



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



March-April 2024

Dear Church Family,

Today we are looking at Psalm 42:5 – “Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.” The writer of Psalm 42 was discouraged. The struggles of life threatened to pull him under and take another victory. But at just the right time the writer made a decision to hope in God and continue to praise Him. He made a deliberate decision to treat his downcast soul with thoughts of God.

There is nothing easy about this. Focusing on God when in the midst of trouble will demand discipline. When trouble screams in our ears that God is far away and we are beyond help, we must determine to cast our eyes on Him and believe what His word tells us. John 14:27 reminds us “Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed”. Instead, focus on what God promises us in His word.

Our Lord is always present to get us safely through the day. Believing this truth can make the difference between coping and giving up in despair. We must remember that His mercies are new every morning. We wear the robe of righteousness and are on our way to Heaven. Nothing we face today can compare with this mercy-giving God and His mercy-filled gift of eternal life!

Waiting for His return,
Susan Seber, CLP



Attention all kids!!

There will be an Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday rain or shine. Come see how many hidden eggs and goodies you can find!

**Welcome Rev. Dr. Kathleen (Katie) Kelly Hopper
to Bethany Presbyterian Church**



**Easter Services at BPC
Rev. Dr. Katie Kelly Hopper**



Palm Sunday
March 24 at 10AM

Maundy Thursday
March 28 at 7PM
Combining the events of the evening of The Last Supper and the Crucifixion on Good Friday

Easter Service
March 31 10AM
Joyous celebration of the Resurrection
Come rejoice with us!



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! *Journey Through Bethlehem* is a GO!!!! It will be held the first Saturday and Sunday in December, the 7th and the 8th. So, mark your calendars for this special event.

Last September, a nativity meeting was held, and committee members voted to start planning early in 2024, so we could have Journey Through Bethlehem: a Living Nativity in December, 2024. The committee has met twice since January and have brainstormed and discussed how the nativity can be made more manageable but just as wonderful!

The Co-Chairmans for the nativity are Pat Rine and Terry Lawrence.

Many subcommittees are being formed, so check out the list below and see where you can get involved.

Food Committee: Chairman: Marian Knapp

Costume Committee: Chairman needed

Advertising Committee Chairman: Sharon Gunuskey

Parking Committee: Chairman: Craig Olver

Decorating Committee: Chairman needed

Script Committee- Committee is already formed. They met two times since January to brainstorm possible scenes and progression of events. They are evaluating our "old" script and looking at new scripts, music, etc.

We are looking forward with excitement and joy that we will be able to spread the Good News of Jesus' birth to the community!!

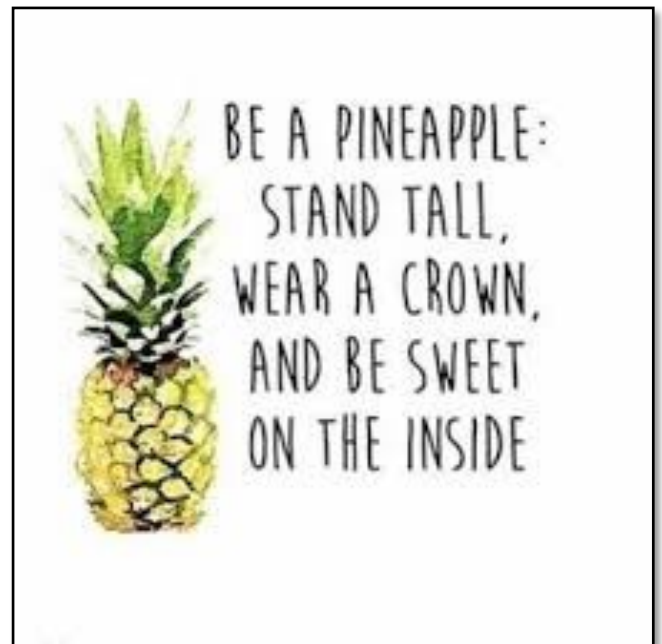
Coffee/ Refreshment Hour

Please join us each week after worship, a coffee hour with refreshments is held. There are always interesting conversations and great fellowship during this time.



