

Milton's Good News

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September– "At a Glance"

September was a month filled with Milton Harvest Festival activities, such as, Arts & Crafts, Block Party, POPS concert, parade, and our very own food stand. A huge thank you to all who helped and donated food items.

Congratulations to the wedding couple, Mr. & Mrs. Chad & Shelly Miller, which Pastor Damien officiated the wedding ceremony on Sept 24th here at Bethany UMC.

–Cheri Buss

"A devotion from the Pastor's desk..."

LUKEWARM PEOPLE are continually concerned with playing it safe; they are slaves to the god of control. This focus on safe living keeps them from sacrificing and risking for God.

-Francis Chan

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share" (1 Tim. 6:17-18).

"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28).

Have you ever seen a turtle who cannot get away react to a predator or aggressor? They "turtle," which is to say, they pull their head, arms and legs within their shell and they close up. Lukewarm people, or more accurately lukewarm churches often do the same thing. When threats arise that could destroy or close a church, lukewarm members will turn inward and shut out the outside world, assuming that if they just take care of themselves, then they will survive. The problem with this mentality is that it is not Christian and get the church and its people nowhere. A turtle cannot move while it is closed up in its shell, it cannot eat or drink and if it stays there too long, it will die of starvation or dehydration. If a church "turtles" up in the face of low numbers, it also will be unable to move, particularly in the Spirit and worse it will cut itself off from spiritual nourishment and growth. Nothing new can come into the shell, but waste will still leave. Think about all the wasted gifts and talents that are lost to the world and the Church when a congregation turns inward. On fire Christians, will see the same adversity that a lukewarm Christian sees and choose to give it their all. Rather than "turtling," on fire Christians feel that if they are going down, they are going down swinging for Christ in a blaze of His glory. Their fire moves them, sustains them and leads them to new life.

Traditional Worship Team Report

The following is the work of the Traditional Worship Team which met on Tuesday, September 6th. Here are October's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles.

October 2nd – World Communion Sunday – Standing on the Promises (374); I Know Whom I Have Believed (714); Forth in Thy Name, O Lord (438); One Bread, One Body (620); 2 *Timothy 1:1-14*, “*Staying the Course*”; **Communion**

October 9th – We Would See Jesus (256); O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (57); Great Is Thy Faithfulness (140); Lord of the Dance (261); *Psalms 66, Luke 17:11-19*, “*Faith in Unexpected Places*”

October 16th – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (384); Change My Heart, O God (2152); Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart (500); Here I Am, Lord (593); *Psalms 119, Jeremiah 31:27-34*, “*Restoration Coming*”

October 23rd – Be Thou My Vision (451); Faith Is Patience in the Night (2211); Leaning on the Everlasting Arms (133); Deep in the Shadows of the Past (insert); *Psalms 91, Joel 2:23-32*, “*Hope-filled Promises*”

October 30th – Remembering the Saints Day – A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (110); Rescue the Perishing (591); Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy (340); I Am Thine, O Lord (419); *Psalms 119, Luke 19:1-10*, “*Tree Sitting*”

Contemporary Worship Report

The Contemporary Worship Team met on September 14th to select songs and themes for the month of October. We are excited to continue to gather for worship and fellowship together! We hope to see you Sunday evenings at 6:00pm! Take a look at this month's themes, songs, scriptures, and sermon titles:

Oct. 2 – Alfred; Everything and Nothing Less; We Give You Thanks; Amazing Love (You Are My King); How Great is Our God; For Your Glory and My Good; I Surrender, Worthy, Worthy; *Luke 17:5-10*; *Serving the Master*

Oct. 9 – The Giver; Give Me Faith; Great Are You Lord; Spirit Speaks; Say the Word; Your Grace is Enough; It Is Well; Give Us Clean Hands; *Luke 17:11-19*; *Recognizing the Gift*

