

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



Volume 8, Issue 4

April 2021

Milton's Good News

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March – "At a Glance"

Looking back in March for Bethany, the Lenten Bible Study continued. Ministerium Facebook had The Wednesday Lenten Word messages virtual and Pastor Bill did his Lenten message on the 3rd of March. Candy was donated by members and was given to 50 Milton area families for HandUp Easter Candy Giveaway. **Thank you all** for donating and helping bag up the candy. Continued Leadership meetings with Poole & Anderson. Construction team onsite, roof trusses & roof sheeting was installed, interior walls for rooms inside being constructed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. (Mark 16:6 NIV)
Cheri Buss

Easter....Christ has Risen Indeed!!!!



Special points of interest:

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Maundy Thursday Service: April 1st at 7:00 pm "Live Last Supper"
Narrated by Pastor Bill @ St Andrew's UMC

Good Friday Tenebrae Service: April 2nd at 7:00 pm
led by Pastor Barb & Pastor Bill @ St Andrew's UMC

Easter Sunday: April 4th:
Sunrise Service - 6:30 am at St Andrew's UMC Pavilion by Conagra
Easter Service - 11:00 am (Communion) at West Milton UMC

The Word (Virtual Message)....



The Word
Wednesday Weekly Lenten Virtual On-line Messages
Begins Wednesday, February 24th, 2021 at Noon
@ Milton Ministerium Facebook Page

Due to the covid pandemic this year we will not gather for soup and the Word, but will have an on-line virtual message by local area pastors each week.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker by:</u>
March 24 th	Steve Shirk "Pilot"
March 31 st	Linda Meckley "Thief"



From Pastor Bill's Study



Greetings to all,

If you are reading this then you have survived daylight savings time. The days are starting to become a little longer as we wind our way toward spring.

This for me is one of the hardest transitions of the seasons. Where we go from the white of snow to the browns and grays in the land. And then just when everything seems to be a mess the green of new growth begins.

With the newness of the season, I am waiting for this year to also signal the start of worship back in the fellowship hall at Bethany. This has been a long time since the occurrence of the fire which changed everything. We who are connected to Bethany will never forget that day. Now is the time to prepare for another change. When we will make the switch from West Milton back to Bethany. I do feel the presence of the Holy Spirit at West Milton, but I also feel the Spirit telling me it is time to reclaim that which has been taken away.

I am reminded of the Book of Joshua and his command to be strong and courageous. We will be moving into a new land as we enter into a new building. We need to be reminded this is not the old building but a new start in a new land. There is going to be some getting used to the new space and the possibilities that will be contained in this new space. We must not lament that which was taken away, but we must remember the call to go boldly into the new space and claim it for God and the purpose of the church.

I know my time is getting shorter and shorter but there is no time to delay in doing what needs to be done to fulfill the mission of the church. That is to bring people to Christ and to prepare them and ourselves for the coming of the Lord. This task and this mission will never change until the Lord arrives once again upon this earth.

As you read these words we will either be in Holy week or reliving the Resurrection of our Lord as we celebrate the Easter Season. I pray you will find a renewing of your faith as we together travel that road to our resurrection as well.

The Lenten season is a time of repentance and preparation for the coming of Christ the Messiah. The people were looking as Christ the prophet or as Christ the conqueror and they missed the message of it is our sin that is the bigger problem. The people looked for someone to change the physical realm they were living in and missed that the spiritual issues that are the bigger problem.

We are in the same place today as we look for change within our physical world and do not see that we are lost in our sins. Before we can fix the problems of the world we need to fix the problems in our lives first. I am amazed that there are more worried about the number of genders than they are about feeding and caring for all. We are more worried about being politically correct than we are than being scripturally correct.

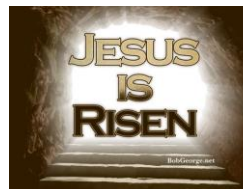
There is a lot to be repentant about but we have become more concerned about offending others than we are about offending God!

Our sins are great but our God is greater! The story of the Holy week proves the love God has for us and the solution to our problems is always ready to hear our needs and to help us overcome the world around us.

