



The Bethany Gazette

Bethany Presbyterian Church Newsletter

March/April 2025



Dear Bethany Family and Friends,

Every day, transformation is all around us. While there is still remnants of snow on the ground, we can see the progression towards spring taking place. The days are getting longer, temperatures will slowly warm up in the coming weeks, and for those who are sports fans, baseball games have begun for the big leagues, and soon at local fields.

We are also preparing for an even more important season of transformation, the season of Lent. Throughout the 40 days of lent, we experience a time of self-reflection, prayer, and remembrance for the sacrifices made by Jesus for each of us. We will hear familiar scriptures of this time, as the Lenten story winds its way from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. When we reach the end, we will be rewarded with the greatest gift of all: the gift of eternal life.

We hope that you can join us for Morning Worship, along with our special Lenten services during the next few weeks. Ash Wednesday will be held here at Bethany with our friends from Grace Lutheran Church, while Grace Lutheran will host Maundy Thursday. We also invite you to bring your friends and family, as all are welcome to attend.

In closing, here is a great description of Lent from Pope Benedict XVI:

"Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism."

Bethany Presbyterian Church
Blaine Street & Chandler Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15906
www.bethanyjohnstown.com
814-539-9194

Morning Worship: Sunday Morning @
10:30 AM
All Are Welcome!

March 2025

- 2: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
- 5: Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.
Joint Service At Bethany**
- 9: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
- 16: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
- 23: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
- 30: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

April 2025

- 6: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
- 13: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Palm Sunday**
- 17: Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.
Joint Service At Grace Lutheran**
- 20: Easter Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Light Breakfast Served Before Service**
- 27: Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Directory Update

New Directories will be available In March. Copies can be picked up at the church in the back of the sanctuary..

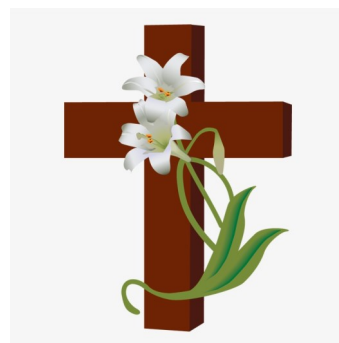
If you would like a copy mailed or emailed to you, please contact the church office.

Easter Flowers

We will once again accept orders for Easter Flowers in the coming weeks. Keep an eye out on the weekly bulletin, along with the church website and Facebook page for ordering information.

Orders will once again be accepted at the church or by using the form on the church website.

Flowers will be available for pickup on Easter Sunday.



Be Sure To Visit Our Website (www.bethanyjohnstown.com) and Like Us On Facebook (Bethany Presbyterian Church— Johnstown, PA)

Support The West End Food Pantry

As we enter the Lenten season, the West End Food Pantry continues to need non-perishable food items to keep their shelves stocked. Some of the items they need this time of year include:

- Canned Fruits and Vegetables
- Instant Mashed Potatoes and Gravy Mixes
- Dry Goods (Beans, Rice, Pasta, Etc.)
- Stuffing Mix
- Sugar, Flour, Baking Items
- Paper Towels, Tissues, Dish Liquid, Laundry Detergent

Donations can be placed in the bins by the Blaine St. Entrance as you enter the church. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Thank you for your contributions to this important community resource.

2025 Sign Ups

Sign up sheets for 2025 Lay Leaders and 2025 flower/bulletin sponsorships have been posted on the back bulletin board. You can also order flowers/bulletins on the church website.

Bulletins and Newsletters Available Online

Bulletins from Morning Worship are available on the church website (www.bethanyjohnstown.com). We keep each bulletin up for a few weeks following the service so you have plenty of time to check out any you may have missed. Church Newsletters are also posted on the church website.

Sign Up for the Email List

If you aren't already on our official email list, be sure to sign up today. Click the link on our website or email bethanyjtown@hotmail.com to be added to the list.

Giving Back To Our Community

Another Successful Christmas Collection

Our congregation continued a holiday tradition by adopting a local family for Christmas. Over the course of several weeks before Christmas, donations of Christmas gifts, household items, and gift cards were collected. The donations were picked up just prior to Christmas and the parents were pleased to receive everything. A special thank you to everyone who donated gifts and gift cards. It made for a wonderful Christmas for the kids and their parents.



Bethany Helps Tackle Hunger With Souper Bowl Sunday



On Sunday February 9th, our congregation participated in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Following Morning Worship, a special luncheon was held in the back of the sanctuary. A variety of soups, along with some delicious sandwiches, sides, and desserts were served. It was a perfect “tailgate party” before the big game. In the end, \$110 was raised for the West End Food Pantry, along with a variety of non-perishable food items.

The Souper Bowl of Caring has been a longtime tradition here at Bethany, with our first participation taking place in 2004. Over the years, over \$3,000 was raised for the West End Food Pantry, along with hundreds of non-perishable food items.

What's New With You?

Our Bethany family extends across the country and we'd love to know where you are and what you're up to. If you'd like to share an update or recent milestone, we would love to share it. Simply fill out the form below or email bethanyjtown@hotmail.com.

Submissions will be shared in an upcoming newsletter/church e-newsletter and if permission is given, on our church Facebook page. Please share this opportunity with those who do not currently receive our newsletters or were members previously.

NAME:

CURRENT LOCATION:

PLEASE SHARE YOUR UPDATE OR MILESTONE BELOW:

(Please Check To Grant Permission To):

_____ Share your update on our official church Facebook page

_____ Add your email to our church e-mail list (If yes, please share it below)

Lent

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

Forgiveness

Friendship

Jerusalem

Believe

Fasting

Healing

Worship

Church

Growth

Prayer

Spirit

Jesus

Mercy

Holy

Hope

Lent

Luke

God

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Visit our official Facebook page
for photos, news, and more