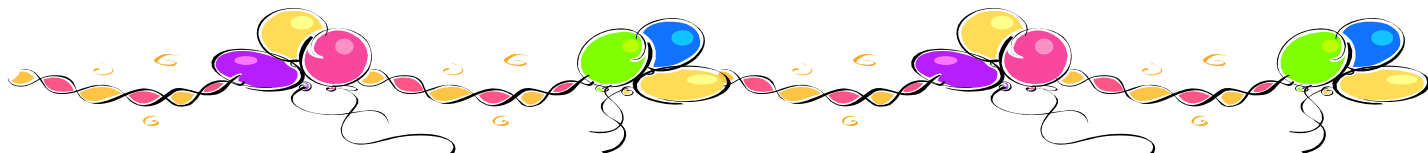
Account Balances as of February 20, 2024

General Account	\$37742.26
Rental Account	\$6513.97
Capital Account	\$3377.05
Living Nativity	\$1597.60
Savings Account	\$57060.14
Money Market Account	\$57595.98





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Happy Birthday!!! Happy Anniversary!!!

March Birthdays

- 1-Sharon Gunuskey
- 2-Mark Zimmer
- 4-Janet Olver
- 8-Marilyn Barbe
- 9-Patricia Watson
- 14-Bianca Plastaras
- 30-Elle Plastaras

March Anniversaries

- 16-Sharon & Glen Gunuskey



April Birthdays

- 3-Pat Rine
- 8-Betsy Lacey
- 10-Glen Gunuskey
- 12-Joan Green
- 13-Mary Evans
- 14-Ruth Ann Swingle
- 16-Yvonne Plastaras
- 19-Beth Hopkins
- 20-Gretchen Erk
- 21-David Czapnik
- 22-Sarah Hiller
- 25-Brooke Hopkins



April Anniversaries

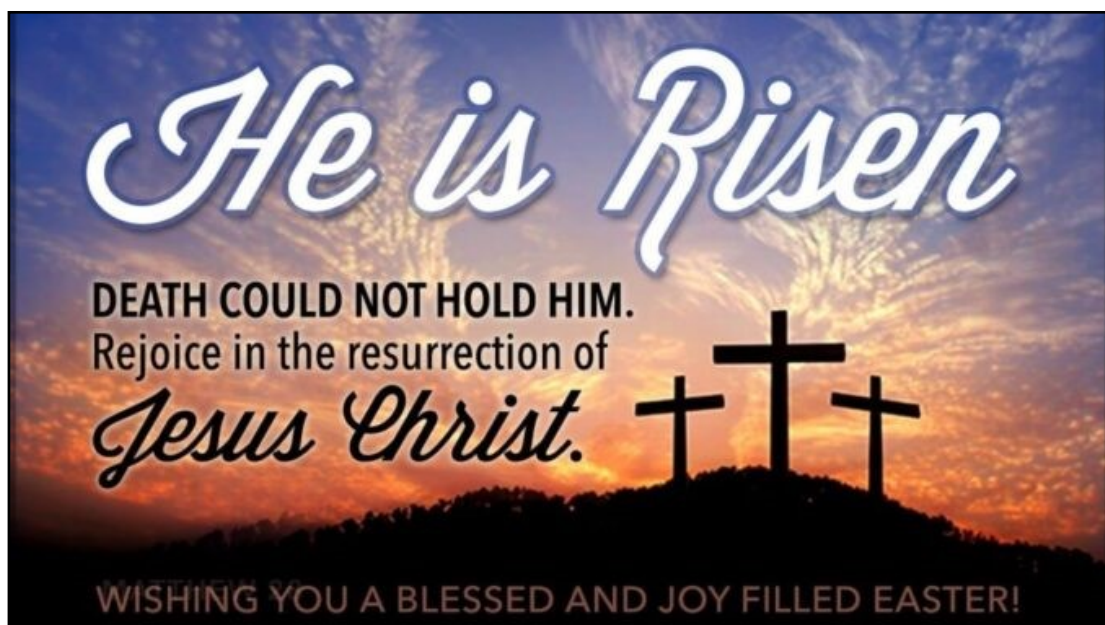
- 11-Forrest & Stacey Goodenough
- 17-Betsy & Frank Lacey

Third Sunday Brunch

A covered potluck brunch is held the third Sunday of the month after worship.



