

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

Volume 7, Issue 5

May 2020

Milton's Good News

April- "At a Glance"

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Looking back in April for Bethany, we continued our social distancing, which meant no gatherings, services or meetings, per Bishop Parks and Gov Tom Wolf, from this corona virus sweeping over our world. Pastor McNeal began the month with a letter and included was a devotional for the Holy Week with a piece of palm enclosed. Pastor McNeal shared daily devotions, Maundy Thursday message, Resurrection Sunday message live on FaceBook. Members of the congregation & Shelly manage to get the candy that was donated to HandsUp for the Easter Giveaway. Our community dinners were canceled along with our Bible Studies, but with hope will be back soon.

"Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor."
1 Peter 2:17 (NIV)
— Cheri Buss

National Day of Prayer



Special points of interest:

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Our Dear Heavenly Father, while we come to You in complete humility, we also come to You with boldness in the authoritative name of Your One and Only Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In Jesus' name, fill us now with Your Holy Spirit and lead us as we pray in Jesus' name for America, our Communities, our Churches, and the Lost of the World.

Milton Ministerium is having a National Day of Prayer Service via FaceBook

(Sponsored by the Kingdom Kidz Puppets)

Date: Thursday, May 7th, 2020

Program will be on FaceBook:kingdom-Kidz-Inc

All invited & encouraged to view and pray with one another – Puppet Style.

For more information call the Kingdom Kidz office at 570-838-3133 or visit their website at www.hiskingdomkidz.org.

Memorial Day



Monday, May 25th – Memorial Day

This Memorial Day we salute the brave men and women who served to protect our country.

Thank You and God bless!



From Pastor Bill's Study

Greetings to all,

To quote a famous line, "*It was the best of times it was the worst of times*". Remember when you might have said that you would do this or do that when you had the time? Well guess what we now have the time to do all those things as we self quarantine ourselves. With the health scares and the threat of contact with someone who might have been infected with CV-19 we are now facing time with family that we usually do not have.

There are some who will still be working and their routine has been altered by less contact and a more strenuous cleaning routine. With masks and gloves we venture out when we have to and do what we have to do and then return home as quickly as we can to wash and sanitize our hands. On the plus side we may be drinking more fluids to rinse any germs out of our mouths and throats before they can reach our lungs.

We might also be spending more time with family then we have in a long time and this is a good thing as the art of conversation has been waning.

The advent of social media has lead to a new term of social distancing with has become a part of the everyday language now. We are withdrawing from social gatherings because of fear of contact with other human beings.

I wonder as this disease runs its course will things ever return to normal again? In a conversation with my son we pondered how many workers will return to the jobs they had or will they force the closing of many of the service operations. Also pondered the response to all who are now working from home, will they go back to an office or will the companies see the upside of owning physical locations to do their business. How will this also affect those who never before ordered on line before will this change even more the closure of the small local shops?

In all of this we as the church should not lose focus that we are called as followers of Christ to be a light and witness to God in our lives. To that end we should not be hermits hoarding all we have but should be sharing the greatest gift we have. That is the love of Christ and the sure and certain hope that God is still in control.

We should be using what we have to reach out and keep in contact with other church family along with friends, family and neighbors during these trying times.

I also see this as a wonderful time to draw closer to God through the words supplied to us through the Bible. A time of reading and reflection, maybe even a chance to use the phone, email, facebook or any way that you can to bring discussion to what you might be looking at in the Bible.

Jesus tells us in John 14 not to worry that help is coming in the form of the Holy Spirit and for us today those words have come true. We are not alone in the time of chaos and despair and we are not left as orphans but have a father who loves us. Together with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit we will come out of this stronger if we will exercise our faith.

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 May they are due: Sunday, May 10, 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, March 3rd. Here are May's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles. **Next Worship Team meeting will be on Tuesday, June 2nd, 2020 at 1:00 PM.**

May 10th (Mother's Day) – His Eye is on the Sparrow (2146); Living for Jesus (2149); Because He Lives (364); Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Hebrews 6:1-6; *"Instruction"*

May 17th – I Need Thee Every Hour (397); Living for Jesus (2149); Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (89); Psalm 66:8-20; Hebrews 7:23-28; *"Priest"*

May 24th – Stand By Me (512); Living for Jesus (2149); I Love to Tell the Story (156); Psalm 47; Hebrews 8:7-13; *"Covenant"*

May 31st (Pentecost Sunday) – Every Time I Feel the Spirit (404); Living for Jesus (2149); Sweet, Sweet Spirit (334); Psalm 104:24-34; Hebrews 9:11-15; *"New Covenant / Gideon's"*

Corona Virus Update....