Praise God, and remember He is Risen, He is Risen indeed!

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 April they are due: Sunday, April 11, 2021.** 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

Here are April's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles. [The songs have been scheduled throughout June 2021.] **In person worship is back again, which will be held at West Milton UMC at 11:00 am (Use masks & keep safety guidelines). Sermons will also be posted on the website and Facebook.**

April 4th (Easter Sunday) – Christ the Lord (302); Lamb of God (2113); Up from the Grace (322); Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; “*Appearance*” / Communion

April 11th - Trust and Obey (467); Lamb of God (2113); Tis so Sweet (462); Psalm 133; Revelation 13:1-8; “*The Beast*”

April 18th – Thine Be Thy Glory (308); Lamb of God (2113); He Lives (310); Psalm 4; Revelation 14:1-20; “*Harvest*”

April 25th– Savior, Like a Shepard (381); Lamb of God (2113); His Name is Wonderful (174); Psalm 23; Revelation 15:1-8; “*Plagues*”

Leadership Team Report

The Team's March devotions were based on Matthew 13:1-9, and were centered on the theme of “Harvesting.” In that passage, Jesus delivered a parable to an eager crowd, describing how seeds falling on different kinds of soil and under varying conditions can sprout (or not) and thrive (or not) depending on opportunities for development. This is a message with quite a lot of depth, as it closely relates to how God's messages are delivered and by whom they're received (or not). Most of Jesus' listeners could gather the meanings and nuances of this story, not having to hold degrees in either agronomy or theology to understand the connections of one discipline to the other. As Jesus said at the end of the parable, “Whoever has ears, let them hear.” Even so, verses 18-23 of the same chapter constitute Jesus' parsing explanation of the parable and come as close to a full apologetic for His teaching method as he ever uttered. He offered it because someone asked him for it. (Think on that, too.) Today, as then and as ever, some seeds never find fertile ground, some take quick root but soon die out, some grow but fitfully and not to fullness, and some take root and thrive in good soil. With the word of God, we tend to want instant results, and good ones, too. But we must remember that while we are the sowers, the Lord is the harvester. Invariably, waiting is involved because we don't sow and then reap anything like right away. Also, we are the caretakers of the crops. We were asked to describe sowing and reaping experiences of our own. One of us related sharing Bible verses of edification and encouragement on a social media platform (more or less casting to see what he could catch), at first in a small trickle, then in greater numbers as it became evident that it was making a difference. He sowed, he waited, he tended the field, and a big crop came in. His ground wasn't all the same quality, but some of it was good enough to support the healthy growth of his well-planted seeds.

We moved to make April 30, 2021 as the date by which we demand that all transitional work must be completed by all employees with regard to the office's new PowerChurch software. This is to insure that those who engage with it are fully on board with it and capable of using everything it offers to them as individuals and to Bethany.

Rod Moore

Volunteers/Helping Hands--Pack snacks for children in Lewisburg

Lauren Ziolkowski, Food Access Coordinator, Office of Civic Engagement of Bucknell University

Seeking volunteers to pack snack packs for Lewisburg Elementary & Middle Schools.

If you were looking for another opportunity to help us get food out to the community, we do a twice-monthly snack packing and distribution for the Lewisburg area elementary and middle schools. Distribution is typically every other week on Wednesdays at The Miller Center in Lewisburg.

If interested, please see Pastor Bill and he will get in touch with Lauren.

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 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”** or into the office **Mon, Wed, 9 am -1 pm and Fri from 9 am – 12:30 pm.**



Next Food Collection Communion Dates: April 4th / May 2nd



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

Sponsored by Bucknell University

Monday’s Milton Harvest Community Meals are back! These will be pick up only meals on Monday’s from 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm at St Andrew’s UMC – Parking lot. Walk-in or drive-through only to pick up meals in the parking lot.

[Don’t need volunteers, at this time]

Secret Prayer Pal – Update



Please keep the same Secret Prayer Pal you had for 2020 and we will draw new ones in July 2021. End of June 2021, your Secret Prayer Pal will be revealed and for those who would like to take part, in June 2021 there will be a slip of paper in the back of the sanctuary to participate in, simply fill it out and place in basket. Watch for more information.