Come join us enjoy fellowship and see what wonderful cooks and bakers we have in our church family.





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Gift Ideas



Looking for a gift for that special someone who has it all?

The church's cookbook, Country Goodness, makes a great gift. It is only \$10, and the recipes are very tasty. Copies are available in the Ladies Parlor in the back of

the sanctuary. Don't forget to pick one up!

Good quality note cards that have a picture of the church on the front can also be found in the Ladies Parlor. Each packet is \$5.

Honesdale Monopoly games (donated by David Czapnik) are available in the Ladies' Parlor for \$15, originally sold for \$30.....such a bargain!

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE LADIES' LUNCHES?



Many ladies from our congregation along with 1 or 2 from other churches have been gathering for lunch during the past few years. Most of the restaurants we have frequented have

been in the local Honesdale area.

God has blessed our group with additional friends to fellowship with each month resulting in getting to know one another better and better. A good church family along with good friends are surely a blessing from God for which we are so thankful.

Care to join us? See Sue Seber for reservations.

Christian Care Committee News



Over the last quarter of 2023 we have continued to record the weekly attendance of our congregation. The totals for October through December are as follows:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>
October	174	35
November	123	31
December	185	31

We continued our home communion visitation to Marilyn Barbe when she was feeling well enough to do so.

The e-mail prayer chain has continued with each request passed along, recorded, and reported to Session each month.

Many different categories of cards were sent to several individuals over the last three months, namely, get-well and encouragement.

Phone calls were made to check on those who had not attended in a few weeks. Any questions about this committee, contact any member or Sue Seber, chairman.



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



NOTES FROM THE SESSION

What a wonderful and exciting time in the life of Bethany Presbyterian Church! God has answered the prayers of the PNC, the Session and the entire congregation and placed in our midst a new Pastor. We pray you will all worship with us starting in March and greet Rev. Dr. Katie Kelly Hopper and her husband Rev. Jimmy Hopper, Honorable Retired, with much love!



The Session and the PNC spent time discerning how best to help Rev. Katie settle in to life in NEPA and life with her new flock (that's US)! Watch our website, Facebook and the church bulletin for updates on opportunities to spend time getting to know her. We are sure you will be delighted.

A huge THANK YOU to the PNC for the time spent in prayer, searching through PIF's and attending meetings before bringing forth a candidate for this congregation. It was and is greatly appreciated!

As we enter this season of Lent, we come with a renewed sense of hope for our church. As we follow the path of our Savior, may we remember not only His suffering and death, but the great day of His Resurrection. May we feel not only the newness of life He gives, but a newness of life at Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Each Sunday in Lent we will have our regular Worship Service at 10:00AM. We will have a Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00PM on Thursday, March 28th, combining the events of the evening of The Last Supper and the Crucifixion on Good Friday. It will be a very moving service covering the events of both days.

We have been invited to participate in a community Sunrise Service hosted by the Bethany Community Church North (formerly the Bethany Methodist Church) with breakfast to follow in their Social Hall. Check our website or Facebook page for further details as they become available.

We will have a joyous celebration of the Resurrection at our Easter Sunday Service at 10:00AM. Come rejoice with us!

During our time without a Pastor, we were blessed to have four people who filled the Pulpit and led the Worship Service on a regular basis. We would be remiss if we did not thank those people. They are Rev. William Samford, who also served as our Moderator, Susan Seber, CLP, Mark Zimmer and Bruce Hutchison. We showed our appreciation at a Worship Service in January by giving each one a gift certificate to Bistro 1202 at the Wayne Hotel. Thank you for your faithful service throughout the year and your leadership. It was greatly appreciated by all.

