

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



Volume 7, Issue 2

February 2020

Milton's Good News

January – "At a Glance"

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Looking back in January for Bethany, we helped to serve at the Milton Harvest Community Dinner at St Andrews. Bible Study on "Book of Proverbs" began on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings. Special Leadership meeting to survey the fire damage was held.

*"A new command I give you: **Love one another**. As I have **loved** you, so you must **love one another**. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you **love one another**." John 13:34-35 (NIV)*

– Cheri Buss

Ash Wednesday Service

Bethany UMC and St. Andrew's UMC will be joining together for Ash Wednesday Service on **Wednesday, February 26th** at 7:00 pm. The service will be held at St. Andrew's UMC, 102 Lower Market St, Milton PA.



Special points of interest:

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Soup & The Word



Soup & The Word

Wednesday Weekly Lenten Luncheons
First Presbyterian Church
47 Walnut Street, Milton PA

Begins Wednesday, March 4th, 2020 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. This year, 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. The theme will be: **Jesus' Easter Impact Then and Now**, which a message will be provided each week by a local pastor.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meal & Speaker by:</u>
March 4 th	Kingdom Kidz
March 11 th	Community Mennonite Fellowship
March 18th	Bethany United Methodist Church
March 25 th	First Baptist Church
April 1 st	Revival Tabernacle
April 8 th	St. Andrew's United Methodist Church



From Pastor Bill's Study



Greetings to all,

I set in my office today and look out on a beautifully sunny day with the temperature close to 50°. I am also aware of a weather warning of a winter storm moving into the area over the weekend. At this point my mind tells me that could never happen. But common sense tells me it is January and winter storms happen.

We have been studying the Proverbs as our Bible study program and one thing that keeps coming up is the lack of common sense that there is. What we have been taught gets lost in the shuffle of information and we go with what we think and not with what we know.

Wisdom has been given to us but we have lost the knowledge to do what must be done. We do not believe in what we know but we follow what we think. I know it storms in winter but I think it is too nice to do that.

As part of my daily devotions I receive an e-mail from Sapphires@hopeoftheworld.org. These devotions are written by Jonathan Cahn and today's message was entitled "Lead by the Spirit." It dealt with the reading from Genesis 24 which deals with the gathering of a bride for Isaac. It tells the story of the servant being sent to gather Rebekah as a bride for Isaac.

This tells a parallel story of God looking out for us. Abraham becomes a symbol of God as he sends his servant to gather a bride for his son. Think of God sending his servant (the Holy Spirit) to gather a bride (us) for his son (Jesus). This is the story lived out in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit is always trying to lead us back to Jesus as his bride.

If we will follow the Spirit's leading we will always be led in the direction we are to go. As the bride of Christ we are to do all we can to be where Christ is. Wisdom tells us that! Those who follow in the teachings of the Bible are aware that we are to constantly be moving forward to be where Christ is. Knowledge is the moving in those direction we have been shown so we can do what we should be doing. Human nature is what moves us away from where we should be.

When we are moving in our humanness we are moving away from Christ. The Holy Spirit calls to us so we might change our direction and return to where we should be. The further away we get the harder it is to hear the Spirit, but the call never stops coming with the promise that if we will stop and listen we will be able to respond and change our direction to be headed back to Christ and the wedding that is to take place.

The more we listen and follow the calling of the Holy Spirit the closer we are to Christ and the life we should be living. May we all take a few minutes each day to check to see who is calling to us? Are we being lead closer to Christ or closer to our human nature?

Use your knowledge of the wisdom of God as your guide and I will see you at the wedding!

Psalm 121

Know Hope,

Pastor Bill



Leadership Reports...

All Committee/Leadership Reports need to be handed into the church office or pastor, by the second Sunday of each month. **For February they are due: Sunday, February 9, 2020.** You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Bill at pastorbill@gmail.com. Thank You!