Oct. 16 – Renaissance Man; Word of God Speak; You Will Remain; Hidden; Breathe; The Heart of Worship; Since Your Love; No Longer Slaves; 2 *Timothy 3:14-4:5*; *Breaking Through Our Myths*

Oct. 23 – Can You Hear Me Now; Rising Sun; Wake Up; How Can it Be; Hungry (Falling on My Knees); Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone); Jesus Friend of Sinners; Jesus Loves Me; *Luke 18:9-14*; *Falling Up*

Oct. 30 – Encouragement Notes; God With Us; Sweet Wind; From the Inside Out; I Surrender; King of My Heart; Holy Spirit, Ever Be; 2 *Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12*; *Encouragement for the Journey*

Trunk or Treat

As an easy way of doing outreach to families and children, and so that we can enjoy the cute little costumes of the children this Halloween. We are planning on doing a Trunk or Treat Event. To participate, all you really need to do is buy candy and come park here around the church on the evening of Sunday, October 30th to hand out that candy (or if you don't drive at night or don't have a car, sign up to be picked up and hand out candy from the church). If you REALLY want to get into the spirit, I encourage you to festively decorate your truck around some kind of theme like Ancient Rome, Egypt or the Exodus (for the Biblically minded) or the more traditional themes of witches, princesses, pumpkins, superheroes, etc... for those who are comfortable with the secular themes. Either way, the point is to have fun, be creative, reach out to new people and share the love of Christ with Milton (and share candy).

Trustees' Report

Renovations to the basement are moving along. The dirt floor under the main sanctuary has been leveled and is now covered with concrete. This will be a big help with clean up the next time we have water in the basement. (It's Front Street, we know it's inevitable). The common wall between the social hall and the men's and women's room and kitchen has been constructed. All the drain lines, which will run under the floor, have been installed. By the time you read this newsletter, hopefully the plumbing will have been inspected and approved which will allow the floor to be cemented and the walls to continue to be built.

As you know, our church has significantly increased the number of employees. Although they do not always work in the office at the same time, the current office space is not adequate for the staff to work efficiently. We have begun to discuss how we may be able to make the office space more user friendly. No definitive decisions have been made, but you'll hear more about that in the future.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

Lay Leader's Report

The Bethany wedding of Blaine Haas and Brittany Smith on August 20 was a great and beautiful success, with Pastor Damien performing the ceremony in our fully decked-out main sanctuary before about 80 family and guest attendees. The church is now preparing for the September 24 wedding of Chad Miller and Shelly Buck. There is another wedding scheduled for here in December 2017, and we were approached on September 18 about a possible wedding on July 22, 2017. So we are becoming an attraction as a marriage venue, and let's be glad about that.

My official certification as a Lay Speaker for the District is contingent on my completing 5 special courses, four of which are on line and one of which involves face-to-face sermon delivery. I have completed one of the on line courses (on United Methodist organization and polity), I'm about halfway through my second course (on United Methodist history and heritage), I have two sessions before District Superintendent Leland coming up shortly (on preaching), and I have two other on-liners that I'll be taking in October and November (one on leading public prayer and one on spiritual gifts). If all goes well, I should be fully qualified as a District Lay Speaker by this Thanksgiving.

Bethany members and friends of the church who took part in the August 20 5K Run/Walk were Pastor Damien, Joan Warburton, Sara Warburton, Justin Hopple, Justin Dunkle, and I. Sara and Justin Dunkle placed in the top 3 in their age groups, and we all had a wonderful time on a beautiful day in support of a very worthy cause. That was a fee-based event, but now we're gearing up to participate in the October 9 Milton CROP Walk, which is a free-will donation event, and we'd like to enter it as a church.

We have started an attendance logging system to collect the names and addresses of people who come to our Sunday evening Contemporary services. This will be very useful as that service grows, as it will identify the new folks who have been showing up and add completeness to the fellowship that we're developing with them.