The Session met in February and elected the following people for leadership positions for 2024:

Clerk of Session - Linda Zimmer, effective March 15, 2024

Treasurer - Pat Rine

Presbytery Commissioner - Sally Rutherford

President of the Corporation - Kevin Knapp

Vice-President of the Corporation - Ron Lawrence

Secretary of the Corporation - Linda Zimmer

The Church Committees have been very busy recently and you will find information about their activities in articles throughout this newsletter. There will be a complete list of Committee Chairpersons in the next Church Chat. Each committee is always delighted to welcome new members and new ideas. Think about where you would like to serve the Lord and your church and join in the appropriate committee(s). There are always committees with projects looking for volunteers!

Please feel free to contact any Elder with your compliments and/or concerns.

Your Active Elders for 2024 are:

Mark Bartocci – 570-251-4266

Bruce Hutchison – 570-251-2595

Craig Olver – 570-253-4161

Pat Rine - 570-253-5447

Linda Zimmer – 570-470-0881

Emily Gunuskey – 570-647-9887

Terry Lawrence - 570-729-0216

Yvonne Plastaras – 267-895-5105

Sally Rutherford - 570-253-0685



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Greeters and Ushers March to December 2024

March

3 Lorraine Gallik & Joan Green
 10 Cindy Henry & Pat Rine
 17 Mark & Linda Zimmer
 24 David & Sue Seber
 28 Craig & Janet Olver-Maundy Thursday
 31 Kevin & Marian Knapp-Easter Sunday

April

7 Pat & Yvonne Plastaras
 14 Frank & Helen Ward
 21 Kathie Dulay & Betsy Lacey
 28 Craig & Janet Olver

May

5 Lorriane Gallik & Joan Green
 12 Mark & Linda Zimmer
 19 Pat Rine & Cindy Henry
 26 David & Sue Seber

June

2 Kevin & Marian Knapp
 9 Frank & Helen Ward
 16 Kathie Dulay & Betsy Lacey
 23 Craig & Janet Olver
 30 Pat & Yvonne Plastaras

July

7 Lorriane Gallik & Joan Green
 14 Mark & Linda Zimmer
 21 Pat Rine & Cindy Henry
 28 David & Sue Seber

August

4 Kevin & Marian Knapp
 11 Frank & Helen Ward
 18 Kathie Dulay & Betsy Lacey
 25 Craig & Janet Olver

September

1 Lorraine Gallik & Joan Green
 8 Mark & Linda Zimmer
 15 Pat Rine & Cindy Henry
 22 David & Sue Seber
 29 Pat & Yvonne Plastaras

October

6 Kevin & Marian Knapp
 13 Frank & Helen Ward
 20 Kathie Dulay & Betsy Lacey
 27 Craig & Janet Olver

November

3 Lorraine Gallik & Joan Green
 10 Mark & Linda Zimmer
 17 Pat Rine & Cindy Henry
 24 David & Sue Seber

December

1 Kevin & Marian Knapp
 8 Frank & Helen Ward
 15 Kathie Dulay & Betsy Lacey
 22 Craig & Janet Olver
 24 Lorriane Gallik & Joan Green
 29 Pat & Yvonne Plastaras



Children's Sunday school classes have resumed Each Sunday during worship!

Daylight saving time will begin at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 10





Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



The Nomination of Bethany Presbyterian Church Has Been Approved to the National Register of Historic Places

On Tuesday, February 6, The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office met to consider the nomination of our church to the National Register of Historic Places. After review of the nomination, the PSHPO unanimously approved our nomination. Sally Rutherford attended this meeting virtually to answer any questions regarding the church's history.

This was the culmination of a year of research, photography, and writing to prepare the nomination form. On December 7, two representatives from the PSHPO in Harrisburg visited the church and toured the building with Sally Rutherford and Linda Zimmer.

The National Register of Historic Places was established in 1966 to help coordinate and support private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. During the meeting, the historic significance of our church and the National Register criteria for listing were discussed. Listing provides recognition of a property's historic importance and assures review of federally funded or permitted projects that might affect the historic character of the property. Listing in the National register does not mean that limitations will be placed on properties by the federal government.

Now that our nomination has been approved, the PSHPO is now preparing it for submission to the National Register staff in Washington, DC. We will be notified once that decision is made.

Did You Know?



We have a box in which your questions, suggestions, or concerns can be heard? It is located in the vestibule on the right.

