a letter from UGI stating the Parish House account had been changed to non-residential. I contacted our supplier, Direct Energy. The representative I spoke with said it would not affect the terms of our current contract.
- We are still waiting from someone from Poole Anderson to install the closer on the restroom door in the kitchen and check the glass handicapped access door, which we believe needs an adjustment.
- A Certificate of Deposit has been established at Mifflinburg Bank and Trust for \$150,000 utilizing some of the remaining balance of the insurance settlement.
- Instead of continuing to draw down our investments to cover our shortfall, we will be using the remaining insurance settlement for current expenses as needed. There was a \$10,000 transfer from the account to the general checking account in May.
- The annual Parsonage Inspection will be conducted in the next few weeks.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

Our Prayer List.....

Concerns:

Rita – Finished cancer treatments, prayers as she waits for test results.
 Dale R. –(Sally's friend) Travels to Pittsburgh for treatments.
 Families impacted by recent gun violence.
 Prayers for the State Trooper who lost his life.
 Prayers for the family who caused this tragedy.
 All those who lost their loved ones.
 Judy C –Recovering from pneumonia, praise to see her back in worship.
 Joyce (Sally's friend) Cancer treatments, blood clot in her lungs, prayers for healing & strength.
 James S. – Job employment
 Karen H – Received asthma shot and had no allergic reactions.
 Prayers for the World and hearts of people to find peace & love of Christ.
 Guidance to our Community Leaders & Bethany UMC
 Family/friends with Cancer: Rita S, Anna P, Florence Y, Mandy (Jim's friend); Rita (Karen's relative);
 Kenny (Sally's friend). Alicia (Sally); Dot (Judy's neighbor); Denny (Travis' Uncle); Russ W; Bonnie R; Randy;
 Joyce (Sally's friend).
 Leaders / State / Nation / Church / Country / Ukraine / Gun violence
 Leadership Team: Cindy, James A, Rod, Bob F, James M, Dave W, Mike L, Dorothy, Pastor Travis.

