

Bethany United Methodist Church  
"Renewing the Church to change the World"



Volume 7, Issue 4  
April 2020

# Milton's Good News

## March – "At a Glance"

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| From Pastor Bill  | 2 |
| Worship Schedule  | 3 |
| Leadership Team   | 3 |
| N.O.W. Here This! | 4 |
| Trustees Report   | 5 |
| Announcements     | 8 |

Looking back in March for Bethany, Lent began. We helped to serve at the Milton Harvest Community Dinner at St Andrews. Bible Study on "Book of Proverbs" continues on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings. Soup & The Word began on Wednesday's March 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> and then following meetings were canceled due to the health precautions of the corona virus. As well as, suspending Sunday worship and Bible Studies from March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

**"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." Mark 16:6 (NIV)**

– Cheri Buss

## Soup & The Word



**Soup & The Word**  
Wednesday Weekly Lenten Luncheons  
First Presbyterian Church  
47 Walnut Street, Milton PA  
**Wednesday at Noon**

### **NOTE: Soup & The Word Canceled.**

**With the health and safety and concerns of the community the Milton Ministerium announced the cancelation of the weekly Soup and The Word, which was held on Wednesday's at noon, due to concerns over the COVID-19 (Corona Virus) pandemic.**

### Special points of interest:

- "At a Glance" (pg 1)
- Soup & The Word Canceled (pg 1)
- Easter & Holy Week (pg 1)
- Leadership Reports (pg 2)
- Baptism (pg 3)
- Easter Candy Giveaway (pg 4)
- Easter Prayer Vigil (pg 4)
- Easter Flowers (pg 4)
- Sock Ministry (pg 4)
- Fire Update (pg 5)
- Volunteer of the Month (pg 5)
- Event in the Area (pg 5)
- Financial Stats (pg 6)
- Fun Page (pg 7)

## Easter and Holy Week

This Easter Season, Holy Week Services will begin:

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am - Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service @  
St. Andrew's UMC

Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 6:00 pm – Easter Prayer Vigil

Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. – Easter Sunrise Service @ St Andrew's Pavilion, across  
back parking lot toward Conagra.

Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. – Easter Service - Gathering of the Family of God Service  
with Communion & Baptism @ West Milton UMC



## Holy Week & Easter



## From Pastor Bill's Study



Greetings to all,

In my daily Bible reading I am in the book of Joshua and I am pondering the all of the news that is bombarding my senses. The newspapers, television, radio; all of the social media and everyday talking points are about two topics. First being the Corona Virus, and about the Democratic nominations.

I know we should never discuss politics and church, but we are called to be aware about what is going on in the world we live in. We can also add to the mix what is going to happen to the United Methodist church in the future. In all of this I believe politics are ruling the decisions that are going to be made.

Since I am writing this article I will give you my unlearned hypotenuse about all that is going in the world of today and the politics involved.

On the topic of the Corona virus I do believe it is a serious threat but no more than the Flu virus that hits every winter. The victims who suffer the most are the very young and those with compromised immune systems. Those who are elderly, organ transplants, HIV positive, or undergoing any form of chemo treatments are at the highest risk factors. The procedures to fight the virus are the same as all other viruses to avoid large crowds if you have a compromised immune system, and wash your hands thoroughly. I do believe it has been blown out of proportion by the media and we do not have to hoard cleaning agents and shut everything down.

Second is the politics of choosing a political leader. Once again I believed a well-informed person should be able to make up their mind as to who is to be the next leader of our nation. I will go out on a limb and say that the best candidates are not running because they cannot fight the systems in place and who controls the money of any political party.

Thirdly I speak of something closer to home and what will be the decisions made at General Conference and at Annual Conference and how they will influence the local church. After June will we still have a United Methodist Church? In my heart and mind I do not believe we will and it saddens me to think that the politics playing out will bring a schism to the church.

I know that the church of today does look different than the church of tomorrow but yet we still worship the same God so when did the change take place that we are to follow the social political realm of the world and not God.

Sadly once again what we do will be held up for a vote and that will determine what happens to the church. If we are truly following in the path of the Holy Spirit we would be asking people to follow God not that God will follow the people.

As I started this story I go back to my readings from Joshua and his call to power to lead the Israelites into the promised lands before them. It was God who chose the leader and as long as Joshua and people followed the leading of God all went well. When the people followed their own leadings is when things went wrong.

I do not think the world is going to come to an end and that this virus or that one or the candidates who are chosen or even a split in the church will bring about Armageddon. But like Joshua we are called to be "Strong and Courageous" and to let God lead us into whatever will be. For I do believe God is still on the throne and we are under the rule of God and the world has not started turning in reverse and that God is now taking directions from us.

In whatever will be I will still praise God and look to the Holy Spirit to guide me to the promised lands.