After about a year of weekly readings and discussions, the Disciple I Bible study course is over. Karen Sheaffer and I, the lone graduates, plan to enter into the 34-week Disciple 2 course. Cheri Buss may join us, having herself taken Disciple I (the first Disciple course is a prerequisite for taking the second, making all three of us eligible to take Disciple 2). We will meet to decide on a mutually agreeable schedule.

Missions/Outreach Committee...

Milton Panther Packs Program (New Mission: Monthly)

Bethany UMC Mission Committee and St Andrew's UMC will be looking to expand the Milton Panther Packs Program to help provide weekend food items for elementary students in need in the Milton Area School District.

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

There will be a Community Dinner on **October 9th at 5:00 pm**. Location: Christ Evan. Lutheran Church Looking for Prep / Servers / Clean-Up Volunteers.

Community Dinners are between Bethany UMC, Christ Evan. Lutheran, Trinity Evan. Lutheran, United in Christ Lutheran, and New Hope Ministry Center HandUp Foundation to feed low income people in need.

Next Community Dinner Meeting will be on Thursday, November 10th at 6:30 pm at Christ Evan. Lutheran Church. Next Community Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 11th.

Mission/Outreach Committee Meeting Report:

The Missions/Outreach Committee met on August 24th to discuss special offering requests, such as, Milton Community Pool, Haven Ministries, and others who are requesting funds. To make a list of requesters and if this is a given charity in line with our mission or a good cause, to then be reported to Ad Board for approval. Also if the profits from the Harvest Festival could go to Missions/Outreach so they can help out with approved charities in the community.

Discussion on having a Trunk or Treat and set the date for October 30th.

The Missions/Outreach Committee had a special meeting on September 8th to go over Harvest Festival food and to prepare for the festival for Sept 17th. Went over the pricing for the food. A volunteers sheet was been created.

World Hunger Milton Crop Walk

World Hunger Milton Crop Walk – October 9th at 1:30 pm (Walkers report at 1:15 pm)

Location: First Presbyterian Church (47 Walnut Street, Milton PA)

Walks: 1 mile / 3 miles / 5 miles

Walkers are encourage to get sponsors (per mile or a donation of any size.)

Church Recruiter/Coordinator meeting will be on August 29th at 7 PM at the Community Mennonite Fellowship (2985 Broadway Rd, Milton PA), to learn more and register the church/walker. **Please inform Pastor Damien if you wish to walk.**

To donate or register for this walk go to this website:
www.crophungerwalk.org/miltonpa



Christian Education Committee....

Christian Education met at the end of August to plan for the Fall and future. It was decided within the meeting that Bethany would pursue a relationship with Christ Lutheran Church for the 2017 Vacation Bible School. The theme of the Bible School will be "Hero Central" from Cokesbury and take place at Christ Lutheran at some point to determined next summer. The cost for the Bible Study will be split between the two churches, volunteers and children will attend from both churches. It was also decided that the church would move forward in our plans to do the "Unbinding the Gospel" series this fall with the church leaders and the staff being asked to participate in "Unbinding the Gospel" first this fall and with the rest of the congregation being invited to participate in "Unbinding Your Heart" this coming Spring. The purpose of the study is help us reignite the spirit of evangelism within our church, starting first with our leaders and then moving to the congregation as a whole. This fall, we hope to help our leaders transform into spiritual leaders, this spring, we hope to transform the church into a force for the Holy Spirit. There will be one other study offered this fall, which will be written by Pastor Damien on the prophet Zechariah and run for 6 weeks. This study will be open to all participants. The final item for discussion at Christian Education was the formation of a Youth Group. Pastor Damien was encouraged to seek out a joint Youth Group with St. Andrew's as it was felt that a larger Youth Group would be better with responsibility falling elsewhere. After discussions with St. Andrew's, we will do some things jointly and some things separately as most spiritual growth happens in small group settings.

Ignite Youth Ministry...

