



Milton's Good News

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December- "At a Glance"

Looking back in December for Bethany, due to covid increase worship & Lessons for Life (Sunday School) was postponed with the hopes of returning in January. Continued Leadership meetings with Poole & Anderson. Construction team onsite, roof demo work. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Angel Tree this year to make children and homebound members feel loved during this Christmas Season.

-Cheri Buss

New Year Devotional.....



Leave your worries and fears in God's loving and capable hands.

by Carol Kuykendall

"See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared." Exodus 23:20 (NIV)

I sometimes think New Year's Day comes at the wrong time of year. I'm usually facing a bunch of tasks left over from the old year, like taking down the Christmas tree and putting away all the decorations, writing thank-you notes and dealing with decisions about what to do with the stack of [Christmas cards](#). Throw them away? Save the ones with pictures? Check the addresses? Then there's the thought of trying to catch up with all the work I put off during the holidays. I'm behind before the New Year even starts.

"Who can think about new beginnings or inspirational goals in the midst of old concerns?" I asked my lawyer-husband Lynn as he came in the door after a quick trip to the office to complete a couple of year-end responsibilities.

"Let me show you a gift I just received," he said, pulling an attractively wrapped package out of his briefcase. On it was a card: "To Lynn. May this gift encourage you in the coming year." It was signed by a friend in his Bible study group.

Lynn tore off the paper and lifted out a beautifully framed message, penned by a professional calligrapher. The message read:

Lynn,
Trust Me. I have everything under control.
Jesus

He set the frame down amidst the clutter on the kitchen counter so I could see that simple message as I went about my tasks. Slowly those words began to change my frame of mind. If I needed something to help me carry my old concerns into the New Year, I'd just found it ... the determination to face each day's concerns, trusting in the words of this promise from the Source of all comfort and strength.

Father, each day in this new year, please help me remember that You are in control of everything. Amen!

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From Pastor Bill's Study

Greetings to all,

In the review of the last year, there is so much that can be said about what a year it was. Which one of us could have predicted what was to come? We knew the church had been shut down because of the fire, but we had worked out an arrangement with West Milton UMC and we were meeting and worshipping together.

Then came a word that has overtaken the conservation, Covid became a word of dread as a pandemic spread through the world. Not only did it change the health world but it also changed the concept of church. From no service to limited service outside and then only meeting in small groups.

The business of everyday life has changed as well and we may never go back to what was because of the changes made and the effect they have on everyday life.

We have gone from the celebration of family and church events to no it is required that we no longer gather as we once have.

Zoom has entered our vocabulary in ways not to draw closer but to separate us except for a picture of someone we want to talk to. Schools and colleges have changed their ways of learning to the point I do not know or understand what is being taught.

We have watched, heard of, or been a part of protests about what some consider right or wrong and we have lost the ability to talk about what is bothering us because we might offend someone else. It has come to a reality that those who scream the loudest are right and if you disagree you are either racist or just ignorant about what is going on.

Social media is not about talking but about running each other down. Conversation used to be a two-way street but no it is a highway headed in one direction and if you are not in line with someone you are likely to be run over.

We have gone through a political event which I am sure will be talked about until the next election takes place. No matter what side of the fence you are on I foresee troubled times ahead. As in the last four years, one party could do nothing right, no we will just have the same speech only with different names.

So where is the good news and where do we find it? WELL, my friends and neighbors that is my specialty so step right up and hear what I have to tell you. I have the best news for you and that word is that everything is under control.

What may seem like chaos is just the starting point of where God does the best work! We have been a part of a new beginning and now we must be ready to see it through to the end as God works this out and brings the world back into a correction.

I have been thinking and pondering the Book of Nehemiah and in the second chapter verses 17 thru 18. ¹⁷ ***Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." 18 I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.***

There is much that needs to be done to correct everything wrong and the good news is that we are not alone. As Nehemiah spoke to the people then I speak to all who will listen that yes there is a lot of work to be done but we are not alone. God gives us instructions, if we will only hear them. All we have to do to let things get worse is to do nothing. But if we want to make a change for the betterment of the world all we have to do is to do something positive to help make a difference.

I pray for God's direction and purpose to be clear to the leadership of the church and the world so we might make good decisions for this year we face. Together we can make a positive difference for our lives and the lives of those who come after us.