Did you know that you can get a copy of the session meetings minutes? Contact our wonderful Clerk of Session, Joan Green, and she'll be glad to give you a copy of the notes. A set of them are on bulletin board in the Ladies' Parlor.

SOUP SUPPER MARCH 23



On Saturday, March 23rd at 4 PM, there will be a Soup Supper and a speaker at the Wilder House.

Please, bring a soup to share and some friends and relatives....the more, the merrier.

Rolls, drinks, and desserts will be provided. The speaker will be announced soon. It should be a fun relaxing afternoon, so mark your calendars and join us.

Church Supports Community Pantry

Non-perishable items continue to be collected for Honesdale's Community Pantry. Items can be placed in the wooden box which is located in the ladies parlor in the back of the church. Donations of non-perishable items are always needed.

Proverbs 19:17- Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed.

Newsflash



If you see a newspaper article or picture of any member or friend of the church, please give it to Terry Lawrence.

It will then be put in the weekly announcements, and it will go to the church bulletin board. So, keep your eyes open for the news!!



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News From Mission Committee

Greetings from the mission committee. Since the last newsletter the Bethany congregation has been very busy showing God's love to our friends at Bethany Village. Christmas morning each resident, fifty-five in total, received a gift from our church. Valentines Day was no different and we supplied chocolate gift boxes for everyone. (Photos below) We are so fortunate to have the resources and your support to provide these things. Thank you.

God has already blessed our mission work this year. Through the generosity of two anonymous donors the church has received \$8,000 specifically for missions. We can't thank them enough for their kind support and will seek Gods guidance on how to best use these funds.

So far, we have already been able to help five families in our community. January brought cold weather to the area, and we were able to provide for two families heating needs (\$800). Sadly, two other families lost everything to house fires and another two young families lost their husband/father. We donated funds to help with their financial needs (\$2,000). Our prayers go out to all these families. If you know someone who is struggling to pay for heating or food, please let one of the committee members know. We will do our best to help. No one should go hungry or cold.

In February we participated in a national program the "Souper Bowl of Caring". We collected 65 food items and one hundred and fifty dollars which was distributed to the Honesdale Emergency Pantry. If you missed the deadline to donate, no worries there is always a food collection box in the lady's parlor for donations. Lord knows there is much need.

We are always looking for ideas on how we reach out in love to our community or members of the congregation. If you have an idea, big or small, please let us know. If you feel moved to help, please join us. What an exciting time for Bethany. We are lucky to be welcoming pastor Katie and her contagious passion for missions and can't wait to hear her new ideas. Who knows where God will lead us next!

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." ~Mother Theresa

God Bless,
The Mission Committee

Fun Times with residents at Bethany Village





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BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- ◆ The snowblower was serviced and is ready to go.
- ◆ The luminaries were put out for Christmas eve service.
- ◆ Adopt-a-highway will be on April 20 @ 9 am. Rain date April 27 same time.
- ◆ The 2024 budget was approved.
- ◆ The internet cable has been updated at the church & DWH.
- ◆ The water tank was replaced in the basement of the DWH.
- ◆ Light fixtures for the DWH were installed & the garage lights will be installed once warmer weather comes.
- ◆ The burned-out light bulbs in the church basement will be replaced.
- ◆ Carbon monoxide alarms are being looked at to be installed at the church & DWH.
- ◆ A thank you letter was sent out to Grimm Construction for giving us a generous discount for the painting of the church and replacing the window shutters.

Thank you to those that do the behind-the-scenes projects. If anybody knows of something that needs to be addressed please feel free to contact a member of the building and grounds committee. Or you can use the suggestion box located in the vestibule.

Submitted by Kevin Knapp-chair.

Taking Care of Our Earth

You may ask does the Bible say anything about taking care of the Earth?



Yes, it does! In Genesis 2:15, it says "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

Following God's word to care for our earth, members of our church participated in Roadside Beautification Program called Adopt-A-Highway.

They picked up trash from the fairgrounds to our church. Praise, God for these dedicated servants!

Stewardship and Finance Committee

The Stewardship and Finance Committee completed a very successful stewardship campaign last fall and wish to thank everyone who submitted a pledge card. With the congregation's support, we were able to prepare the proposed 2024 Church budget and submit it to Session.