Gov. Wolf wants to begin easing some pandemic restrictions on May 8 in areas of Pennsylvania that have been lightly impacted by the new coronavirus. But even under yellow, a ban on gatherings of over 25 people will remain, and gyms, casinos, theaters and other indoor recreational, wellness and entertainment venues will stay closed. (I pray that our area churches can open back up soon, so keep praying and meditating on God's words "The Bible". Stay safe & strong Bethany UMC Congregation and God bless – Cheri Buss)

Our Prayer List.....

Florence Y. –Healing / health
 Patti S. – Health / Recovery
 Jim Masser & Family – Loss of sister, Pauline Cameron
 David (Karen's friend) – Cancer
 Terri H. – PetScan / Cancer
 Gary (Friend of Janet) – Cancer
 Dan A – Cancer / Recovery
 Mandy (Jim's friend) – Cancer
 National Day of Prayer
 Community Dinners
 Coronavirus- Elderly, children, healthcare field, workers
 Bethany Congregation during the stay at home order.
 Bethany UMC Restoration
 Tom Y – Health
 Leadership Team: Cindy, James A, Rod, Shelly, Bob F, James M, Dick K, Dave W, Mike L, Dorothy, Pastor Bill.

Praise:

Donna Gundrum's Granddaughter (Alisa) was restored back to health and work at Geisinger.



Thank You Note.....



Dear Pastor William McNeal and congregation: The members of the Milton Fire Department would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$1,000.00. The firefighters train for all different types of situations every Tuesday evening. The member will decide at a later date what to purchase with the donation. When we make a decision the department will put a plaque on the item(s) purchased on behalf of the church. Thank you very much.

- From the Department, Jennifer Engleman, Milton Fire Dept, Secretary

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

Next N.O.W. Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2nd 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 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”**. **Next Food Collection Communion Dates: May 10th/ June 4th**



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

There will **not** be any Milton Harvest Community Dinners for May, per Sarah Wochele, Bucknell. Sarah will let us know if they can start back up for June.

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

There will be a Community Dinner on a **Sunday, June 14th, 2020 at 5:00 pm.** Watch for more information.

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

Easter Basket Giveaway update:



Despite the quarantine challenges, Bethany was still able to fulfill the Easter Candy Giveaway at HandUp Foundation on April 8th! We packaged & delivered 50 treat sacks to give some local children a Happy Easter. A huge thank you to everyone who donated candy & items & a big thanks to Sharon Foust for helping organize & pack the sacks!

Hand Towel Mission....



Between now and the 2020 session of Annual Conference, to be held at Hershey Lodge on 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). Thank You!

Toasty Toes Sock Ministry....

We have launched a new ongoing ministry here at Bethany. The “Toasty Toes Sock Ministry” will provide new socks to those in need. Socks will be handed out at both of the Community Dinners that we serve and assist with and at Milton Towers and other limited income housing projects in town. We are collecting pairs of new socks in all sizes & genders from infants to adults. Please deposit socks in the laundry basket at the front of the sanctuary on any Sunday.



Leadership Team (Ad Board) Report....

In deference to the ongoing social contact restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, Bethany Leadership conducted its most recent meeting by conference phone. The business at hand centered solely around matters related to ensuring progress in post-fire church restoration.

By way of background, the Team had engaged three architectural firms in conversations and walk-throughs by which they could evaluate our situation and exchange ideas for restoration steps. Those interviews took place over the last couple of months. Then, of those three, we chose two firms to ask for proposals, which gave us material by which we could evaluate their capabilities and approaches to our challenges. Based on that, the Team, at the aforementioned phone meeting, unanimously voice-voted its approval of Hemmler + Camayd of Scranton PA as the firm with which to move forward. Hemmler + Camayd has already been contacted to get them to begin planning renewal configurations.

In addition, the Team voted unanimously to have the fire-damaged Moller organ removed by a group with whom the Pastor has had previous contact on the situation. There would be no cost to Bethany for that work.

The sanctuary pews that were removed at the time of the fire are still in storage. We will evaluate the area we project to use as our new sanctuary as to how to re-install at least some of them, contingent on what we envision as our future space utilization. The refurbishing would involve about 200 man-hours per pew, but in the present scenario, the pews would come back to us cost-free because the restoring party would treat their billing for refurbishing as a donation to the church.