Worship Team "Gathering of the Family of God" Report

The following is the work of the Worship Team which met on Tuesday, December 3rd. Here are February's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles. **Next Worship Team meeting will be on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020 at 1:00 PM.**

February 2nd – In Christ There is No East or West (548); Since Jesus Came into My Heart (2140); Fairest Lord Jesus (189); Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-23; *"In Christ"*; **Communion**

February 9th – Be Thou My Vision (451); Since Jesus Came into My Heart (2140); Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee (175); Psalm 112:1-10; Colossians 2:6-15; *"Freedom"*

February 16th – I want a Principle Within (410); Since Jesus Came into My Heart (2140); Kum Ba Yah (Come by Here) (494); Psalm 119:1-8; Colossians 3:12-17; *"Rules"*

February 23rd – (Transfiguration Sunday) – I Stand Amazed in the Presence (371); Since Jesus Came into My Heart (2140); Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (139); Psalm 99; Colossians 4:2-6; *"Prayer"*

February 26th – (Ash Wednesday Service - 7:00 PM) – Combine Service with St Andrew's @ St Andrew's

Leadership Team (Ad Board) Report....

The Team approved a donation of \$1,000 to the Milton Fire Company in recognition of their safe and efficient control and extinguishing of the November 26 fire while insuring the integrity of as much church property as possible. It will be accompanied by a letter of recognition and thanks for their diligence and caring.

Our property-casualty insurers have released \$500,000 toward our fire fund. We will probably put \$50,000 in our bank fire account in anticipation of first charges for work already done, with the other \$450,000 going to a special, separate fire account that we set up with our Hudock Moyer investors until we need to draw on it.

Insurance inspectors are still going through the debris field inside the church and have yet to look at the high sections where the fire was most evident. When that's done, we need to finish cleanup and the removal of wall and ceiling material. Following that, we can engage restoration, with the obvious first steps being to discern our ideas for "the new Bethany", to find architectural assistance (ideally, church-experienced) to help us design what we want, and to choose a general contractor for the rebuilding effort.

The Team unanimously voted to not repair Bethany's fabled Moller pipe organ, which was badly water-damaged. What we will do for instrumentation in view of that loss will depend on what we envision for the restored church.

A 7-year-old boy has recently shown uncommon concern for the welfare of our congregation in the wake of the November fire, such that he did some special fundraising to help us. In addition to Bethany's expressions of deep appreciation for this young gentleman's supreme demonstration of heartfelt caring, he will be recognized by several arms of the local and northeastern Pennsylvania media.

Submitted by, Rod Moore

Thank You Notes...



To Bethany UMC: Blessed are the givers and grateful are the receivers.

Thank you so much for my gifts.

–Peggy Shellenberger

Dear Friends at Bethany: I just wanted to thank you for the poinsettia & Christmas cookies – we all know you can never have too many Christmas cookies. And thanks to Pastor Bill for delivery service and the visit. I was so sorry to see and hear about the damage from the fire.

- Love & Best Wishes to All, Kay Solt

To Bethany UMC: We thank you so much for your very generous donation of \$97.81 to the Salvation Army, Milton.

- Lts. Jared & Kirsten Starnes (Corps Commanding Officers)

N.O.W. Hear This! Next N.O.W. Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:30 pm.



“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. **Also in need of plastic grocery bags.** Please bring in those items of the first of the month for **“Sharing the Table”**. **Next Food Collection Communion Dates: Feb 2nd / March 1st**



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

There will be a Milton Harvest Community Dinner on **Monday, February 3rd, 2020** at 5:00 pm. Bethany will need volunteers to help with serving at 4:45 pm. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

(Next Milton Harvest Community Dinners that Bethany is helping with are: March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th).

Milton Community Dinner (Christ Evan Lutheran Church – 1125 Mahoning St, Milton PA)

There will be a Community Dinner on a **Sunday, February 9th, 2020 at 5:00 pm.** Bethany will be asking for food donations of: Tossed Salad, cherry tomatoes, salad dressing and croutons. Please see Cindy Mohr for sign up sheet.

