

Milton's Good News

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January- "At a Glance"

January is a month to reflect on 2017, fellowship with one another and taking down the Christmas decorations, and starting new goals, discipleship, and fellowship events for 2018. - Cheri Buss

Church Cancellation ? / Tune into WGRC 91.3 FM

Due to unpredicted weather patterns of winter storms, please have your radio tuned into WGRC 91.3 FM to find out if church services would be canceled due to winter weather. Thank You!



Ash Wednesday Service



Bethany UMC & St. Andrew's UMC will be having an Ash Wednesday Service on February 14th at 7:00 pm here at Bethany UMC. Communion will be offered.

Special points of interest:

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"Soup & The Word"



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

Begins Wednesday, February 21st 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. A message is provided each week by a local pastor.

Date	Speaker	Soup provided by:
February 21	Kingdom Kidz	Kingdom Kidz
February 28	Community Mennonite Fellowship	Community Mennonite Fellowship
March 7	Revival Tabernacle	Revival Tabernacle
March 14	Bill McNeal	Bethany UMC
March 21	First Presbyterian Church	First Presbyterian Church
March 28	Hand Up Foundation	Hand Up Foundation



From Pastor Bill's Study

Greetings to all,

With snow falling outside my office, I begin to wonder what that great weather forecaster is going to predict for the coming of spring. One thing I do know is no matter what if forecasted there is a fifty percent record of accuracy.

It will either be six more weeks of winter or not. The calendar says that spring will happen on March 20, at 9:16 in the morning. Ready or not no matter what anyone or anything says according to the spin of the earth and the orbit we have around the sun it will happen.

With the cold weather and the snow in the last couple of days as I write this I will be ready, and if it is sunny I just may have a picnic that day.

Matthew 16:1-4 speaks of the religious leaders asking Jesus for a sign to prove he was who he said he was. Jesus answered that they could read the signs of the weather but, yet they could not interrupt the words that God have given them. They overlooked what they should have known to chase what they could not know. They were using human logic to understand what God wanted and what would happen.

Today I believe the church leaders are still doing the same thing. They are over looking the word God because it does not fit their way of thinking. Instead of using scripture to gauge the world they have used the worlds knowledge to interrupt the scripture. We are living in a so that you are ok time that has not changed a whole lot since Jesus walked this earth. If the word of God does not fit your standard, then you reinvent the god you want. If the Pharisees did not like the understanding of scripture, then they would redefine it to an understanding that suited their purpose.

The United Methodist Church is going through this same process. The leadership of the church is trying to define the scripture to meet the needs of the world. In my mind I believe that God has spoken and the words he spoke do not need to be changed because of the change in men's minds.

On February 11, at the Watsontown UMC there is going to be a meeting to discuss the process by which the United Methodist Church is going to look to the future. The process of a "Way Forward" has come up with a three-choice option as to where the church will head in the future. Those three choices are in simple terms 1). to keep the wording of the discipline the same and enforce these rules. 2). To change the Discipline to allow the ordination and marriage of homosexuals. 3). To let each church, decide what they want to do.

This is my wording as it is much more complicated than this, but this gives you the idea. If you have an opinion you are asked to be at the Watsontown church to discuss these options.

I know I have my opinion but if you would like to share yours with me please let me know and I would like to meet with you and hear what you have to say.

Psalm 66:5
Come and see,

Pastor Bill

Bishop Jeremiah Park "Way Forward" at Watsontown UMC

On **Sunday, February 11**, Bishop Jeremiah Park will be speaking at Watsontown UMC, 1319 8th Street Drive, Watsontown, PA, from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Both pastors and laypersons from around the district are invited to come together for dialogue around the three preliminary sketches offered by the Commission on a Way Forward as possibilities for the future direction of the denomination. Please let Pastor Bill know by Feb 4th if you plan to attend.

Worship Team “Gathering of the Family of God” Report

The following is the work of the Worship Team which met on Tuesday, January 2nd. Here are February's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles. To reach out to the unchurched the Traditional Worship Service will now be referred to as: Gathering of the Family of God.

Sunday School will now be referred to as: Lessons for Life.