I know that many have been anxious to see the results of all my work with teens and now as of the beginning of September, Bethany United Methodist Church will once again have a Youth Group. We have started to meet on Sunday evenings following Contemporary Service, where many of the youth attend and will also be looking forward to some joint ventures with the St. Andrew's youth group. This group is the product of the relationships I have been able to build at the Jungle and the addition of new attendees at Contemporary service. It was discussed in Christian Education with plans to move forward and reach out to St. Andrew's and their youth director Alaina Byers. As we continue forward, Christian Education will help select our curriculum to use for the instruction of the youth and help to train new volunteers in Safe Sanctuaries. Until then, the Youth Group will meet with the intent of turning attendance into a habit and be a fun, Christian environment for them to invite their friends to be a part of a church community. While we are currently operating without a budget or any expenses to the church, the Ad Board and Christian Education may choose to budget for it in the future and we hope to call on your support.

Zechariah Bible Study...

Zechariah Bible Study being offered this fall. A study on Zechariah written by Pastor Damien. (6 Weeks long) Please attend this exciting study, for this is for Pastor Damien's ordination process.

(Every Monday night at 5:30 pm starting on Oct 3rd through Nov 7th)

OR

(Every Tuesday morning at 10:00 am starting on Oct 4th thru Nov 8th)

Please sign up on the sheets in the back of the sanctuary or by calling the church office at **570-742-9796**.



Fundraiser for Bethany UMC – Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends"

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Fundraiser from August through October 18, 2016; (**Shopping Day - Tuesday, Oct. 18th from 9:00 am – 11:00 pm.**) Get your \$5.00 passes now to save 25% off your purchases at any Boscov's location. For passes, and to help sell them, see Pastor Damien, and/or contact the church office. If you are willing to help sell passes at Boscov's please contact Pastor Damien.

Fire & Ice Campaign....

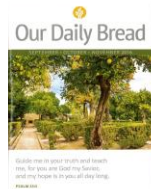
Last year, Bethany did an amazing job offering funds to raise money for the heating and cooling system during the **Fire & Ice** campaign. We had hoped to raise \$10,000 toward offsetting the cost of the \$84,757.00 system. We raised a total of \$13,645!!! This year, we return to raising funds to help pay for the utility bills to run the system which have been lower this year by about \$1,000.00 than previous years, even with the wonderful air conditioning that cooled us all summer.

Using last year as a benchmark for what we can raise, let's strive for a goal of \$15,000.00 this year!

This fall, I would like you to prayerfully consider making a contribution to **Fire & Ice**. Your contribution will assist in heating and cooling the church as needed for all of our various ministries in the name of Christ and continue to offset the cost of the new system. It will also provide you one more opportunity to share the many blessings God has offered you in your life, to act in faith and also to experience the spiritual growth that comes from giving.

Our Daily Bread (Something New)

You will notice in back of the sanctuary a donation box and Our Daily Bread booklets. You are welcomed to take a Daily Bread, which is a 3 month personal & family devotions. Our Daily Bread is fully supported by donations. Please put your monetary Donation in the box.



Thank You Note...

To Pastor Damien and Bethany UMC: Thank you for your support and donation of the Gideon Ministry. Your love gift will provide bibles for many hands around the world.

– Lee Broscious, Gideon Ministry

Share the Warmth Coat Giveaway Ministry

Our long standing tradition of the "Share the Warmth" Coat Ministry will be in October 15th & 22nd from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

If you're doing end of Summer clean-out of your closets, we accept coats/hats/scarves & warm clothing and blankets all year for the Mission. Always looking for all sizes of children's coats.

Please bring in your donations to the church, Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 am- 1 pm. or at any Sunday Worship Services.

Need volunteers to help set up and the day of coat giveaway and looking for people to make some, cookies, brownies, snacks for the Fellowship Table.

Volunteers for set up please see Shelly for dates and times.

Please sign up on the sheets in the back of the sanctuary.



