

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



Volume 8, Issue 3
March 2021

Milton's Good News

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From Pastor Bill 2
 Worship Schedule 3
 Leadership Team 3
 N.O.W. Here This! 4
 Trustees Report 6
 Announcements 8

February – "At a Glance"

Looking back in February for Bethany, Ash Wednesday Service was held at St Andrew's and a Lenten Bible Study began at the end of February. Continued Leadership meetings with Poole & Anderson. Construction team onsite, roof trusses to be installed, (Members signing a truss took place), interior walls for rooms inside being constructed.

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." (Mark 11:24 NIV)
 -Cheri Buss

Daylight Saving Time begins – Turn those clocks ahead one-hour Saturday night, March 13th.



Special points of interest:

- "At a Glance" (pg 1)
- Set Clocks Ahead (pg 1)
- The Word (pg 1)
- Lenten Bible Study (pg 1)
- Leadership Reports (pg 2)
- Lenten Offering (pg 3)
- Secret Pray Pal (pg 4)
- Watch The Messages (pg 4)
- Easter Candy Giveaway (pg 4)
- Easter Flowers (pg 4)
- Financial Stats (pg 5)
- Milton Fire Dept Ham Drive Thru (pg 5)
- Bethany Fire Update (pg 6)
- Our Prayer List (pg 6)
- Fun Page (pg 7)

The Word: Virtual Lenten Messages



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>
February 24 th	Jill Bond "Mary, mother of Jesus"
March 3 rd	Bill McNeal "Fig Tree / Cleansing of the Temple"
March 10 th	Kingdom Kidz "Garden of Gethsemane"
March 17 th	Jamie Drives "Barabbas"
March 24 th	Steve Shirk "Pilot"
March 31 st	Linda Meckley "Thief"

Lenten Bible Study...



THE LAST WEEK
 of Jesus' life
 EASTER STUDY

There will be a six-week Lenten Bible Study "**Last Week of Christ's Life**" offered at two different times, one on Tuesdays at 10:00 am and one on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. The Lenten Study will start on Tuesday, February 23rd and Wednesday, February 24th. All are welcome and please take part and reflect in this Lenten Bible Study.

10:00 am Tuesday mornings held at West Milton Church

7:00 pm Wednesday evening held at Bethany Office

See Pastor Bill for Bible Study Material.



From Pastor Bill's Study



Greetings to all,

While I start to write this month's article I am hearing on the radio about upcoming snow storms through the next couple of days. I have also heard a rumor that spring will also becoming soon but other than the calendar I have no proof yet.

We live in a world of constant change and we must be ready for the changes that happen. In the last few weeks we are seeing changes to the church as rebuilding of Bethany is starting to take on a shape we can see the change. I look forward to that change and I hope you do as well.

One change that will also be happening is a change in leadership as I begin the process of stepping down and a new pastor begins the steps of taking over. I ask for your prayers as this process takes place, also prayers for the new pastor to be appointed.

If we are open to change then I want to bring your attention to the Book of 1 Samuel Chapter 10 verses 6 & 7 and I quote from the (NIV) "The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you." This would be the best change anyone could make.

The rebuilding of the building of Bethany should be secondary to the rebuilding of the church of Bethany. By listening and working with the Spirit of God to bring new life to the people of Milton to be the Bethany Church it should be. This will be a good thing, no it would be a great thing.

We must be working in the Spirit because the world is trying its best to see us fail. We must be aware and ever ready to do what we have to do to spread the good news of Christ and to be ready to answer our call to make disciples.

We cannot forget the experience of our salvation and the infilling of the Holy Spirit so that we can be ready to help others experience the blessings of Christ. In our study so far on the Book of Revelation we have touched on what happens to those who are not prepared for the coming of the New Kingdom. It is our duty to be prepared for when this happens and to help prepare others so they will not face the wrath of God placed on those who will not accept the offering of salvation.

If you say you could never do that then you are correct, it is not for us to do but it is through the workings of the Holy Spirit in us that gives us the strength and the words to speak when they are needed.

That is the change that 1 Samuel is speaking of. These words were spoken to Saul as he was called to become the King of Israel. The power of the Holy Spirit made him a great king, the power of the world made him a broken man.

Follow in the power of the Holy Spirit and be the change that changes the world, do not become the follower of the world that changes the work of the Spirit.

In the next few months there is much that needs to be done and a lot of it will involve change. I pray all of the change to happen will be ones that build up the church and gives glory to God.