Bethany's

Effort

Toward

Health

“Washed Clean Kits”



BETH “Washed Clean Kits” (Hygiene Kits) Update:

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

Offering Counters Needed...

Bethany is in need for some volunteers to count the church offerings after worship on Sundays. Prayerfully consider to help out with this, see Shelly Sholley or Pastor Bill to join the Counter Team. Thank You!



Hand Towel Mission....



Between now and the 2020 session of Annual Conference, to be held at Hershey Lodge next May 28-30, churches in all seven districts are each being asked to collect one item which is used to make up Mission Central Care Kits. Churches are then asked to send those items with their pastor and/or lay member to Annual Conference. Lewisburg District is asked to collect hand towels, good quality, preferably 15X25 – 17X27 inches in size. Bethany you can start bringing in hand towels for this mission to church (Boxes are located at West Milton UMC and Bethany office).

Bible Study, continues....



A weekly Bible Study on “Book of Proverbs” has begun on Tuesday's & Thursday's for 2020. You can join in on Tuesday's at 10:00 am, held at Thereasa Hinderliter's (Can carpool just meet at Bethany Office by 9:45 am) or on Thursday's at 7:00 pm, held at Bethany's church office.

This study will be weekly and will run throughout the summer, everyone is welcomed, please join in.

Milton's Good News

Trustees Report...

It's that time of year! The Conference requires an annual Church Trustees Report, which has been completed and submitted. Part of the report includes the balances of our investments at the end of the year, so I'll take this opportunity to share the year end balances.

The following balances (rounded) are as of December 31:

- Hudock Capital Group (Pershing) - \$595,561 – an increase of \$13,499 from the last quarter – We needed to transfer \$10,000 from this account for current expenses in December.
- Prudential Investments - \$629,797 – an increase of approximately \$24,880 from the last quarter – this is our 'in lieu of flood insurance' account.
- Prudential Investments – The Radenbush Trust - \$92,888 – an increase of a little over \$234 from last quarter.
- Prudential Investments - \$8,313 – an increase of \$159 from the last quarter.
- BYN Mellon – The Butler Trust – \$215,072 – an increase of \$8,911 after the quarterly disbursement of funds which helps with current expenses.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand, Trustee chair

Bethany Fire Update:

The Trustees and the Leadership Team have a lot of work ahead making important decisions regarding the future of Bethany. As most of you are aware, the insurance company has been busy combing through the debris in an attempt to determine a cause. That process will probably take a few more weeks. Because there will be large sums of money coming in from the insurance claim we are in the process of setting up a separate 'Fire Fund' account with Hudock Capital. To ensure funds are available on short notice to pay bills related to the fire, the account will be in short term investments. We will be able to transfer funds within a few days as needed.

Thank You Letters to all those below who donated to the Fire Fund, since last newsletter:

Marjory Ohl, Tina Coates, Jeffrey Debaro, Phillip & Melody Baldwin, Stephanie (Bennage) Garman, Joseph & June Hutton, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, PW of Mooresburg Presbyterian Church, Mike & Willa Stewart, John & Connie Colatch, Clarks Green UMC, and Fairmount United Methodist Church.

Bethany thanks all those who contributed to the Fire Fund.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand, Trustee chair



Finance Report (December's Current Expenses In & Out):

Total Income Received: \$19,556.00

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$11,681.00

Total December Average Attendance: 27

Bethany UMC Current Expense Income December 2019 Reports:

Envelope Income To Date---2019

		Current Expense	Reno	Benev. (Price Fund)	Miscell.	Weekly Total	Year To Date
December	1	\$550.00		\$3.00		\$553.00	\$41,502.00
	8	\$911.00		\$56.00		\$967.00	\$42,569.00
	15	\$1,004.00		\$6.00		\$1,010.00	\$43,579.00
	22	\$954.00		\$6.00		\$960.00	\$44,539.00
	29	\$917.00		\$40.00		\$957.00	\$44,496.00