Milton's Good News

Ad Board

In the wake of our recent successes with this year's Harvest Festival, Pastor Damien opened two new ideas to discussion for 2017. We could consider selling food at the Bound Avenue community-oriented "block party" that's always held on the Wednesday of Festival week, and/or we might want to add a vegan food option to our Front Street menu next parade day.

Thoughts of Board members are turning to the creation of the church budget for 2017, as the chairpersons of the various committees begin to plan for whatever predictable needs fall within their realms of responsibility.

Pastor Damien confirms that he will shortly be able to conduct Safe Sanctuaries training, which is important for us because some of our members in key positions still need that qualification in order to interact with (especially) youth. Besides, it's a fact that government abuse and police record clearances in that regard are not enough by themselves to satisfy UMC discipline.

The church plans to work on a form to be used whenever Bethany spaces or services are rented out to other organizations.

The starter kit for 2017 VBS has been ordered. Christ Evangelical Lutheran, with whom we will partner to conduct that event, is on board with our choice of theme for it.

Rod Moore

Pastor Appreciation Month – October.....

...Remember October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Please remember Pastor Damien in your prayers, sending an encouraging letter/email/card or a gesture of appreciation!

Thank you, Pastor Damien, for leading God's church from your congregation and staff here at Bethany!



"Sharing the Table"



"Sharing the Table" 2016 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: September 4th / October 2nd / November 6th / December

Events Happening in the Area.....

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

Riverwoods Auxiliary Luncheon Meeting, October 25, 2016, this will be our Annual Meeting. We will also be treated to music by K.J. Reimensnyder-Wagner.

Announcements

BETHANY UMC

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

miltonbethanyumcoffice@gmail.com

Website:

bethanyumc-miltonpa.org

Sunday Worship:

Sunday School: 9:00 am
Traditional Service: 10:30 am
Contemporary Service: 6:00 pm

PASTOR DAMIEN

670 Stamm Rd
Milton, PA 17847
570-412-1943
570-246-5514

dbrooks@susumc.org

Dates to Remember:

October 2nd – 10:30 am - Traditional Worship "Sharing the Table" / World Communion Day
October 2nd – 3:00 pm – Rockwell Communion
October 2nd – 6:00 pm – Contemporary Worship / World Communion Day
October 3rd – 5:30 pm – "Zechariah" Bible Study (Every Monday)
October 4th – 10:00 am – "Zechariah" Bible Study (Every Tuesday)
October 4th – 6:30 pm – Traditional Worship Team @ Parsonage
October 4th – 7:00 pm – Trustees Committee
October 9th – 1:15 pm - Milton World Hunger Crop Walk @ First Presbyterian Church
October 9th – 5:00 pm – Community Dinner @ Christ Evan Lutheran Church
October 11th – 7:00 pm – PSPRC
October 12th – 7:00 pm – Contemporary Worship Team
Oct 15th & 22nd– 9:00 am – 1:00 pm – "Share the Warmth" Coat Giveaway
October 16th – 10:30 am – Blended Worship Service (Traditional & Contemporary)
October 18th – 6:30 pm – Finance Committee
October 18th – 7:00 pm – Ad Board
October 18th – 9:00 am – 11:00 pm – Friends Helping Friends" Shopping Day @ Boscovs
October 30th – 7:00 pm – Truck or Treat
November 20th – 1:30 pm – Annual Charge Conference @ Christ UMC, Northumberland

"Unbinding the Gospel" Leader's Study: 8:30 am every Monday.

"Unbinding the Gospel" Leader's Study: 7:00 pm every Thursday.

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

Praise Band Practice: 7:00 pm every Friday.

Sunday School: 9:00 am every Sunday morning.

Traditional Worship Service: 10:30 am every Sunday morning.

Contemporary Worship Service: 6:00 pm every Sunday evening.

Ignite Youth Ministry: 7:30 pm every Sunday evening.



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