Psalms 121

Know Hope,

*Pastor Bill*



## Leadership Reports...

All Committee/Leadership Reports need to be handed into the church office or pastor, by the second Sunday of each month. **For April they are due: Sunday, April 12, 2020.** You can bring them into the church or email them to Pastor Bill at [pastorbill@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbill@gmail.com). Thank You!

## Worship Team "Gathering of the Family of God" Report

The following is the work of the Worship Team which met on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Here are April's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles. **Next Worship Team meeting will be on Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 at 1:00 PM.**

**April 5<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday)** – Tell Me the Stories of Jesus (277); Let All Things Now Living (2008); His Name Is Wonderful (174); Psalm 118:19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a; "Servant"

**April 12<sup>th</sup> (Easter Sunday)** – Up from the Grave He Arose (322); He Lives (310); Crown Him with Many Crowns (327); Psalm 115:1-11; Revelation 5:1-14, "Worthy" / **Communion, Baptism**

**April 19<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter)** Love Devine, All Loves Excelling (384); Let All Things Now Living (2008); Easter People, Raise Your Voices (304); Hebrews 1:1-4; "The Son"

**April 26<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter)** – Open My Eyes, That I May See (454); Let All Things Now Living (2008); Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling (348); Psalm 3, Hebrews 2:1-4; "Pay Attention"

## Baptism....

Looking to be baptized, on Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Bill will be baptizing those who wish to be baptized. Please let Pastor Bill know by March 31<sup>st</sup>.



## Leadership Team (Ad Board) Report....

No Leadership Team report due to meeting being canceled on March 17<sup>th</sup>. **Next Leadership Team meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 6:30 pm.**

**A Notice on our Website and Facebook: Dear Bethany United Methodist of Milton & Family & Friends,**

We wanted to come to you quickly with important information concerning Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the temporary measures we're taking as a church family. We are choosing to remain calm, trust God, but also take the situation very seriously to help support the efforts of our state and community. As always, no matter what we face, we have a God who is bigger. We will continue to trust Him in the days ahead.

On Thursday, March 12, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf provided an update on the state's COVID-19 (coronavirus) mitigation efforts, which included guidance to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Included in his report is the "strong encouragement of the suspension of large gatherings, events, and conferences of 50 individuals or more."

Therefore, after much prayer, and in accordance with the biblical directive of honoring our governing authorities and out of concern for the health and safety of our local communities, Bethany UMC will be suspending for two weeks all Sunday gatherings and weekly Bibles studies (Tuesday & Thursday) starting this Sunday, March 22, 2020. This practice of social distancing is meant to limit the spread of the virus and other seasonal illnesses in accordance with The Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Please know that this decision is not made out of fear, but instead out of obedience to God's Word and out of concern for all the people who call Bethany UMC home as well as the communities in which we live.

**Note from Bishop Parks on March 17, 2020:**

Dear Laity and Clergy of the Susquehanna Conference,

As your bishop, along with the leadership of the Annual Conference, **I implore our Susquehanna Conference churches to suspend all gatherings for worship and other activities for at least the next two weeks.** This is a very hard decision, especially because we are in the midst of Lent, one of the most sacred seasons of the church year. However, during the time of suspension we can be more intentional and be focused on the Lenten disciplines of solitude, reflection, and repentance. This season can help us deepen our spiritual connection to Holy Week and ultimately Easter when we celebrate new life.

Thanks and Blessings, Jeremiah Park and the Full Cabinet

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

Next N.O.W. Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm.



**“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”**. **Next Food Collection Communion Dates: April 5<sup>th</sup> / May 4<sup>th</sup>**



### **Milton Harvest Community Dinner (St Andrew's UMC – 201 Lower Market St, Milton PA)**

There will be a Milton Harvest Community Dinner on **Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020** at 5:00 pm. Bethany will need volunteers to help with serving at 4:45 pm. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

(Next Milton Harvest Community Dinners that Bethany is helping with are: April 6<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>).

### **Milton Community Dinner (Christ Evan Lutheran Church – 1125 Mahoning St, Milton PA)**

There will be a Community Dinner on a **Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020** at 5:00 pm. Watch for more information.

## Easter Candy Giveaway



We are again partnering with Hand Up Foundation to provide Easter Candy to families in need that participate in the Food Bank program. The Easter Candy Giveaway will be on Wed, April 8th from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. at HandUp . Please bring in candy to Bethany office on April 3rd & April 6th (from 9 am – 1 pm.). Suggested donations are marshmallow peeps, jelly beans, chocolate candies (nut-variety OK), Tootsie rolls, Smarties, fruit snacks, animal crackers, goldfish or whales crackers, lollipops, stickers, small toys such as tiny tops, small mazes, rubber balls, etc. We will also need volunteers to help distribute on the day of the event. Please consider donating your time.

