

BETHANY UMC

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

bethany18coffice@gmail.com

Website:

bethanyumc-miltonpa.org

Sunday Worship:

Gathering of the Family of God: **9:00 am**

REV. BRIAN LUCAS

1035 Sunset Dr
Milton, PA 17847
570-351-1619 (Cell Number)
570-742-2000 (St Andrew’s UMC-Office)

blucas@susumc.org

Upper Room – Now Available


July / August

Announcements:

Dates to Remember:

- July 4 – Happy 4th of July (Office Closed)**
- July 6 - 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Communion**
- July 13 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God**
- July 15 – 6:00 pm – Leadership Team Meeting (Office)**
- July 20 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God**
- July 27 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God**
 - 10:15 am – July Birthday Celebrations**
- August 3 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Communion**
- August 10 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God**
- August 17 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God**
- August 19 – 6:00 pm – Leadership Team Meeting (Office)**
- August 24 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God**
- August 31 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God**
 - 10:15 am – August Birthday Celebrations**

Every Sunday Worship (Gathering of the Family of God) at 9:00 am.

 **BETHANY UMC OFFICE**
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

July / August
2025

Bethany United Methodist Church

“A Church with the Heart of Christ in the Heart of Milton”



Volume 12, Issue 7 & 8

July & August 2025

Milton’s Good News

May & June “At a Glance”

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Looking back in May & June for Bethany, May started off with National Day of Prayer, Gift’s for Mom’s on Mother’s Day, a farewell Luncheon at Bethany, catered by LaPrimavera for the Allshouse Family. Pastor Travis & Bob Fitch attended the Susquehanna Annual Conference in Williamsport. June started off with honoring our Cancer Survivors before worship with donuts & coffee. Gift’s for Dad’s on Father’s Day. Transition in June, as Pastor Travis and family move to Northumberland. End of the months we celebrate the May & June’s birthdays after church with cake and coffee.

*“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”
-Cheri Buss
(Romans 12:2 NIV)*



Welcome New Pastor Brian Lucas to Bethany

Bethany UMC welcomes Reverend Brian Lucas to Bethany as our new pastor.

The Susquehanna Conference appointed Rev Brian Lucas of St. Andrew’s UMC to Bethany UMC also, making this a two point charge of sharing a pastor. The two churches will continue to function separately.



I grew up in a small town in NEPA (Northeast PA) the youngest of 8 children. My parents made sure I went to Sunday school and church every week. My church family taught me much about love, grace, and acceptance, as well as how to sing parts in a group. After high school, I was asked to be a Sunday school teacher, starting with different grade school classes, and moving up to youth.

As I got into my 20’s, my involvement seemed to wax and wane like the phases of the moon, until I was asked to lead an adult class at VBS. I believe that I got much more out of the class than my students, and this was the beginning of my call (I’d be happy to share more about that).

I am a second career pastor having taken my first appointment in 2001. My passions in ministry are worship, missions, outreach, discipleship, and relationships (which are the foundation of all the others). Currently, I am very excited about the use of AI in developing possibilities for worship and ministry, as well as the “Free Expressions” movement of “doing” church in new ways and places in order to reach new followers of Jesus.

My wife’s name is Susan and we have been married for 32 years. We have one adult son named Christopher who lives and works in Mechanicsburg. We have a dog named Faith and a cat named Zeus (we had another cat named Hades and we said, “we were covered from heaven to hell.”).

Sue is a Civil War buff and a moose fanatic, and so her happy places are Gettysburg, PA, and Moosehead Lake, Maine (whereas mine is a warm beach). I believe that God calls us to places and ministries for a season, and I am excited about spending our next season together with you and the folks of St. Andrew’s UMC as God does this new thing in Milton.

-Pastor Brian

Special points of interest:

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From Pastor's Study

"Blueprint for the Future"

Dear Church Family,

As your pastor, I'm excited to share with you about an upcoming worship series that speaks directly to our current journey. This July, both Bethany and St. Andrew's UMCs will explore "God's Grand Design" - a four-week series that helps us understand and celebrate God's timing in bringing our congregations into partnership.

Just as an architect carefully designs each building for its unique purpose while considering how it connects with surrounding structures, God has been preparing our churches for this new season of ministry. Each congregation will maintain its distinct identity and worship style - after all, God's creativity is seen in diversity, not uniformity! Yet we'll discover how sharing a pastor and certain ministry opportunities can strengthen both churches' witness in our community.

