

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: 10:30 am
YouTube: Bethany UMC Milton

PASTOR TRAVIS

670 Stamm Rd
Milton, PA 17847
717-968-2254 (Cell)
570-246-5830 (Home)
tallshouse@susumc.org

Upper Room – Now Available

March / April

Daily Bread – Now Available

Jan / Feb / March



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

Announcements:

Dates to Remember:

[Cheri, Adm. Asst will be out of the office (Vac) March 1st – March 6th]
February 26th – 10:30 am Gathering of the Family of God (Sanctuary) 1st Sunday in Lent
March 1st – Noon – Soup & The Word @ 1st Presbyterian Church (Begins)
March 5th - 10:30 am - Gathering of the Family of God (Sanctuary)
Communion / Panther Packs (Bring in fruit packs)
March 8th - Noon – Soup & The Word @ 1st Presbyterian Church
March 11th – Turn clocks one hour ahead before turning in.
March 12th – 10:30 am - Gathering of the Family of God (Sanctuary)
Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 15th - Noon – Soup & The Word @ 1st Presbyterian Church
March 19th – 10:30 am - Gathering of the Family of God (Sanctuary)
(Special Offering – UMCOR)
March 21st – 6:00 pm – Leadership Team Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
March 22nd – 11:30 am – Community Luncheon @ Bethany UMC
March 26th - 10:30 am - Gathering of the Family of God (Sanctuary)
March 29th - Noon – Soup & The Word @ 1st Presbyterian Church
April 2nd – 10:30 am – Palm Sunday
April 9th – 10:30 am – Happy Easter!
May 18th – Susquehanna Annual Conference @ Community Arts Center, Wmspt
May 27th – Shane Claiborne “Beating Guns” Event @ Bethany UMC

March
2023

Bethany United Methodist Church

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



Volume 10, Issue 3

March 2023

Milton's Good News

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Goodbye February
Welcome MARCH
May my Family and Friends enjoy
**Happiness, Health,
Love, Wealth, and
Happy Moments Together.**

February– “At a Glance”

Looking back in February for Bethany, started off the month sending invites to the community leaders for a free luncheon to held on March 22nd. Preparations for Ash Wednesday Service, which will be held here at Bethany UMC. This Lent season began at the end of February, a time for 40 Days of fasting & praying.

“6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

-Cheri Buss

Daylight Saving Time begins – Turn those clocks forward one-hour Saturday night, March 11th.

Soup & The Word

Spring forward



Special points of interest:

- “At a Glance” (pg 1)
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Soup & The Word



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

Begins Wednesday, March 1st, 2023 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.

Dates:

March 1st

March 8th

March 15th

March 22nd

March 29th

April 5th



From Pastor Travis's Study

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace in the name of Jesus Christ who is our Savior and healer of our brokenness.

As we come into the month of March, I cannot help but get excited. Not only is it the month that I was born in (March 14), or that the ACC and NCAA basketball tournaments are soon here, or that baseball season is soon to start, I am also excited that Spring is almost here. I love the spring and summer seasons.

When I was younger, I could not wait for Spring to come. It meant that I could go outside and play with my friends. We could go outside for recess and play kickball. It meant that many of my evenings and Saturdays would be spent at or on a baseball field. I love the sound of a ball being hit by a baseball bat. It is a moment of pure excitement, and a lot of prayer. The prayer usually was "Dear Lord, don't let me mess this up."

Spring is so full of resurrection, growth, and life. Grass begins to turn green and grow again. The trees begin to blossom and grow again. Animals return from trying to stay warm. Those of us who hate the winter and cold begin to emerge from our homes again. Life just seems to get going again.

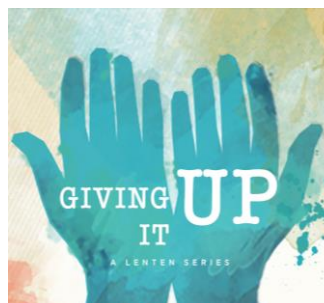
This is also the season that we celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Lent and Easter are almost upon us. This is a time for us to reflect on our need for salvation and healing from our sins. It is a time for us to give thanks to God for His love in offering that healing and salve through Christ. It is a time for us to give thanks for Christ's resurrection and conquering of death. We are told by Paul in Romans 6:23 that "the wages of sin is death. But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

So, as we enter into the season of Lent, here are some things that we are going to be looking at. The sermon series is called "Giving It Up." For so many of us, we give something up for Lent. This season of Lent we are going to explore the things that we need to give up not only for Lent, but for life. By giving these things up we will become who God created us to be. Also, this month will be our community leaders' luncheon. We have invited numerous leaders from the community to come, share a meal, and to help us better learn of the needs of our community. It is our hope and prayer that through this lunch we will be able to establish new connections and ministries in our community. Reconnecting with the community of Milton will ensure that we become and continue to be "A church with the heart of Christ in the Heart of Milton."