**Candy Organize Event** – Will need volunteers on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Bethany Office to organize Easter Candy for the Giveaway.

## Easter Prayer Vigil



Bethany UMC is having an Easter Prayer Vigil on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from Noon to 6:00 pm. Please pray for Bethany Church, Community, Leaders, and Country at home during their selected timeslots. Please sign up on the form located in the back of the sanctuary.

## Easter Flowers.....



Easter flowers will be Lilies at \$9.00/Each and Hyacinths at \$8.00/Each

Please give your order with money to Shelly Sholley (Flower forms are in the back of the sanctuary)  
Deadline for ordering and money: **Sunday, April 5, 2020.**

## Toasty Toes Sock Ministry....

We have launched a new ongoing ministry here at Bethany. The “Toasty Toes Sock Ministry” will provide new socks to those in need. Socks will be handed out at both of the Community Dinners that we serve and assist with and at Milton Towers and other limited income housing projects in town. We are collecting pairs of new socks in all sizes & genders from infants to adults. Please deposit socks in the laundry basket at the front of the sanctuary on any Sunday.



## Milton's Good News

### Trustees Report...

The Leadership Team invited three different architectural/engineering firms (Hemmler & Camayd, Mid-Penn Engineering, and Noelker and Hull) to tour our damaged church and meet with the team. Of the three, we felt that Hemmler & Camayd and Noelker and Hull possessed the skills and experience to lead us through the rebuilding process. Therefore, we asked these two firms to submit formal proposals to the Leadership Team for their services.

Hopefully we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel in relation to the insurance investigation. Those conducting the investigation have assured Pastor Bill they will be completed with their tasks by the end of March. After they are finished we will finally be able to finish the clean up and start the rebuilding process. Other than finishing the removal of the debris, the main priority will be to protect the interior of the building from the weather.

We received notice from Judy Campbell's executor that Bethany is a beneficiary of her estate. Although we mourn the loss, we are appreciative that Judy felt the call to share her remaining assets with her church.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand, Trustee chair

### Bethany Fire Update:

Thank You Letters to all those below who donated to the Fire Fund, since last newsletter:

Nancy Walters, Linn Chesney & Amy Snyder, Dale & Tamera Chomas, Evelyn O'Connell, Megan Huff, Mount Pleasant UMC, Beaver Memorial UMC.

Bethany thanks all those who contributed to the Fire Fund.



### Congrats to Shelly, Volunteer of the Month...



Congrats to Shelly Sholley, for being the Volunteer of the Month, which the Standard-Journal wrote up an article in the Standard Newspaper on March 10<sup>th</sup>. So proud of all the volunteer work Shelly has done and continues to do for churches and communities. Well done faithful servant! Please read the Standard Ad, which is hung up on the bulletin board. You also can find the article in the Standard-Journal Newspaper in the March 10<sup>th</sup> issue.

Again, great job and we here at Bethany UMC are very proud of your heart to serve our church and community! God bless!

### Events Happening in the Area

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

**Sunday, April 5, 2020 – 11:00 am to 2:00 pm** – Milton Fire Department's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Palm Sunday Ham Dinner at Milton Fire Department on 121 Ridge Ave, Milton PA. Adults \$10.00 and children 4-12 years \$4.00. Free delivery for Senior Citizens within Borough of Milton, call by April 4<sup>th</sup> at 570-742-9895 to arrange a meal to be delivered.

**Sunday, April 19, 2020 – 12:30 pm (Lunch) & 1:30 pm (Easter Program)** – Kingdom Kidz Puppet Dinner Theater at the Puppet Home, 11 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Watsonstown, PA.

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

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Total Income Received:             | \$3,505  |
| Total Expenses Paid Out:           | \$13,320 |
| Total February Average Attendance: | 27       |

## Bethany UMC Current Expense Income February 2020 Reports:

### Envelope Income To Date---2020

|          |    | Current Expense | Reno | Benev.<br>(Price Fund) | Miscell. | Weekly Total | Year To Date |
|----------|----|-----------------|------|------------------------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| February | 2  | \$843.00        |      | \$6.00                 |          | \$849.00     | \$4,587.00   |
|          | 9  | \$706.00        |      | \$6.00                 |          | \$712.00     | \$5,299.00   |
|          | 16 | \$964.00        |      | \$46.00                |          | \$1,010.00   | \$6,309.00   |
|          | 23 | \$793.00        |      | \$6.00                 |          | \$799.00     | \$7,108.00   |

### Plate Income To Date---2020

|          |    | Plate  | Known Givers | Benevolences<br>(Price Fund) | Weekly Total | Year To Date |
|----------|----|--------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| February | 2  |        |              |                              | \$0.00       | \$320.00     |
|          | 9  | \$3.00 | \$80.00      |                              | \$83.00      | \$403.00     |
|          | 16 | \$5.00 |              |                              | \$5.00       | \$408.00     |
|          | 23 | \$5.00 |              |                              | \$5.00       | \$413.00     |