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 March they are due: Sunday, March 14, 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 March'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.**

March 7th (3rd Sunday in Lent) – How Great thou Art (77); More Precious (2065); Every Time I Feel the Spirit (404); Psalm 19; Revelation 10:1-11; “*The Angel*” / Communion

March 14th (4th Sunday in Lent) – Come, Ye Sinners (340); More Precious (2065); What Wondrous Love Is This (292); Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Revelation 11:1-19; “*Witness*”

March 21st (5th Sunday in Lent) – O Breath of Life (543); More Precious (2065); What a Savior (165); Psalm 51:1-12; Revelation 12:1-17; “*Women and Dragon*”

March 28th (Palm Sunday) – Precious Name (536); More Precious (2065); Were You There (288); Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11; “*Entering*”

Leadership Team Report

The Team's February devotions were based on Psalm 40:17 (“As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.”). All kinds of examples of the fallible human thought process illustrate that we have always been prone to being shown, by imaginings and by other mortals, that there are limits to our lives and the good things that illuminate them. Often, opportunistic forecasting prevails, negativity eclipses positivity, and danger (we're constantly warned) lies ahead or has us boxed in. We think “What to do?”, or we start to say things like “What is this world coming to?”, and we long for “the good old days.” Our forebears (going back to ancient times) had constant occasions and reasons to speak and react that way, and we find ourselves doing the same thing now. This is a central aspect of human nature, and so it will always be. But even as the psalmist, 5 verses earlier, bemoans the amount and intensity of the trouble that had invaded his life, he followed with that line in verse 17 that “the Lord takes thought of me.” That's the key. This Psalmist's sequence is an affirmation that “down” is balanced, and even overcome, by “up” when we relinquish to God His rightful ownership of our toxic-seeming situations. What to do? Pray, for starters. And give thanks.

We were earlier informed (per the Trustees' Report below) that Judy Campbell bequeathed the church \$2,000 from her estate. That gift has already been received at Bethany, and the only task remaining is to ascertain, from conversations with Judy's executor and her family, how the gift is to be categorized and used in accordance with her stated wishes.

Rod and Cindy lately inventoried the contents of the Bethany safe deposit box and added to them the documents recently received from Mary LaCroix Lindberg pertaining to the property history of the church. .

Rod Moore

Lenten Offering....



Ash Wednesday starts the first day of Lent, which then ends on Holy Saturday. This 40-day journey called Lent is a wonderful opportunity to grow in your faith. As you are observing Lent and journeying on your spiritual path, we hope that you use the enclosed Lenten envelope to bring your special giving to your church on or before Easter Sunday or mail to:

Bethany United Methodist Church
Attn: Financial Secretary, Shelly Sholley
18 Center Street, Milton, PA 17847

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: March 7th/ April 4th

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...

Easter Candy Giveaway



Though we have not yet received confirmation from HandUp Foundation regarding our annual ministry to provide Easter Candy to community families in need that participate in the Food Bank program, we are again planning on amassing candy for The Easter Candy Giveaway and if we are unable to coordinate with HandUp will take to housing projects or see that it is given to families in need. Please bring candy to the Bethany office by Monday, March 8th (9am – 1 pm). With COVID-19 precautions in place, this year all candy must be wrapped or in small individual packages. Suggested donations are marshmallow peeps, small packets of jelly beans, chocolate candies (nut-variety OK), Tootsie rolls, lollipops, Smarties, fruit snacks, Goldfish/Whales crackers, & animal crackers



Candy Organize Event – If anyone would like to assist with a Socially Distanced bag-prepping event to organize candy during the day on March 8th or 9th in the basement of the WMUMC, please let Shelly know. Last year for safety we did this as a solo operation and it can be done so this year as well, so no pressure if members still feel uncomfortable participating in such an event.

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 January 2021 Reports:

		2021 Offering Envelopes				
Month	Date	Curr. Exp.	Price Fund	Reno	Total	YTD
January	3	130	20		150	150
	10	1198	10		1208	1358
	17	841	25		866	2224
	24	1038	15		1053	3277
	31	493	15		508	3785

		2021 Plate Offering				
Month	Date	Curr. Exp.	Price Fund	Reno	Total	YTD
January	3					
	10	350			350	350
	17	10			10	360
	24	18			18	378
	31	1			1	379

		2021 Miscellaneous Income			
Month	Date	Curr. Exp.	Total	YTD	
January					
Initial Offering	3	11	11	11	
Initial Offering	10	148	148	159	
Initial Offering	17	27	27	186	
Initial Offering	24	1	1	187	
Initial Offering (\$3), Friends Helping Friends (\$71.98)	31	74.98	75	261.98	
		2021 Butler Trust Contributions			
Month	Date	Curr. Exp.	Total	YTD	
January	10	2625	2625	2625	