May God Bless you all in the days to come.

And, remember: The Best Is Yet to Be!!!

Pastor Travis



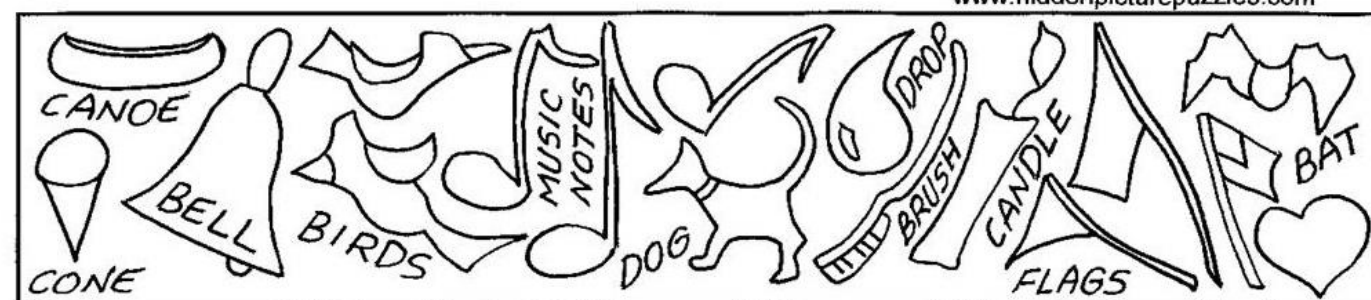
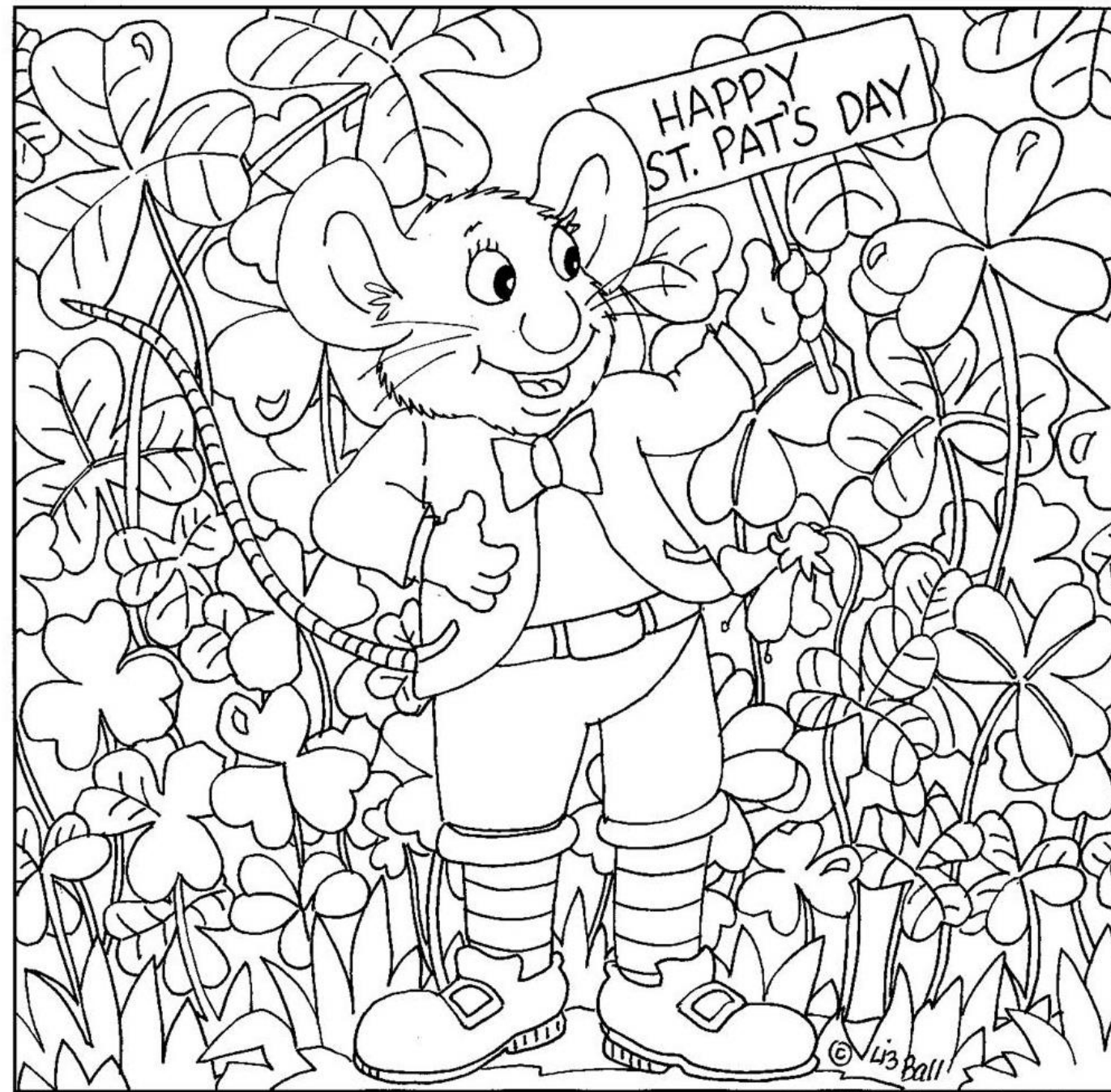
What Are You Giving Up?