Plate Income To Date---2019

		Current Exp.		Weekly Total	Year To Date
December	1	\$161.00		\$161.00	\$2,417.00
	8	\$153.00		\$153.00	\$2,570.00
	15	\$27.00		\$27.00	\$2,597.00
	22	\$21.00		\$21.00	\$2,618.00
	29	\$104.00		\$104.00	\$2,722.00

Lessons For Life Income To Date---2019

		Weekly Total	Year To Date
December	1		\$638.00=
	8		\$638.00
	15		\$638.00
	22	\$11.00	\$649.00
	29	\$12.00	\$661.00

Bethany UMC Special UM Sunday Contributions 2019

<u>United Methodist Student Day---11/24/2019</u>	<u>YTD</u>
12/1/19---\$50.00	\$255.00

Bethany UMC Miscellaneous Contributions 2019

	Year To Date
Initial Offering	
12/22/19---\$5.00	\$74.00
Salvation Army Loose Change to Make a Change Collection	
12/8/19--\$29.62	
12/8/19--\$43.19	\$136.25
Advent Offering	
12/08/19-\$10.00	
12/15/19-\$5,275.00	
12/22/19-\$25.00	
12/29/19-\$50.00	\$5,360.00
Premium Reimbursement	
12/08/19-\$80.14	\$80.14
Visa Debit Account Reimbursement from Fire Fund	
12/15/19-\$19.09	\$19.09