February 4th – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (139); Take Time to Be Holy (395); Lord of the Dance (261); Psalm 147:1-11 (859); Acts 5:1-11; *“Lied”*

February 11th – I Stand Amazed in the Presence (371); Shine, Jesus, Shine (2173); Hymn of Promise (707); Psalm 50:1-5 (783); Acts 6:1-4; *“Ministry”*

February 14th (Ash Wednesday Service) - Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes (2138); More Love to Thee, O Christ (453); What Wondrous Love Is This (292); Psalm 51:1-17 (785); Matthew 6:1-6, 15-21; *“Prepare”*

February 18th (1st Sunday in Lent) – Spirit Song (347); Trust and Obey (467); Shall We Gather at the River (723); Psalm 25:1-10 (756); Acts 7:51-53; *“Obedience”*

February 25th (2nd Sunday in Lent) – Be Thou My Vision (451); Where He Leads Me (338); Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore (344); Psalm 22:22-31 Reading; Acts 8:1-3; *“Scatter”*

Worship Team “Worship in Praise, Prayer & Song” Report

The following is the work of the Worship Team which met on Tuesday, January 2nd. Here are February's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles. To reach out to the unchurched the Contemporary Worship Service will now be referred to as: Worship in Praise, Prayer & Song.

February 4th – Cry Out to Jesus; Come to the Table; Redeemed; Live Like That; Acts 5:1-11; *“Lied”*

February 11th – Desert Song; I Will Follow; How Deep is Our Father's Love; Ten Thousand Reasons; Acts 6:1-4; *“Ministry”*

February 18th (1st Sunday in Lent) – Heart of Worship; I Could Sing of Your Love Forever; Give Me a Song; Love, Take Me Over; Acts 7:51-53; *“Obedience”*

February 25th (2nd Sunday in Lent) – Trading My Sorrows; Set the World on Fire; Above All; Hear the Sound; Acts 8:1-3; *“Scatter”*

Lenten Bible Study: “I Am” Sayings of Jesus...

Lenten Bible Study “I Am” Sayings of Jesus, will be offered on Tuesdays at 10:00 am and Thursdays at 7:00 pm starting the week of February 6th. This is a DVD study for 7 sessions ending on Thursday, March 22nd. Please sign up on which day of the week you can attend on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary or by calling the church office at 570-742-9796.

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



“Sharing the Table”



“Sharing the Table” 2018 Schedule (Sponsored by Mission/Outreach Ministries)

“**Sharing the Table**” is a way you can help those in need every month by bringing in canned goods and non-perishable food items for the local food bank.

The first Sunday of the every month during Communion Service we will be collecting food.



Next Food Collection Communion Dates: February 4th / March 4th / April 1st / May 6th

Note: (Feb 4th is Souper Bowl Sunday) – Please everyone bring in a can of soup which will then be given to HandUp.

Missions/Outreach Committee...

Milton Panther Packs Program (Mission: Monthly)

Bethany UMC will be in charge of providing 120 Fruit Cups, which equals ten donations of a 12 pack of fruit cup for each month. Please bring in your (12 pack) of Fruit Cup and place in the box located in the back of the sanctuary.

Milton Community Dinner (Christ Evan Lutheran)

There will be a Community Dinner on a **Sunday, February 11th at 5:00 pm**. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary for garlic bread (20 loaves needed). Location: Christ Evan Lutheran Church. Community Dinners to feed low income people in need.

Planning Meeting for the Community Dinners will be held on Thursday, February 1st at 6:30 pm at the Christ Evan Lutheran Church on Mahoning St, Milton PA.

Milton Community Harvest Dinners (St. Andrew's UMC)

Bethany will help serve at the Milton Community Harvest Dinner on **Monday, January 29th 2018** at 4:45 pm. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary to help serve. Dinner starts at 5:00 pm. Next Dinner will be on March 5th.

Thank You Notes.....

Dear Bethany: Thank you so much for all the fine Christmas gifts given to me. A part of my heart will always be at Bethany. Ruth Sampsell

Dear Friends at Bethany: Thank you so much for the poinsettia and the bag of goodies. Cathy and I both enjoy sweets way more than we should. It warmed our hearts a whole lot better than Mother Nature is doing lately. Keep warm and God bless you all, Kay Solt & Cathy Carpenter

Dear Church Family: Thanks for the beautiful Poinsettia and other gifts. Peggy Shellenberger

Dear Bethany: Thank you for your generosity in making Christmas special for me & a special thanks to Judy for keeping in touch! Ruth Gardner

Dear Bethany UMC Members: Thank you so much for your generous donations to HandUp Foundation. We depend on donations to continue the work we do. Blessings! Patti Snyder, HandUp

Lay Leader's Report

The entire Church membership is intensely engaged in entreating our Father's help on behalf of an increasing number of folks in our congregation and among our constituents and friends who have fallen victim to a wide variety of mishaps, illnesses, and losses over the last month or so. There is beauty among the thorns of our lives, though, and always hope, no matter what transpires. Praise be for God's manifold mercies and His blessings as He unfailingly brings His tender touch to bear on us and on our loved ones.