coffee	+	complaining
chocolate		ice cream
meat		movies
internet		smoking
shopping		social media
caffeine		television
soft drinks		sweets
elevators		junk food

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 12th, 2023.** You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Travis at tallshouse@susumc.org. Thank You!

Fun Page



Bethany UMC Current Expense Income January 2023 Reports:

Financial Secretary's Report: January 2023

Date	Offering Envelopes	Plate Offering	Initial Offering	Free Will Offering	Butler Trust Fund	Human Relations Day	Total
1/01/23	\$893.00	\$35.00					\$928.00
1/08/23	\$796.00	\$21.00	\$5.00	\$8.00	\$2,200.00		\$3,030.00
1/15/23	\$3,336.00		\$85.00			\$130.00	\$3,551.00
1/22/23	\$617.00	\$15.00					\$632.00
1/29/23	\$696.00	\$10.00					\$706.00
Totals	\$6,338.00	\$81.00	\$90.00	\$8.00	\$2,200.00	\$130.00	\$8,847.00



*In the spirit of giving,
we thank you for
your generosity!*

Finance Report (January Expenses In & Out):

Total Income Received: \$8,847.00 + \$20,0000 (Trans from Investments) = \$28,847.00

Total Expenses Paid Out: \$17,674.43

Average Attendance: 22

Fire Fund: Income Received: \$29.00 (Interest)
Total Expenses: \$0
Balance \$363,879.00

Compelled and Propelled Devotional.....

*For the love of Christ compels us.
2 Corinthians 5:12-15*

When someone asked missionary David Livingstone why he had forsaken a life of ease to explore Africa and share the Gospel, he replied, "The love of Christ compels me." In the museum dedicated to him in his hometown of Blantyre, Scotland, visitors can still see those words emblazed by his name.

God so loved the world that He sent Jesus. And Jesus so loved the world that He sends us. He said, "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you" (John 20:21). We often grow weary of preparing to teach the church preschool class or teach the small group that meets every Wednesday night. Perhaps we wonder if our financial support for missions does any good.

Why don't we stop? One reason! The same love that compelled Christ to leave heaven and propelled Him to earth also compels and propels us. Because of God's love for us, we are able to love others. By loving others as God loves us, we can point them to Christ and God's marvelous gift of salvation.

Ask God for a fresh dose of His compelling love!

God had an only Son, and He was a missionary and physician. A poor, poor imitation of Him I am, or wish to be.

David Livingstone

What's In a Bible Passage?

Let's think about Genesis 2:16-17, looking at it through the eyes of interpreters at Intervarsity Press. They recently posted the following, heading their article "*An Unfair Test?*"

"Why would God test Adam by placing the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden and then urging him not to eat of it--especially when, according to his divine foreknowledge, he knew he would do just that? What is the point of this whole exercise? What would it prove in the end?"

The Creator saw fit to set a special test of obedience for the man (and eventually the woman) he had formed. Since Adam and Eve were formed perfect from the hand of their Maker, they were bound by the very laws of their natures to love, honor and obey the One who so endowed them. However, this love, honor and obedience were an untested set of gifts. Therefore, it was necessary to make a trial or test of their obedience if they were to be free moral agents.

The test, however, could not be a violation of a moral obligation like those in the Decalogue (i.e., the Ten Commandments); it had to be an easy prohibition that would be a suitable test of their fidelity. When free indulgence had been given to them to eat the fruit of all the other trees, the infringement/ of this injunction would be an act of direct rebellion against a command given by God. The method God chose had to be one of violating what is known as a Positive Law (that is, one that was true merely because God said it was true), or one that appeared to be an arbitrary enactment. The advantage of using a test of such modest means and methods was that, if the mortals had stood some greater test and come out steadfast, they might have expected rewards proportioned to the conflict and have argued that they had earned their own salvation. But the test was simply one of heeding a command from God. It would vindicate God's subsequent actions as well as demonstrate that mortals from the hand of God did possess a certain freedom, for which they would also be responsible.