Psalm 121

Know Hope

Pastor Bill



Worship Team “Gathering of the Family of God” Report

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

January 3rd (Epiphany Sunday) – The First Noel (245); Shout to The Lord (2074); Go, Tell it on the Mountain (251); Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Revelation 1:4-8; “*Opening*” / Communion

January 10th (Baptism of the Lord) – Open My Eyes (454); Shout to the Lord (2074); I Know Whom (714); Psalm 29; Revelation 2:1-29; “*Churches*”

January 17th – Be Thou My Vision (451); Shout to the Lord (2074); All Creatures (62); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Revelation 3:1-22 “*Churches*”

January 24th – Jesus Calls Us (398); Shout to the Lord (2074); Lakeshore (344); Psalm 62:5-12, Revelation 4:2-8; “*The Throne*”

January 31st – Through it All (507); Shout to the Lord (2074); Majesty (176); Psalm 111; Revelation 5:9-14; “*New Song*”

Leadership Reports...

All Committee/Leadership Reports need to be handed into the church office or pastor, by the second Sunday of each month. **For January they are due: Sunday, January 10th, 2021.** You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Bill at pastorbill@gmail.com. Thank You!

Leadership Team Report

There was no regular meeting of Bethany Leadership Team in December. Things got done anyway.

But here's something else for this space. A lengthy article appeared in a recent IVP posting that was essentially a detailed commentary on Matthew 5:17-20, a key section of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

¹⁷ *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*
¹⁸ *For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.* ¹⁹ *Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.* ²⁰ *For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.* (KJV)

These are difficult sayings to fully comprehend now, just as they were on the day Jesus spoke. But at the end of the article stands this simple anonymous poem that beautifully sums up one huge “takeaway” from these particular statements.

To run and work the law commands, Yet gives us neither feet nor hands;
 But better news the gospel brings; It bids us fly and gives us wings.

Notice that the law *commands*, while the gospel (as in “good news”) *bids*. What we do with the teachings of Jesus and the total message of the 3 “sermon chapters” of Matthew is up to us, just as it was up to the people at the Mount. We are invited into a new and better life – not forced, not coerced – invited, RSVP Holy Spirit. Consider *that* as we go into 2021. Consider that and rejoice again at the munificence of God.

Rod Moore

Leadership Team Meeting with Poole Anderson on Wednesday, Dec 30th at 10:30 am.

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: January 3rd / February 7th

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 starts January 2021!

Thank You....

Dear Congregation of Bethany UMC: Thank you so much for your very generous donation of 7 tubs of food to the Panther Packs Ministry at St. Andrew's UMC. -Mary Richie, Treasurer St Andrew's UMC

Salvation Army of Milton - Thanks everyone who donated to the children's angel tree.

Need your help to complete data....

**POWERCHURCH
PLUS+**

Dear Congregation of Bethany UMC: Since we installed the new PowerChurch Software for Membership and Financials, etc., I am in need for you all to call the church office (570-742-9796) and give the year of your birthdate and those who are married the year of their wedding anniversaries. Call Monday, Wed or Friday 9:00 am – 12:30 pm. I am looking forward to hearing from you! God bless and Thank You! – Cheri

Pastor's Office Hours / Church Office Hours

Pastor Bill's office hours will be by appointment only until further notice. You can reach him at 717-968-3500 or email pastorbill@gmail.com to schedule an appointment.

Also due to covid up rise and less work Administrative Hours will be less, so please call the church office before coming in to check if in and if not in please leave a message and I will get back with you. Thank You!
Cheri Buss

Church Auditors Needed:

Please contact Pastor Bill if you could help audit the church records beginning next year. (February 2021)

Bethany UMC Current Expense Income November 2020 Reports:

Envelope Income To Date---2020

		Current Expense	Reno	Benev. (Price Fund)	Miscell	Weekly Total	Year To Date
November	1	\$855.00		\$10.00		\$865.00	\$35,214.00
	8	\$725.00		\$15.00		\$740.00	\$35,954.00
	15	\$647.00		\$20.00		\$667.00	\$36,621.00
	22	\$550.00		\$15.00		\$560.00	\$37,181.00
	29	\$730.00				\$730.00	\$37,911.00

Plate Income To Date---2020

		Plate	Known Givers	Benevolences (Price Fund)	Weekly Total	Year To Date
November	1					\$1,859.93
	8					\$1,859.93
	15					\$1,859.93
	22					\$1,859.93
	29					\$1,859.93

Lessons For Life Income To Date---2020

		Weekly Total	Year To Date
November	1	\$14.00	\$276.10
	8	\$14.00	\$290.10
	15	\$14.00	\$304.10
	22		\$304.10
	29	\$10.90	\$315.00

Bethany UMC Miscellaneous Contributions 2020

Advent Offering		
11/29/20--\$5,175.00		\$5,185.00
Office Computer Upgrade		
11/22/20--\$500.00		\$1,500.00
Burial Fund		
11/22/20--\$380.00		\$380.00
Feed-A-Friend		
11/1/20--\$270.00		\$290.00
Poinsettia Dedications		
11/1/20--\$32.00		
11/8/20--\$55.00		
11/15/20--\$48.00		
11/29/20--\$20.00		\$156.00
Salvation Army Loose Change to Make a Change Collection		
11/16/20--\$74.04		\$74.04