Calvin and Jackie Hoffman, who left our neighborhood late last Spring to pursue new lives in the service of the Lord, paid us a surprise visit on the “eve of Christmas Eve”, December 23. Their time at the church was at a premium that day, and their contact necessarily limited as a result, but it was so good to see them again, to find that they're in excellent health and spirits, and to learn that their successes are many and their futures are brighter than ever. God will always shower those wonderful young people with His blessings as they pursue their careers and their dreams in His name and with His guidance.

122117-011518

Rod Moore

Ad Board Report

Mike Longenberger and Rod Moore will soon visit with Milton governance officials to view and discuss in some detail the Borough's plans for the Front Street renovation project that will take place during 2018 as part of the overall T.I.M.E. initiative. The goal is to understand and reach agreement on those parts of the plan that stand to directly affect Bethany's environs and mission projects during the year. This is our chance to ensure that the church's best interests are served throughout the process of this major downtown makeover.

We are looking to simplify the church's financial operations by consolidating some of its bank accounts and budget line items. We are also planning to take advantage of some delayed payment options on certain larger-scale Conference billings that, in the current improving economic environment, will allow us to accrue significantly more investment interest, dividend, and growth income than if we pay the same items on a monthly basis.

We have opened a channel with T.I.M.E. to discuss making Bethany central to certain upcoming community events, most prominently the walk-a-thon planned for May 19 and the popular fishing derby that's scheduled for the following day. We envision co-sponsoring the walk-a-thon with Evangelical Hospital and providing the venue for their associated blood screening event, and we want to take both opportunities to open the church for public touring. T.I.M.E. is quite receptive to what we'd like to do, and our dialogue with them will continue apace.

PSPRC has recommended the hiring of Ed Coup as the new Bethany Treasurer. Ad Board accepts that recommendation, and we will welcome Ed to our staff as soon as his routine clearance requirements are met.

Rod Moore

Trustees' Report.....

Finally after many months of noise and dust, the renovation of the first floor of the Parish House is complete! The final touches of the project included new drapes for all the windows and new mats at the entrance. If you've not been in the Parish House lately, I encourage you to stop by and see it. I'm sure Cheri, Rod or Pastor Bill would be happy to show you around. I think we've created a nice work space for all those folks who manage the day to day operations of Bethany.

Special thanks to the McNeals, who recently welcomed the congregation into our parsonage, which is their home while they serve Bethany. If you were not able to attend, I can attest that the house was beautifully decorated for Christmas and the food was abundant and delicious!

I'd like to take this opportunity to provide a year-end report of the Trustees finances. The following balances (rounded) are as of December 31, 2017:

- Hudock Capital Group - \$691,250 – This is the account we've drawn from for all the renovations to the church, Parish House, and parsonage. In addition, throughout 2017 we've been drawing \$10,000 per month from this account to fund the deficit in current expenses. Thankfully the current expense balance was healthy enough in January that the withdrawal was not necessary.
 - Prudential Investments - \$562,900 – This is the account the Trustees created with an initial investment of \$500,000. This account was set up in lieu of flood insurance, to repair any flood related damages we may have in the future.
 - Prudential Investments - \$85,459 – The Radenbush Trust – Although we may not use the initial investment, we may use any gains on the principle, which we have not needed to do for quite some time.
 - Prudential Investments - \$6,451 – A separate small investment account that was set up quite a few years ago.
 - BYN Mellon - \$221,417 – The Butler Trust – We receive \$2,625 quarterly which during 2017 was used to subsidize the current expense account.
 - Milton Savings Bank - \$6,554 – Enduring Memorial Fund
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Bethany UMC 2017 End of Year Reports:

ENVELOPE INCOME TO DATE---2017

		Current Exp	Benev (Price Hardship)	Reno	Total Weekly Amount	YTD
December	3	\$876.00	\$10.00		\$886.00	\$36,995.00
	10	\$690.00	\$10.00		\$700.00	\$37,695.00
	17	\$1,010.00	\$60.00		\$1,070.00	\$38,765.00
	24	\$456.00	\$5.00		\$461.00	\$39,226.00
	31	\$643.00	\$10.00		\$653.00	\$39,879.00
Total			\$580.00		\$39,299.00	