Watch the Messages....Our Website



You can now watch the sermons by Pastor Bill McNeal on our Website: bethanyumc-miltonpa.org – under the Watch the Messages tab. You may also view them each week via Facebook: [miltonbethanyumc](https://www.facebook.com/miltonbethanyumc). Let us stay connected during these uncertain times and pray for one another!

Revelation Sermon Series continues...

Wooden Prayer Crosses....



Eli Manges (Poole Anderson crew member), Eli’s father made these wooden prayer crosses out of one of our old pews. If you would like one, please come into the office (Monday, Wednesday, or Friday 9am – 12:30 pm), to get one while supplies last.

We thanked Eli and his father for what a wonderful gift this was to Bethany!

Easter Flowers.....



Much like last year, due to COVID-19, the Easter flower availability & shipments are in flux and we are unclear whether we will be able to offer Flower dedications and flowers. I am awaiting word from the 3 businesses we have purchased them from in the past and if we get confirmation on our ability to continue this tradition, updates will be announced. Watch your bulletins for more info!

Milton's Good News

Bethany UMC Current Expense Income February 2021 Reports:

	2021 Offering Envelopes					
Month	Date	Curr. Exp.	Price Fund	Reno	Total	YTD
	31	493	15		508	3785
February	7	741	30		771	4556
	14					4556
	21	1782	70		1852	6408
	28					6408

	2021 Plate Offering					
Month	Date	Curr. Exp.	Price Fund	Reno	Total	YTD
February	7	1			1	380
	14					380
	21	3			3	383
	28					383

	2021 Miscellaneous Income				
Month	Date	Curr. Exp.	Total	YTD	
February	7			261.98	
	14			261.98	
Lenten Offering	21	20	20	281.98	
	28			281.98	

	2021 Fire Restoration Fund			
Month	Date	Reno	Total	YTD
February	7	30	30	1365
	14			1365
	21	2250	2250	3615
	28			3615



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

Total Income Received: \$2,647.19

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$13,619.37

Average Attendance: 13

Hoagie / Pizza Fundraiser for Todd Hauck



Purchase \$6.00 hoagie and/or \$8.00 12" pizza coupons to help with expenses for Todd Hauck. Come to the church office to purchase your coupons and then redeem them at The Breaking Bread Sub Shop on 281 Hepburn St, Milton PA (Corner of Turbot & Hepburn) for your hoagie and/or pizza. Half the proceeds will go to Todd Hauck. Coupons are good until the end of June 2021.

Thank You for your support!

Bethany Fire Update: (Follow building progress on FaceBook & Website)



Roof trusses and roof sheeting installed and shingles are going up. Digging & installing the storm drain system.

Total Income Received (Feb): \$2,727.15

Total Expenses Paid Out (Feb): \$178,276.20

Thank you's to the Judith Campbell Estate & Denny & BJ Myers-Rovenolt who recently donated to the Fire Restoration Fund.



Trustees Report

At the church, the team has approved the bid for kitchen equipment and the furnishings for the social hall. Also, the new pew style and finishes were chosen. If you haven't been by lately the church is under roof and shingles are being installed now. I'm sure Pastor Bill will have more news to share at our upcoming meeting. The church mailbox was moved temporarily to the side of the Parish/Office on Elm Street, due to them digging up sidewalk in the front of the office for storm drain and cannot use front entrance for a couple of weeks.

For the parsonage the Leadership Team at the last meeting approved replacing the roof and also doing some minor renovations inside the house. As you know, we have received a proposal from Hillside Roofing. Hopefully Mike has been able to talk to Jay Buck about installing railing at the top of the steps leading to the basement from the garage and also closing in the sides on the stairs to the basement from inside the house. Some of the Leadership Team will go to Carpetman in the near future to pick out new flooring for the laundry room.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

Our Prayer List.....

Transition of new appointed pastor & family for July: Pastor Travis & Jessica Allshouse

Florence Y – Testing and health concerns.