Fire Restoration Fund Income To Date---2020

		Known Givers	Anonymous	Weekly Total	Year To Date
November	1				\$18,905.78
	8	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$19,105.78
	15				\$19,105.78
	22		\$100.00	\$100.00	\$19,205.78
	29				\$19,205.78

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

Total Income Received: \$8,458.81

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$18,736.56

Average Attendance: 16

Bethany Fire Update: (Follow building progress on FaceBook)



Roof demo has begun and then the installing of the new roof.

Total Income Received (Nov): \$516.39

Total Expenses Paid Out (Nov): \$160,938.23

Thank you Anonymous givers, who recently donated to the Fire Fund.



Trustees Report

If you haven't totally locked yourself in during the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in the region and have driven by the church, you'll have seen that the demolition work has begun in earnest. While it's difficult to watch our once beautiful church be dismantled piece by piece, it is satisfying to finally be able to see some progress toward Bethany's rebuilding. Since I've not been able to participate in the meetings with the Construction Manager, most of you are probably more in tune with the plans and the progress than me. I will digress this month to share a great example of the small world we live in and our interconnections within it.

By the date on the letter sent to our Pastor Bill, which was passed on to me, I'm guessing he received a call from Maryann LaCroix Lindberg of Swanzey, New Hampshire in late October. She followed up her phone call with a letter to Pastor Bill. In it she said that due to the pandemic, she had finally had the spare time to go through her mother's belongings. Her mother had passed away in 2015. In those belongings she found an original copy of the Petition for the Incorporation of The Methodist Episcopal Church of Milton officially recorded April 7, 1857. In addition, there was attached an Amendment to the Charter recorded September 13, 1888. What a wonderful piece of our history which has been given to us to preserve.

I'm pretty sure Maryann won't mind if I share part of her letter so you know her connection to the Bethany family. "Just a tiny bit of family history to give it context: my mother was Mary E. Follmer LaCroix. Her parents were Ella and Fred Follmer (he was a federal judge), and my grandfather played that beautiful organ for just about 50 years. His father was the J.S. Follmer referred to in the document. When my brothers and I were growing up near Pittsburgh, we would spend much of each summer visiting our grandparents, and of course went to your church every Sunday."

We thank Maryann for taking the time and effort to return these documents to us. They will be placed in Bethany's safety deposit box at Milton Savings Bank for safekeeping. Maryann writes that she occasionally still gets to Milton. We hope to be able to thank her in person someday.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

Our Prayer List.....

Dave W – Eye Cataract recovery
 Todd H – Fell, broken neck / recovery
 Karen – Health
 Patti S – Health
 Donna G – Health/ Cold
 Cheryl – Health & recovery
 Tom & Florence Y – Tests & Health
 Sarah H – Health / Nursing Home
 Judy C – Health / Back
 Bob F – Health / Recovery
 Katy M – Health / In hospital
 Sarah (Karen's cousin) – Health / Skin rash
 Dan & Suki – Dan's cancer & support for Suki
 Those who lost loved ones.

Passing of Doug Baumwoll (Shelly's friend)
 Dale F – Serious eye injury
 Joe (Thereasa's brother) – Covid
 Debbie D - Cancer
 Sharon F - Health
 Jeff B - Depression
 Virginia K - Health
 President / Country / Nation
 Covid 19 / Elderly / Nursing Homes
 Laura – Health / Covid



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

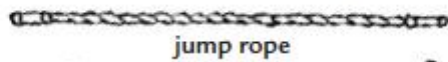
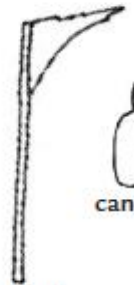
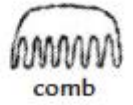
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Hidden Pictures®

Winter Picnic

By Elizabeth Allyn Hendricks



In the big picture, find these objects.



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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]**

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

January / February

Announcements:

Dates to Remember:

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

Dec 30th – 10:30 am – Leadership Team W Poole Anderson

Jan 3rd – 11:00 am – Gathering of the Family of God / Panther Packs / Communion

Jan 7th - 10:30 am - Leadership Team W Poole Anderson

Jan 17th – 11:00 am – Human Relations Day (Special Offering)

Jan 19th – 6:30 pm – Leadership Team (Ad Board / Finance) @ West Milton UMC

Lessons for Life (Sunday School): 10:00 am every Sunday morning.

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



Happy
New Year!!!!



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

Jan
2021