### Lessons For Life Income To Date---2020

|          |    | Weekly Total | Year To Date |
|----------|----|--------------|--------------|
| February | 2  | \$10.00      | \$45.00      |
|          | 9  | \$8.00       | \$53.00      |
|          | 16 | \$10.00      | \$63.00      |
|          | 23 | \$8.10       | \$71.10      |

### Bethany UMC Miscellaneous Contributions 2020

|  | Year to Date |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Initial Offering</b>                |              |
| 2/2/20--\$10.00                        |              |
| 2/16/20--\$10.00                       |              |
| 2/23/20--\$2.00                        | \$69.00      |
| <b>Flower Fund</b>                     |              |
| 2/2/20--\$25.00                        | \$25.00      |
| <b>SUMC Pastor's Salary Supplement</b> |              |
| 2/2/20--\$500.00                       | \$500.00     |
| <b>Lenten Offering</b>                 |              |
| 2/23/20--\$5.00                        | \$5.00       |

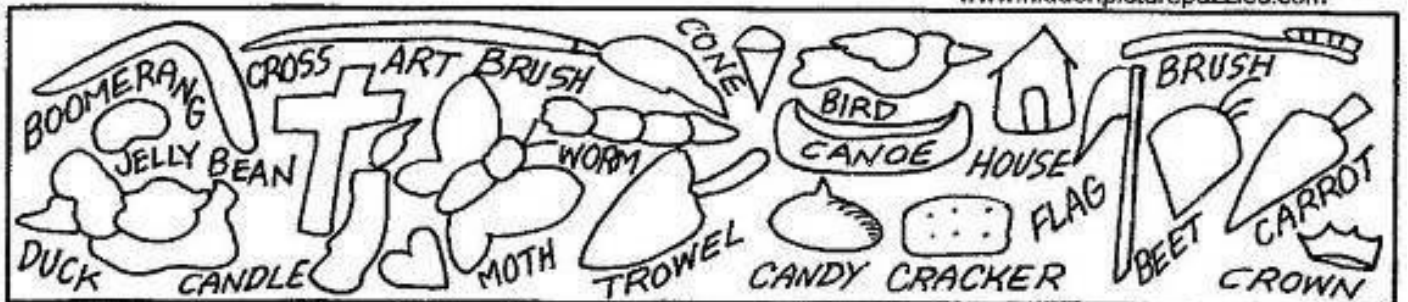
### Fire Restoration Fund Income---2020

|          |    | Known Givers | Weekly Total | Year To Date |
|----------|----|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| February | 2  | \$2,888.00   | \$2,888.00   | \$10,131.97  |
|          | 9  | \$312.00     | \$312.00     | \$10,443.97  |
|          | 16 | \$700.00     | \$700.00     | \$11,143.97  |
|          | 23 | \$260.00     | \$260.00     | \$11,403.97  |

Fun Page



www.hiddenpicturepuzzles.com



**BETHANY UMC**

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

[miltonbethanyumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:miltonbethanyumcoffice@gmail.com)

**Website:**

[bethanyumc-miltonpa.org](http://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**

May / June

**Announcements:****Dates to Remember:**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm – (Candy Drop off time)**

**April 5<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 am - Palm Sunday**

**April 5<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 am – Easter Flower Order Deadline**

**April 5<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 pm – Rockwell Communion**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm – (Candy Drop off time)**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> – 5:45 pm – (Servers) Milton Harvest Community Dinner @ St Andrew's**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm – Candy Organizer Event @ Bethany Office**

**April 7<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm – Candy Organizer Event @ Bethany Office**

**April 8<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm – Easter Candy Giveaway @ HandUp**

**April 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service @ St. Andrew's**

**April 10<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday (Office Closed)**

**April 11<sup>th</sup> – Noon – 6:00 pm – Easter Prayer Vigil**

**April 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 am – Sunrise Service @ St Andrew's Pavilion by Conagra**

**April 12<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 am – Easter Sunday (Baptism / Communion) @ West Milton UMC**

**April 19<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 pm – Community Dinner @ Christ Lutheran**

**April 21<sup>st</sup> – 6:30 pm – Leadership Team (Finance & Ad Board) @ Bethany office**

**April 26<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 am – Native American Ministries Sunday (Special Offering)**

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

***Bible Study "Proverbs": 10:00 am every Tuesday @ Thereasa's home***

***Bible Study "Proverbs": 7:00 pm every Thursday @ Bethany Office***

***Lessons for Life: 10:00 am every Sunday morning.***

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



BETHANY UMC OFFICE  
18 CENTER ST  
MILTON, PA 17847

April  
2020