		2021 Fire Restoration Fund			
Month	Date	Reno	Total	YTD	
January	3				
	10	450	450	450	
	17			450	
	24	405	405	855	
	31	480	480	1335	



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

Total Income Received: \$57,162.60

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$35,783.64

Average Attendance: 14

Milton Fire Departments' Palm Sunday Ham Drive Thru

Milton Fire Department is having a Palm Sunday Ham Dinner Drive Thru Event on March 28, 2021 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. (Menu: Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Filling, Grave, Rolls, Corn or Green Beans, Coleslaw and dessert). Adults \$10.00, Children (4-12 yrs) \$4.00 Ordering by calling 742-9895 starting March 15th. Looking for bakers to make or donate dessert and can be delivered to the Milton Fire Dept on Ridge Ave on Friday, March 26th or Sat March 27th.

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



Now repairs to structure and roof trusses installed this week.

Total Income Received (Jan): \$43,356.13

Total Expenses Paid Out (Jan): \$370,266.54

Thank you's to Robert & Barbara Dalton, Annette Mellman, Terry & Sally George, Barbara Campbell, Nancy & John Heimbach, Jeanne & Scott Leitzel, Peggy Campbell, Leroy & Peggy Fisher, Tom & Melinda Yorder, Nellie Weller, Dorothy Gehman, Barbara & David Wagner, Christ Wesleyan Church, Denny & BJ Rovenolt, and Mike & Willa Stewart who recently donated to the Fire Restoration Fund.



Trustees Report

There is not much to report to the Leadership Team from the Trustee perspective this month.

As stated in previous reports, my work schedule keeps me from participating in the meetings with the architect and construction manager. Therefore, I will defer to others on the Leadership Team for an update on the rebuilding process.

As discussed at the last meeting we needed to transfer funds from investments to the checking account for the remainder of the 2020 Conference Apportionments and to pay current expenses. Although I told the folks at Hudock we didn't need all \$50,000 in January, according to the statement the entire amount was transferred in January.

We received a letter from Judy Campbell's niece, who is the Executor of Judy's estate, that she had willed \$2,000 to Bethany. There was a receipt and release that needed signed and returned, which Pastor Bill did on our behalf.

The SPRC was recently able to meet our new Pastor and his family. I will be sending him my contact information so he can contact me with questions about the parsonage, move in date, etc. We should discuss replacing the roof on the parsonage and any other renovations needed prior to their move in at the Leadership Team meeting.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

Our Prayer List.....

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

Dan – Health & recovery from rashes.

Mandy – Health

Patti Scott - Health

Scott Miller Family (Pastor's brother-in-law) Jan passed away.

Jeff B - Depression

Terrie & Todd H – Todd in rehab from broken neck.

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

Judy C – Health / Back

Bob F – Health / Recovery

Katy M – Health / Kidney

Tom Y & Florence 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, Ann, 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

LENT

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

DESERT	SACRIFICE	JESUS	ASHES
PRAY	LOVE	FOLLOW	SEASON
PREPARE	REMEMBER	CROSS	LENT

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 2nd – 10:00 am - Lenten Bible Study @ West Milton UMC

March 3rd – 7:00 pm – Lenten Bible Study @ Bethany Office

March 4th – 10:30 am – Leadership Team W Poole Anderson

March 5th – World Day of Prayer!!!!

March 7th – 11:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Panther Packs / Communion

March 8th – (9am – 1pm) – Easter Candy Deadline.

March 13th – [Daylight Saving Time begins – Before turning in turn clocks ahead 1 hr]

March 15th – 9:00 am – Pastor's Cluster Meeting @ St Andrews

March 16th – 6:30 pm – Leadership Team (Ad Board / Finance) @ West Milton UMC

March 18th - 10:30 am - Leadership Team W Poole Anderson

March 28th – 11:00 – Palm Sunday

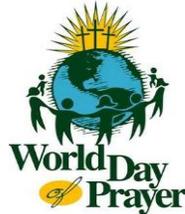
March 28th – 11 am – 2 pm – Milton Fire Dept Psalm Sunday Dinner (Drive Thru)

April 4th -11:00 – Easter Sunday

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

Lenten Bible Study: 10:00 am Tuesdays @ West Milton UMC (Ends March 30th)

Lenten Bible Study: 7:00 pm Wednesdays @ Bethany Office (Ends March 31st)



Friday, March 5th, 2021 is the World Day of Prayer! Let us all get down on our knees and pray! World Day of Prayer aims to demonstrate that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

March
2021