As such, there is nothing absurd or derogatory to the Supreme Being in this test. The perfections of God demand the same from his creatures. But when those perfections are provisionally granted by right of creation, this goodness of God must be further tested before it can be said to exist permanently from that point on."

Extended consideration of this subject brings out many other questions. More to come.

Rod Moore

Event Happening in the Area



Hospice of Evangelical – Grief Support – Wednesday, March 22, 2023 from 9 - 11 am or 5 - 7 pm at Hospice of Evangelical, 235 Hospital Dr, Lewisburg PA.
Free Event Registration required, please call 570-522-2157.

Our Prayer List.....

Concerns:

The Family of William Scott Sr – Scott passed away, February 15, 2023.

The Family of MariLee (Ron's cousin) – MariLee passed away, Feb 20, 2023.

Randy – Hospice, near the end of his battle of cancer.

Mike S – Shoulder pain and will be receiving shots, praise no surgery needed.

Willa (Mike's wife) – Continued prayer concerns for health & healing.

Asbury University, Kentucky Revival

Leaders of United Methodist Churches and Revival for our country!

Turkey / Syria Earthquake

Family/friends with Cancer: Florence Y, Mandy (Jim's friend); Rita (Karen's relative); Kenny (Sally's friend), Alicia (Sally);

Dot (Judy); Denny (Travis' Uncle); Bonnie R; Randy; and Russ W.

Leaders / State / Nation / Church / Country / Ukraine



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. **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, and Fri from 9 am – 12:30 pm.**



Next Food Collection Communion Dates: March 5th / April 2nd

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!!



Bethany UMC will have a Free Community Luncheon on Wednesday, March 22nd, at 11:30 am. Community leaders (Milton Mayor, Police, Fire Dept, Commissioners, Salvation Army, HandUp Foundation & local business organization) were invited to share the needs of Milton and how Bethany UMC can help and reach out to our community.

Thank you for all those who helped put this together!

March Worship Schedule.....



- Sunday, March 5th – 10:30 am – [Worship in the Sanctuary] 2nd Sunday in Lent**
(Communion will be offered)
Bring in fruit for “Panther Packs”
- Sunday, March 12th– 10:30 am [Worship in the Sanctuary] 3rd Sunday in Lent**
Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Sunday, March 19th – 10:30 am [Worship in the Sanctuary] 4th Sunday in Lent**
Special Offering – UMCOR
- Sunday, March 26th – 10:30 am [Worship in the Sanctuary] 5th Sunday in Lent**

Easter Flowers.....

_____ 4” TULIPS	\$7.00 Each	TOTAL: _____
_____ 4” HYACINTHS	\$7.00 Each	TOTAL: _____
_____ 6” LILIES	\$12.00 Each	TOTAL: _____



Please return your order with money to the church office. (Forms are in office and/or sanctuary)
Deadline for money and ordering: Sunday, March 26, 2023

Trustees Report....

Just a few Trustee items to report:

- The equipment and other supplies to complete the supplemental heating project has arrived and Poole Anderson is in the process of working with the subcontractor to schedule the installation.
- The back flow preventer in the water supply line is required to be tested annually. The testing was recently completed by Keiser’s Plumbing. It passed the test and the necessary forms have been submitted. Cost of test was \$149.00.
- Air Tech HVAC recently completed the fall/winter service of the systems at both the church and the Parish House. In addition to the routine service they found the thermostat in the Parish House was not working properly and it was replaced. Total cost for parts and service was \$1,230.00. The parsonage service is to be scheduled soon.
- Thanks to Pastor Travis’ assistance we successfully completed and submitted the 2022 Church Trustees Report to the Conference by the January 31 deadline.
- Just to add additional emphasis to my report from last month regarding our dependence on our investments, we needed to withdraw \$10,000 in the beginning of January and another \$10,000 at the end of the month to meet current expense obligations.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

Leadership Team Report...

Due to the Leadership Team meeting was rescheduled there is no report and was not available for this month’s publication of the newsletter. The report will be added along with April’s meeting for the April’s newsletter.

Loss of our dear Bethany Member: William Scott Sr...

William Scott Sr, went with our Lord and Savior on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. Bill was a Bethany UMC member of 50 years. Bill served on the Trustees, our Card Sharing with members, and supported various other committees. Bill was a devoted husband to Patti for 61 years and he touched a lot of students and lives in his many years of coaching. Prayers for Patti and for the whole family, Bill will be sadly missed.