The series unfolds like a master blueprint:

Week 1: "Divine Timing" (July 6) We'll explore how God's timing, while sometimes surprising, is always perfect. Using the metaphor of architectural planning, we'll see how God prepares us for new seasons of ministry.

Week 2: "Unexpected Connections" (July 13) Like Paul's unexpected call to Macedonia, we'll discover how God sometimes creates surprising partnerships that enhance our ministry.

Week 3: "God's Blueprint for Unity" (July 20) We'll examine how God's design for unity doesn't mean uniformity. Each congregation maintains its unique characteristics while finding strength in connection.

Week 4: "Building God's Kingdom Together" (July 27) Using Nehemiah's wall-builders as inspiration, we'll celebrate how different groups working on their own sections contributed to one greater purpose.

Throughout this series, both congregations will share some common elements - including weekly prayers for each other - while maintaining our separate worship services and unique identities. Think of it as neighboring houses on God's street, each with its own character but connected in purpose and community.

I believe God has exciting plans for both congregations as we enter this new chapter. While change can feel uncertain, remember that the Master Architect sees the complete design. As Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

I invite you to join me on this journey of discovery. Let's approach this new season with open hearts, eager to see how God's grand design unfolds in our church families.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Brian (AKA: PB)



Leadership Reports...

All Committee/Leadership Reports need to be handed into the church office or pastor, by the second Sunday of each month. **For July & August they are due: Sunday, July 13th & August 10th, 2025.** You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Brian at blucas@susumc.org. Thank You!

Fun Page



4th of July Crossword Puzzle

Guess the solutions to the clues and fill them in the grid.

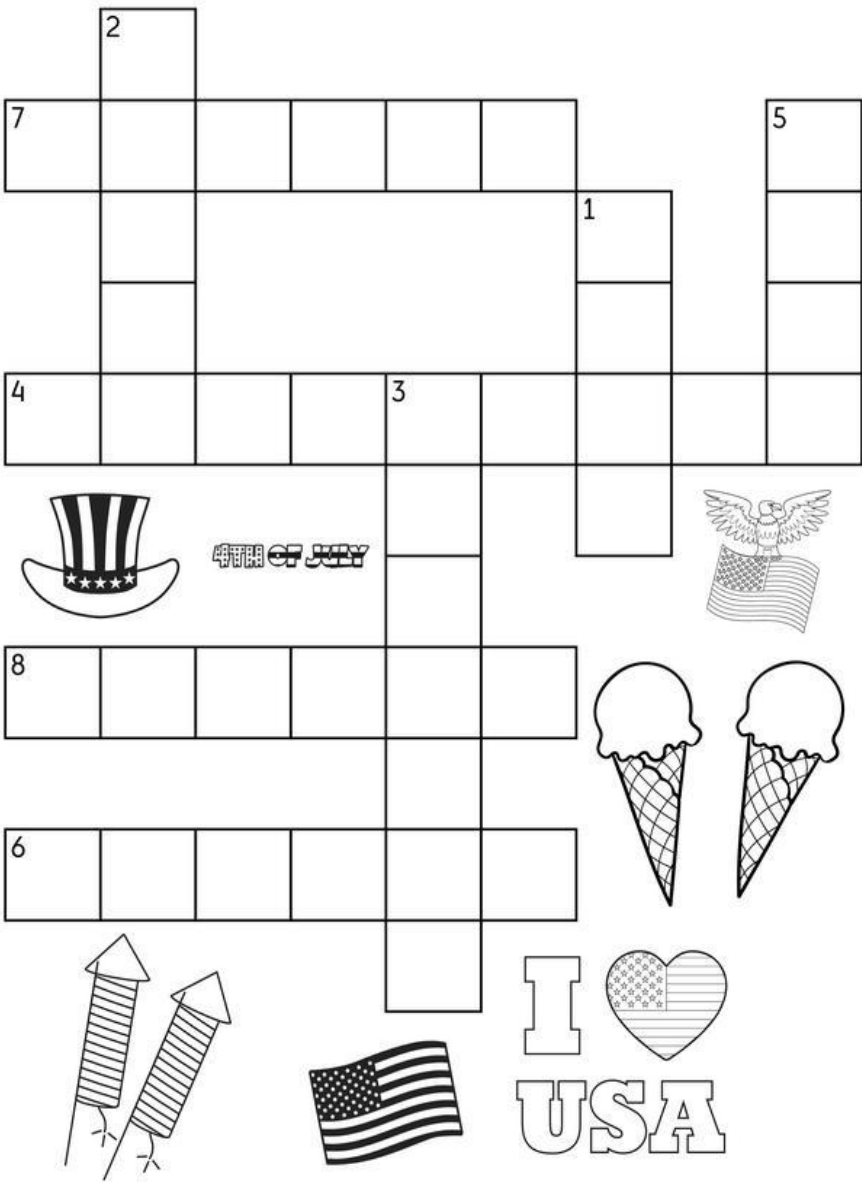


DOWN

- 1. A piece of fabric with a design, often flown on a pole
- 2. A large bird of prey
- 3. A person who is part of a nation
- 5. Required action or service