PLATE INCOME TO DATE--2017

December	3	\$72.00			\$72.00	\$4,446.57
	10	\$73.00			\$73.00	\$4,519.57
	17	\$37.00			\$37.00	\$4,556.57
	24	\$138.00			\$138.00	\$4,694.57
	31	\$276.00			\$276.00	\$4,970.57

Sunday School Income To Date---2017

December	3	\$12.00			\$12.00	\$429.90
	10	\$22.00			\$22.00	\$451.90
	17	\$11.00			\$11.00	\$462.90
	24	\$33.00			\$33.00	\$495.90
	31	\$33.00			\$33.00	\$528.90

Bethany UMC Special UM Sunday Contributions 2017

Human Relations Sunday—01/15/2017	
1/16/17---\$111.00	
1/22/17-----\$2.00	TOTAL=\$113.00
UMCOR Sunday—03/26/2017	
3/26/17-----\$20.00	
4/2/17-----\$85.00	
4/9/17-----\$3,025.00	TOTAL=\$3,130.00
Native American Sunday—04/30/2017	
4/30/17-\$143.00	TOTAL=\$143.00
Peace With Justice Sunday---06/11/2017	
6/11/17-----\$130.00	
6/18/17-----\$2.00	TOTAL=\$132.00
World Communion Sunday----10/01/2017	
10/1/17-----\$226.00	TOTAL=\$226.00
United Methodist Student Day---11/26/2017	
11/26/17-----\$222.00	TOTAL=\$222.00

Initial Offering	Bible Study Book Reimbursements
1/01/17---\$24.00	2/05/17--\$8.00
1/08/17--\$7.00	10/08/17--\$15.00
1/15/17--\$3.00	
3/19/17--\$1.00	Lenten Offering
3/19/17--\$1.00	3/05/17--\$640.00
7/23/17--\$2.00	3/12/17---\$20.00
	3/19/17--\$10.00
Advent Offering	3/26/17--\$25.00
1/01/17---\$50.00	4/23/17--\$50.00
12/03/17---\$5,035.00	
12/10/17---\$100.00	Easter Egg Hunt Prize Sponsorship
12/17/17---\$25.00	3/19/17--\$13.00
12/24/17---\$10.00	
12/31/17---\$30.00	Pastor's Continuing Ed Reimbursement Return
Total=\$5,200.00	5/14/17--\$20.00
Ignite the Fire/Fire & Ice Campaign	Total=\$20.00
1/08/17--\$5.00	
11/05/17---\$3,100.00	VBS Materials Reimbursement
11/26/17---\$75.00	7/2/17--\$179.50
12/03/17---\$635.00	Total=\$179.50
12/10/17---\$100.00	Service Electric Utility Reimbursement
Total=\$3,915.00	8/6/17--\$96.55
	Total=\$96.55
Thomas Bennage Missionary Offering	
2/05/17--\$278.00(+ \$100.00 check written directly to Thomas)	UMCOR Hurricane Relief
2/12/17--\$25.00	9/3/17---\$20.00
Total=\$303.00	

N.O.W. Committee

Our new N.O.W. (Nurture, Outreach, & Witness) Committee had its first meeting on January 9th and elected Shelly Sholley as Chair and Joan Warburton as Vice Chair. We are excited about combining committees and banding together to do God's work! We are re-confirming our Shut-In list and increasing contact and ways to involve and include them in church activities so that they feel more connected and know that they are an important part of our church family. Here are the events that we have set thus far:

- Wednesday, March 28th, 2018 from 9AM -3PM--Easter Basket Giveaway at Hand-Up Foundation. We are again asking for donations of baskets, candy (lollipops/hard candy, peanut/peanut butter candy are acceptable for this one!), stickers, small toys, etc. as well as monetary donations. There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers posted in the Sanctuaries.
- Saturday, March 17th at 3:00PM--Our annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper and Easter Egg Stuffing Fellowship event.
- We are again partnering with St. Andrew's United Methodist Church on sponsoring a Community Easter Egg Hunt. Date and more details forthcoming but we will be asking for donations of candy (no hard or candy containing nuts), stickers, etc. that can be stuffed in plastic eggs as well as prizes for the children.
- Bethany will be providing soup, rolls, butter, crackers, & dessert for Soup & The Word on Wednesday, March 14. Pastor Bill will be doing the message that day. There will be a sign-up sheet for food donations and volunteers and more details to follow.
- We will be having our annual Seder Meal here at Bethany on Maundy Thursday.
- There will be Sunrise Service out at the Parsonage followed by a breakfast.
- We are reaching out to Christ Evangelical Lutheran about partnering with them again this year for Vacation Bible School and will have details on that soon.
- We discussed the Harvest Festival stand and have decided to revisit this in May.
- We discussed having additional Community Outreach events such as a hot dog giveaway or an 'International Day' Block party or event to involve the diverse culture in our town and are working on this. If anyone has ideas, please see Shelly Sholley or any committee member.
- We will be implementing a new Missions project 'Loose Change to Make a Change' and will be placing a container in the back of the Sanctuary for people to place their loose change. When we have amassed a good amount, we will count it up and give it to The Salvation Army to be used toward their work in our Community.
- We are in the planning stages of holding a Prayer Workshop here at Bethany. Watch for details!
- We discussed reinstating the Bethany Church Family Picnic. Please share your thoughts with us!

We have only planned part of the activities and studies for the year, so if there's a fellowship event, Bible Study, Community Outreach or something you'd like to see us to, please see Shelly, Joan Warburton, Pastor Bill, or any member of the Committee.

Next meeting will be on Sunday, April 15th at Noon.

Events Happening in the Area

[Please see the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary for more details on these events]

“Work as Worship” retreat – Friday, February 23, 2018 from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. RightNow Media presents this simulcast hosted by & held at Community Mennonite Fellowship, 2985 Broadway Rd, Milton PA. Cost: \$25.00 per person (Lunch will be provided). To Register, go to: www.workasworshipretreat.org. Click on “Feb 23 Work as Worship retreat” and “Attend Local Simulcast” For questions please call 570-742-7315.

Men's Oyster Supper – Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 6:30 pm at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Turbotville PA. Donation of \$15.00 per person if attending please call 570-649-5195.

BETHANY UMC

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

miltonbethanyumcoffice@gmail.com

Website:

bethanyumc-miltonpa.org

Sunday Worship:

Lessons for Life: 9:00 am
Gathering of the Family of God: 10:30 am
Worship in Praise, Prayer & Song: 6:00 pm

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:**

[Note: No regular scheduled Trustees & PSPRC Meetings for this month of February]

Jan 29th -4:45 pm – Milton Harvest Community Dinner at St. Andrew's

Feb 1st – 6:30 pm – Planning Meeting for Community Dinner @ Christ Lutheran

Feb 4th - 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God / "Sharing the Table" Communion

Feb 4th – "Souper Bowl Sunday" – Bring in a can of soup to worship.

Feb 4th – 2:00 pm – Rockwell Communion

Feb 4th – 6:00 pm –Worship in Praise, Prayer & Song / Communion

Feb 6th – 10:00 am – Lenten Study "I Am" Sayings of Jesus

Feb 6th – Noon – Milton Ministerium Mtg @ Bethany UMC

Feb 6th – 7:00 pm –Worship Teams Meeting

Feb 8th – 7:00 pm – Lenten Study "I Am" Sayings of Jesus

Feb 11th – 3:00 pm – Bishop Jeremiah Park "Way Forward" @ Watsontown UMC

Feb 11th – 5:00 pm – Community Dinner @ Christ Lutheran

Feb 14th – 7:00 pm – Ash Wednesday Service @ Bethany UMC

Feb 20th – 6:30 pm - Finance

Feb 20th – 7:00 pm – Ad Board

Feb 21st - Noon – Soup & The Word @ First Presbyterian Church (Begins)

March 17th – 3:00 pm – St Patricks Day Corned Beef Supper Event

March 28th – 9:00am – 3:00 pm – Easter Basket Giveaway @ HandUp

Lenten Study "I Am" Sayings of Jesus: 10 am every Tuesday- Feb 6 – March 20

Soup & The Word: Noon every Wednesday – Feb 21 – March 28th @ First Presbyt.

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

Lenten Study "I Am" Saying of Jesus: 7 pm every Thursday – Feb 8– March 22

Lessons for Life: 9:00 am every Sunday morning.

Gathering of the Family of God: 10:30 am every Sunday morning.

Worship in Praise, Prayer & Song: 6:00 pm every Sunday evening.



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

Feb

2018