Cindy M – Testing / Health.

Karen H - Health

The Family of John Packer – John passes away.

Kathryn M – Grieving of the loss of her friend, John.

Patti Scott - Health

Jeff B - Depression

Terrie & Todd H – Todd home now & continue prayers for recovery.

Sarah H – Health / Nursing Home / Future long-term care needs.

Judy C – Health / Back

Katy M – Health / Kidney

Tom Y - Health

Dan & Suki – Dan's cancer & support for Suki

President / Country / Nation

Covid 19 & Vaccines / Elderly / Nursing Homes

Those who lost loved ones.

Those dealing with Cancer – Dan, Mandy, Terrie, Gary, David, Rita, Doug, Debbie, Shirley

Bethany Congregation / Restoration & reopening business / Churches.

Leadership Team: Cindy, James A, Rod, Shelly, Bob F, James M, Dick K, Dave W, Mike L, Dorothy, Pastor Bill.




Fun Page

The resurrection of
Jesus Christ

from the Books of Matthew and Mark

**Bible Crossword
No.3**



Across

1 where they laid Jesus after He died (Matt.27:60)

4 the place where Jesus died (Matt.27:33)

5 Jesus and two thieves were _____ together (Matt.27:38)

8 mother of Jesus

9 The angel said "He is _____ He is not here" (Mark 16:6)

10 They made Jesus wear a scarlet _____ (Matt.27:28)

12 Jesus was betrayed for _____ pieces of silver (Matt.27:3)

14 Jesus was _____ of any crime (Matt.27:4)

15 The 12 companions of Jesus

DOWN

2 Jesus shed His _____ for our sins

3 Judas Iscariot _____ Jesus (Matt.27:4)

5 Roman commander of a hundred men (Matt.27:54)

6 Jesus said " My God, My God why hast thou _____ me" (Matt.27:46)

7 a title of Jesus (it means anointed one) (Matt.27:17)

11 They laid the _____ of Jesus in a tomb (Matt.27:59)

12 Jesus wore a "crown of _____"

13 our Lord and Saviour

more puzzles at <http://biblewordgames.com>

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BETHANY UMC

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

bethany18coffice@gmail.com

Website:

bethanyumc-miltonpa.org

Sunday Worship:

**[Held at West Milton UMC
310 High St
West Milton PA]**

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:**

[We will not be meeting for Lesson for Life (Sunday School) until further notice.]

March 28th – 11:00 am – Palm Sunday

March 30th – 10:00 am – Lenten Bible Study @ West Milton UMC (Last study)

March 31st – 7:00 pm – Lenten Bible Study @ Bethany Office (Last study)

April 1st – 10:30 am – Leadership Team W Poole Anderson

April 1st – 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday Service @ St Andrew's UMC

April 2nd – 7:00 pm - Good Friday Tenebrae Service @ St Andrew's UMC

April 4th – 6:30 am – SunRise Service @ St Andrew's Pavilion by Conagra

**April 4th – 11:00 am – Easter Sunday - Gathering of the Family of God
Panther Packs / Communion**

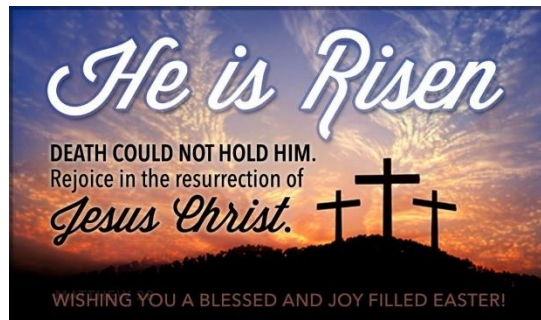
April 15th - 10:30 am - Leadership Team W Poole Anderson

April 19th – 9:00 am – Pastor's Cluster Meeting @ St Andrews

April 20th – 6:30 pm – Leadership Team (Ad Board / Finance) @ West Milton UMC

April 29th - 10:30 am - Leadership Team W Poole Anderson

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



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

April
2021