ACROSS

- 4. A type of society where people have a say
- 6. A song that expresses strong feelings of loyalty
- 7. A public celebration marked by a procession, music, and sometimes dancing
- 8. A meal eaten outside in the sunshine



Bethany UMC Current Expense Income April & May 2025

Financial Secretary's Report: April 2025

Date	Offering Envelopes	Plate Offering	Butler Trust	Lenten Offering	Pastor's Wife Appreciation	Price Fund	UMCOR Sunday	Totals
04/06/25	\$345.00	\$35.00	\$1,265.43	\$0	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$0	\$1,705.43
04/13/25	\$460.00	\$15.00	\$0	\$200.00	\$0	\$110.00	\$100.00	\$885.00
04/20/25	\$520.00	\$61.00	\$0	\$25.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$606.00
04/27/25	\$845.00	\$15.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35.00	\$0	\$895.00
Totals	\$2,170.00	\$126.00	\$1,265.43	\$225.00	\$25.00	\$180.00	\$100.00	\$4,091.43

Financial Secretary's Report: May 2025

Date	Offering Envelopes	Plate Offering	Price Fund	Pastors Retirement Lunch	Totals
05/04/25	\$455.00	\$15.00	\$0	\$211.50	\$681.50
05/11/25	\$460.00	\$5.00	\$35.00	\$70.50	\$570.50
05/18/25	\$385.00	\$10.00	\$0	\$0	\$395.00
05/25/25	\$620.00	\$15.00	\$0	\$0	\$635.00
Totals	\$1,920.00	\$45.00	\$35.00	\$282.00	\$2,282.00



Finance Report (April & May Current Expenses In & Out):

April 2025

Total Income Received: \$4,091.43 + (Bank Interest \$1.03) + (Transfer from Investments \$15,000) = \$19,092.46

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$17,765.85

Average Attendance: 21

May 2025

Total Income Received: \$2,282.00 + (Bank Interest \$.67) + (Transfer from Investments \$10,000) = 12,282.67

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$15,323.65

Average Attendance: 18

Happy 4th of July....



Friday, July 4, 2025

Bethany UMC wishes you all a safe and happy 4th of July.

Office will be closed on the 4th of July (Friday).

Trustees Report



Trustee items in process or completed:

- Entoguard recently completed their quarterly pest control visit at the church and Parish House.
- Susquehanna Organ recently repaired the organ.
- Creative Landscapes has been contacted regarding the dead/dying bushes at the church. They will also come out to refresh the mulch and take care of the weeds at the church and spruce up and weed at the parsonage. Due to all the rain they are running way behind schedule. They will get to us as soon as possible.
- The contract for natural gas supply at the church recently expired. I'm currently exploring our options for a new contract.
- I've asked two sign companies to provide a quote to update the worship time on the sign at the corner of Front and Center Streets.
- We're still working through adding Cindy and removing Rod from the Prudential accounts. We should add an additional signer and remove Rod from the account at Milton Savings Bank and the CD at Mifflinburg Bank.
- We are exploring the option of replacing part of the audio/visual system with something that is easier to operate.

Parsonage related items:

- Cheri canceled the internet, phone, and cable effective June 16.
- The garbage service was paid through the end of the month of June and will end at that time.
- Dave and Jeff Warburton have offered to take care of the lawn.
- At our recent meeting of the Leadership Team, we voted to sell the house and use the Coup Agency as the realtor.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

New Worship Time Change...



Please NOTE: Effective, July 6, 2025 : Bethany United Methodist Sunday Worship is moving to a new time to 9:00 am.

The change is necessary to able Pastor Brian to preach at St. Andrew's UMC also.

July / August Worship Schedule

SUNDAY MORNING
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 6 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Communion

Sunday, July 13 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God

Sunday, July 20 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God

Sunday, July 27 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God

10:15 am – July Birthday Celebrations

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Sunday, August 10 - 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God

Sunday, August 17 - 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God

Sunday, August 24 – 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God

Sunday, August 31 - 9:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God

10:15 am – August Birthday Celebrations



**NOTE:
NEW Worship
Time Change**

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

Hygiene Kits Ministry...