Rod Moore

Trustees Report...

Finally after months of sifting through debris, the insurance investigation has finally concluded. Although we have not received the official report from the investigation, we are now able to move forward with the remaining demolition and to begin the rebuilding process. Our main priority will be to get the building under roof so the interior can begin to dry.

As I believe I shared in a previous newsletter, the Leadership Team invited three different architectural/engineering firms to tour our damaged church and meet with the team. The team felt that two of the three possessed the skills and experience to lead us through the rebuilding process and were asked to submit formal proposals for their services. The Leadership Team received and reviewed the proposals. During a meeting via phone on April 21, the team voted in favor of accepting the proposal presented by Hemmler & Camayd Architects from Scranton. They were chosen over the other firm due to their extensive experience with church building, preservation and restoration.

The other business related to the church demolition and restoration during the recent phone meeting that was decided was the future of the pipe organ. At an estimate of at least \$500,000 to repair, we had previously decided that it was a poor use of financial resources to spend that much to repair the organ. Thankfully the company who kept the organ in working order all these years was able to connect Pastor Bill with a company that is interested in refurbishing the organ for another church. The Leadership Team is thankful that the organ will once again be used for songs of praise and worship.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand, Trustee chair

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

Total Income Received:	\$5,041
Total Expenses Paid Out:	\$9,996

Bethany UMC Current Expense Income March 2020 Reports:

Envelope Income To Date---2020

		Current Expense	Reno	Benev. (Price Fund)	Miscell.	Weekly Total	Year To Date
March	1	\$948.00		\$46.00		\$994.00	\$8,102.00
	8	\$844.00		\$6.00		\$850.00	\$8,952.00
	15	\$592.00		\$3.00		\$595.00	\$9,547.00
	22						\$9,547.00
	29	\$256.00		\$14.00		\$270.00	\$9,817.00

Plate Income To Date---2020

		Plate	Known Givers	Benevolences (Price Fund)	Weekly Total	Year To Date
March	1	\$12.00			\$12.00	\$425.00
	8	\$5.00			\$5.00	\$430.00
	15	\$40.00			\$40.00	\$470.00
	22	CANCELLED				\$470.00
	29	CANCELLED				\$470.00

Lessons For Life Income To Date---2020

		Weekly Total	Year To Date
March	1	\$9.00	\$80.10
	8	\$14.00	\$94.10
	15	\$9.00	\$103.10
	22	CANCELLED	\$103.10
	29	CANCELLED	\$103.10

Bethany UMC Miscellaneous Contributions 2020

Lenten Offering		
2/23/20--	\$5.00	
3/1/20--	\$2,075.00	
3/8/20--	\$100.00	\$2,180.00
Easter Flower Dedications		
3/1/20--	\$26.00	
3/8/20--	\$25.00	
3/15/20--	\$17.00	\$68.00

Fire Restoration Fund Income---2020

		Known Givers	Weekly Total	Year To Date
March	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$16,403.97
	8			\$16,403.97
	15	\$1,206.00	\$1,206.00	\$17,609.97
	22			\$17,609.97
	29			\$17,609.97

Fun Page



Sunday, May 10th

To all the women out there who gave birth, nurtured, and adopted God's children, bless you and have a wonderful Mother's Day!

MOTHER'S DAY

WORD SEARCH

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

MOMMY	TEACHER
LOVE	KIND
HUGS	PATIENT
KISSES	NURSE
FLOWERS	COOKIES



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

May / June

Daily Bread – Now Available

June / July / August

Announcements:

Dates to Remember:

- May 6th – Kingdom Kidz National Day of Prayer Service via Facebook**
- May 10th – 11:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / “Sharing the Table” Communion**
- May 10th – 2:00 pm – Rockwell Communion**
- May 10th – (Happy Mother’s Day)**
- May 19th – 6:30 pm – Leadership Team (Finance & Ad Board) @ Bethany office**
- May 25th – Happy Memorial Day (Office closed)**
- May 26th – Noon – Riverwoods Auxiliary @ Riverwoods**
- May 28th – 30th – Annual Conference @ Hershey (Pastor Bill & Rod attending)**

- Rockwell Bible Study: 9:00 am every Thursday at Rockwell.***
- Bible Study “Proverbs”: 10:00 am every Tuesday @ Bethany’s Office***
- 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

May
2020