We are now accepting applications for the Ralph A. Taylor Memorial Scholarship. More details are listed below.

Committee members include Co-Chairs Janet Olver and Lorraine Gallik, Patricia Rine, Elle Plastaras, and Mark Bartocci.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Marilyn Barbe, Ruth Ann Swingle, Terry Lawrence, Rev. William Samford

2024 RALPH A. TAYLOR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP Application Deadline

The Finance Committee is now accepting applications for the Ralph A. Taylor Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is available to high school graduates pursuing a higher education and also students currently enrolled as full-time college or tech school students. The deadline to submit an application for consideration of a Ralph A. Taylor Memorial Scholarship is **April 15**.

Copies of the applications for First Time Applicants and for Returning Applicants along with the Guidelines/Qualifications are available in the Ladies Parlor. These documents may also be found on the Church's website – www.bethanypresbychurch.org.

Be sure to submit the application to the Scholarship Finance Committee, Bethany Presbyterian Church, 431 Wayne Street, Bethany, PA 18431, for receipt by April 15, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Finance Committee (Janet Olver, Lorraine Gallik, Pat Rine, Elle Plastaras, or Mark Bartocci). Good luck to all applicants.



Good News From the PNC!

Finally, the time came when the PNC could announce they had found a wonderful pastoral candidate. On January 20th, the session hosted a Meet & Greet for the congregation to meet Reverend Katie Hopper and her husband Jimmy. A light luncheon was provided from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Wilder house. This was a great opportunity for our church family and over 34 people stopped by. If you were unable to attend and would like a copy of pastor Katie's bio please see Craig Olver. A copy also is included in this newsletter. A special thank you to Joan Green who on behalf of the session headed the event.



Then on Sunday, January the 21st, Reverend Katie conducted the church service giving us all a chance to know her better. Her sermon on the Ebenezer Stone, with congregational gifts, was truly inspiring. The congregation was challenged to select an



Epiphany Star which contained a written word for us to consider throughout the week. Following the church service a congregational meeting was held to approve Reverend Katie and the terms of call. Ballots, PNC informational handouts, and the terms of call worksheet were provided prior to the meeting for congregational review. The terms of call outline the pastor's compensation package. Reverend Samford called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The members of the PNC took a moment to express their personal feelings as to why they felt Reverend Katie would be a good spiritual leader for the church. A vote was taken and tallied. We are excited to report that out of all active members present there was only one

"no" vote. God is good. Linda Zimmer then escorted Reverend Katie back into the church where she was welcomed with a joyous round of applause. We are all excited to welcome Reverend Katie and pastor Jimmy into our church family.



The Chosen Series

The Chosen is a historical drama based on the life of Jesus Christ, seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Israel, this seven-season show shares an authentic intimate look at Jesus' revolutionary life and teachings. The series primarily focuses on Jesus and the different people who met, followed, or otherwise interacted with him.



The show's unique approach diverges from previous portrayals of Jesus. Rather than solely emphasizing Jesus himself, it crafts a compelling story arc centered around the individuals who encountered him.

The series *The Chosen*, was created by Dallas Jenkins (son of Left Behind co-author Jerry Jenkins). His goal for the television series, *The Chosen*, was to help people know Jesus better and love Scripture more. To reach that goal, he and the other scriptwriters took the gospel accounts and added what are, in their opinion, plausible details about the lives of the biblical figures found there. They added backstories or dialog to well-known characters and fleshed out other characters who might receive only a passing mention in Scripture. Some locations and timelines have been combined or condensed. The intended result is that viewers see the people in the Bible as real people who dealt with the same types of issues, we all have to deal with. In *The Chosen*, the disciples have families and friends, they have reputations to uphold, they have a sense of humor, and they struggle with finances and other concerns.

Jenkins has a degree in Biblical Studies. In creating the show, Jenkins put together a panel of expert consultants to ensure biblical and historical accuracy in the script he was co-writing for the show. On the panel were a Messianic Jewish rabbi, a Catholic priest, and an evangelical professor of biblical studies.