Bethany UMC is proud and excited to announce that we are collecting items again for personal hygiene packs ministry for children in our schools and community! Please put into the bins in the Fellowship Hall.

The items that we are accepting for the packs are:

Soap/shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand/body lotion, feminine products. The small individual, hotel-sized bottles are preferred but any donations are welcomed!

We thank you in advance for your support of this exciting ministry!!

2025 Bethany UMC Family Directory



The 2025-2026 Bethany UMC Family Directory is now available. You can pick up your copy in the Fellowship Hall. If you can't get into the church and wish for a copy, please call the church office at 570-742-9796, Monday, Wed or Friday from 9 am – 1 pm. Thank you!



Thank You Notes.....

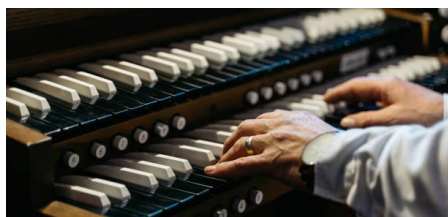
Pastor Travis & Congregation: You went above and beyond in a big, big way – and for that, you deserve a big, big thanks! Thanks for the birthday and Easter card. Also for the box of delicious chocolate candy.

– Edna Kobre

Dear Pastor Travis and Bethany Members: How wonderful it was to see and be with you. How nice to sit in my living room now and still envision you all – our “good old faithful faces” together enjoying and remembering time together. I much appreciate your coming and sharing the afternoon and the delicious cake with me. Many thanks to all of you for your time, cake and candy. May you all share many more times together. You made my 100th a great celebration for me. Thanks 100 times over.

- Affectionally, Flora Price

Welcome our New Organist, Darren Stitely to Bethany UMC



Bethany UMC welcomes our new organist, Darren Stitely. Darren is also the organist at St. Andrew's UMC and will be playing for us as well. Darren has been playing the organ for 18 years. Darren was Karen Heimbach's 2nd cousin. Darren will begin to play for Bethany on Sunday, July 6, 2025, please welcome him.

Thank you Darren for sharing your gift of music with Bethany UMC.



Leadership Team Report.....

Minutes for June 17, 2025 – Leadership Team Meeting (**Note:** These minutes are only a draft until approved by the board at our next meeting in July).

Members Present: Cindy Mohr, Bob Fitch, Jamie Aurand, David Warburton, Michael Longenberger, and Dorothy Hower.

New Business

- **Landscaping:** Jamie confirmed that the service provider would be out to make necessary repairs once the rainy weather backlog clears.
 - **Church Signage:** Pastor Brian noted the worship time on the sign needs to be updated. Jamie will investigate and report back. The board also decided to address the sign boards on Front and Center Street, opting to remove or replace them.
 - **Church Checking Account Signers:** Chair Mohr reported the need for a new signer to replace Rod. After discussion, it was decided to ask for volunteers from the church congregation.
 - **Organist/Organ:** Jamie moved to hire Darren Stitely, the St. Andrew's organist, with Bob seconding. Bethany will offer Darren the same compensation package as St. Andrew's. The motion passed without dissent.
 - **Parsonage:** Following a discussion, Jamie moved to sell the parsonage property through the Coup Agency, with Dave seconding. Funds from the sale will be used for Bethany's share of housing costs for Pastor Brian with St. Andrews. The motion passed. Additionally, Fitch moved, and Hower seconded, to cover the dumpster costs for the Allshouses to clean out the parsonage. The motion passed.
 - **Church Office Safety Concerns:** After discussing Cheri being alone in the office, it was decided she should keep the front door locked. The church will install a Ring doorbell to screen visitors before opening the door.
- Respectfully submitted,
Bob Fitch

Next Leadership Team Meeting will be on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Our Prayer List.....

Concerns:

Nancy Walker (Friend of Judy Carl) – In car accident, prayers for recovery.
Bethany UMC & St Andrew's UMC in this time of transition of shared pastor.
Pastor Brian & Susan with new transition of new appointment with both churches.
Elwood P – Health

Anna P – Cancer treatments / health.
Florence Young – Now on hospice care.

Family/friends with Cancer: Rita S, Anna P, Florence Y, Dot (Judy's neighbor); Kenny (Sally's friend). Alicia (Sally); Dale R (Sally's friend).

Leadership Team: Cindy, Jamie A, Bob F, James M, Dave W, Mike L, Dorothy, Pastor Brian.

Joys:

Hanna Craig (Anna & Elwood's granddaughter) Congrats, New Drum Major.