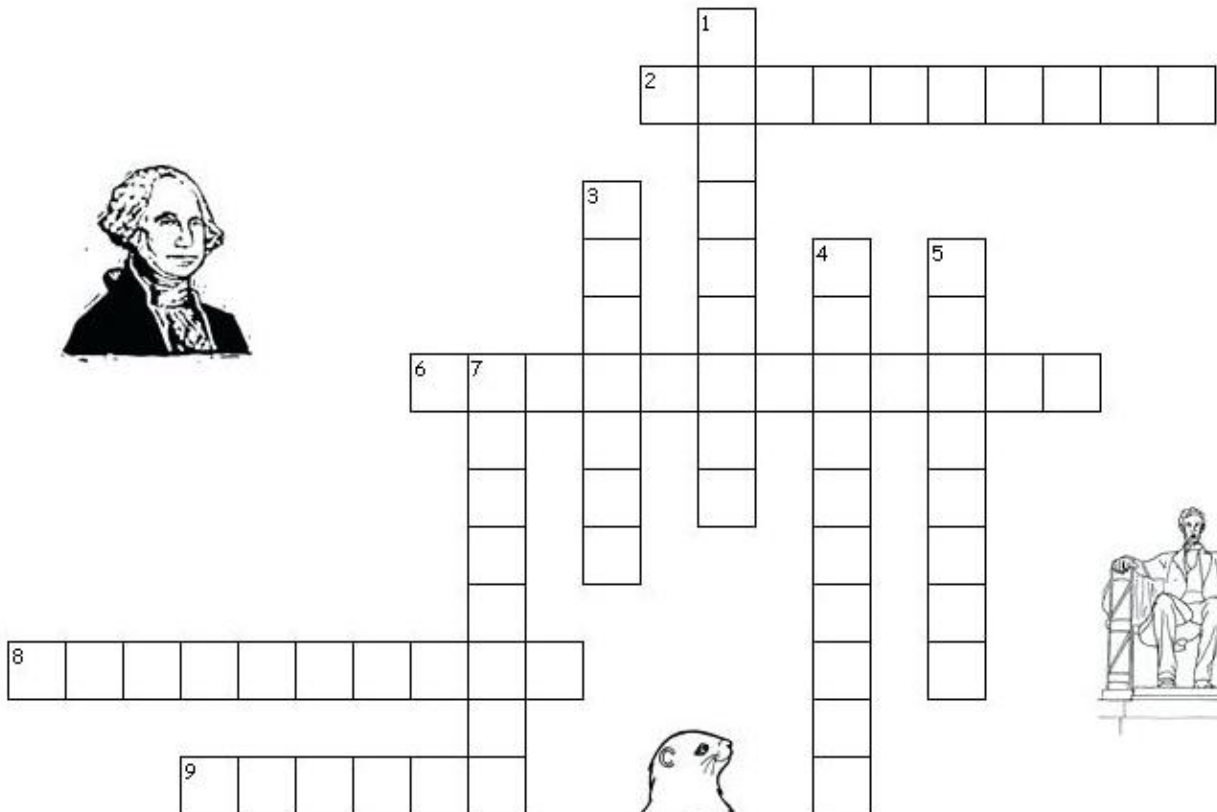
FIRE FUND---2019

		Envelopes	Non-Members	Weekly Total	Year To Date
December	1				
	8		\$2,422.00	\$2,422.00	\$2,422.00
	15	\$50.00	\$2.00	\$52.00	\$2,474.00
	22		\$450.00	\$450.00	\$2,924.00
	29	\$200.00	\$2,125.00	\$2,325.00	\$5,249.00
	31		\$150.00	\$150.00	\$5,399.00

Fun Page



FEBRUARY

**Across**

2. _____ Day - A Holiday Celebrating Our Leaders
 6. February is _____ Month (2 words)
 8. The Sweetest Day
 9. February's Season

Down

1. February 2 is _____ Day
 3. President Abraham _____
 4. Our first President (last name)
 5. February is the _____ month
 7. Happens every 4 years (2 words)

BETHANY UMC

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

miltonbethanyumcoffice@gmail.com

Website:

bethanyumc-miltonpa.org

Sunday Worship:

[Held at West Milton UMC

310 High St

West Milton PA]

Lessons for Life: 10:00 am

Gathering of the Family of God: 11:00 am

PASTOR BILL

670 Stamm Rd
Milton, PA 17847
717-968-3500 (Cell)
570-246-5830 (Home)
pastorbill@gmail.com

Upper Room – Now Available

March / April

Daily Bread – Now Available

March / April / May

Announcements:**Dates to Remember:**

January 29th – 6:30 pm – N.O.W. Meeting

February 2nd – 10:00 am – Lessons for Life (Sunday School)

February 2nd - 11:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / “Sharing the Table” Communion

February 2nd – 2:00 pm – Rockwell Communion

February 3rd – 4:45 pm – (Servers) Milton Harvest Community Dinner @ St Andrew's

February 4th – 10:00 am – Bible Study “Proverbs” @ Thereasa's home

February 4th – Noon - Milton Ministerium

February 4th – 6:30 pm – Annual Oyster Supper @ Zion Evan Lutheran Church,
Turbotville PA. Donation of \$17.00 per person.

February 6th – 7:00 pm – Bible Study “Proverbs” @ Bethany Office

February 9th – 5:00 pm – Community Dinners @ Christ Lutheran

February 18th – 6:30 pm – Leadership Team (Finance / Ad Board)

February 26th – 7:00 pm – Ash Wednesday Service @ St. Andrew's UMC

March 1st – 10:00 am – Lessons for Life (Sunday School)

March 1st - 11:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / “Sharing the Table” Communion

March 1st – 2:00 pm – Rockwell Communion

March 2nd – 4:45 pm – (Servers) Milton Harvest Community Dinner @ St. Andrew's

March 3rd – 8:30 am – Milton Ministerium @ 1st Presbyterian

March 3rd – 1:00 pm – Worship Team @ Bethany Office

March 3rd – 6:30 pm – N.O.W. @ Bethany Office

March 4th – Noon – “Soup & The Word” @ 1st Presby. Begins

March 17th – 6:30 pm- Leadership Team (Finance / Ad Board)

March 18th – Noon – “Soup & The Word” @ 1st Presby. (Bethany provides soup/message)

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

Bible Study “Proverbs”: 10:00 am every Tuesday @ Thereasa's home

Bible Study “Proverbs”: 7:00 pm every Thursday @ Bethany Office

Lessons for Life: 10:00 am every Sunday morning.

Gathering of the Family of God: 11:00 am every Sunday morning.



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

Feb
2020