As with all storytelling based on historical events, some artistic license is evident. In retelling the gospel accounts, the writers have inserted or modified some characters, storylines, and details of the inspired original. The changes are designed to give each episode a feeling of being grounded in real life. No one is claiming that the show is God's Word or that it is on par with the Bible. As long as viewers remember that what they are seeing is art and not real life—and they compare what they view with Scripture—there is no danger of confusion. We should all know intuitively that, for all its historical accuracy and attention to cultural context, *The Chosen* is simply one idea from one group of people about what they think it might have been like to be near Jesus.

Dramatizations of biblical events such as are presented in *The Chosen* provide an opportunity for sharing the gospel with those who otherwise might not be exposed to the Bible. For believers, such dramatizations can promote spiritual growth, reminding us that the Bible is more than just a story—it relates actual events in the lives of real people who had emotions, relationships, and concerns similar to ours.

The Chosen Marathon

Last year, the Fellowship Committee showed three episodes of Season One of the television series, *The Chosen*, in the sanctuary. The shows were well attended, and people voted to continue watching the series on Wednesday nights until all eight episodes of Season One were completed.

This year, we'd like to try a Saturday viewing of Season Two of *The Chosen* on Saturday, April 27th at 4:00 PM. Season two has eight episodes totaling about 400 minutes. The Fellowship Committee thought we could have a "series marathon", where we will watch an episode and have an appetizer. Then watch a couple more episodes and have supper and then a couple more episodes and have a dessert. Depending on how many sign up, we can either have it at a home or have it in the conference room of the Wilder House. We ask everyone bring a dish to share. Contact anyone on the Fellowship Committee with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Rev. Dr. Kathleen (Katie) Kelly Hopper

Vocation: Ordained Minister of the Word and Sacrament – Presbyterian Church (USA)

Date of Ordination: June 16, 1984 – First Presbyterian, Throckmorton, TX in Palo Duro Presbytery

Vocation Mission Statement: My mission is to love, equip, inspire, and resource people that they might live the ordination of their baptism and enjoy God forever.

Personal Goal on Sunday mornings: It is always my hope and prayer that when people leave worship, they feel hugged, forgiven, and loved by God.

Work History: I have served as a pastor for 39 years. Chaplain, Summer of 1982, at Baptist Medical, Oklahoma City, OK (CPE). I have served Haskell/Rule/Throckmorton, TX (Yoked); Pinetop, AZ; Denison, TX; Rogers, AR; Danville, IL; Cedar Rapids, IA; Monticello, IL; and Philipsburg, PA.



Vocational Activities which I Enjoy the Most and Make Best Use of My Gifts and Skills: Preaching; Singing; Planning Worship; Teaching and Directing Stephen Ministry; Teaching Confirmation; youth and children's ministries; mission and ministries of the church and fellowship events; Communication and Devotional Writing; Community Involvement; Short-term Crisis Counseling; Pastoral Care with all ages; Pastoral Visitation and Home Communion; baptisms.

Interesting trivia: I have a French birth certificate and US Citizenship Papers. I skipped my senior year of high school. I took my high ACT score and was offered early admittance to college at 16, I graduated from LSU at 20 and seminary at 23.

Formal Education: Louisiana State University – B.A. (1981) History and English; Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Austin, TX) - Master of Divinity (1984); McCormick Theological Seminary (Chicago, IL) – Doctor of Ministry (1995) – “Pastoral Care Track”

Faith and Denominational Background: Life-long mainline Presbyterian; baptized December 16, 1960, by Presbyterian Air Force Chaplain Si Scott at the base chapel in Evreux, France. Grandmothers grew up in Third Presbyterian in New Orleans. My parents joined a Presbyterian church shortly after each Air Force move. Our family belonged churches in Columbus, OH; Lompoc, Calif.; Topeka, KS – where I was in my first choir at 8; Belleville, IL – where I went on my first youth retreat; Ocean Springs, MS – where I was confirmed at the Christmas Eve Service in 1973; served as a youth on the Nominating Committee and was taken to the Montreat Youth Conference where God called me into the ministry; and University Pres. in Baton Rouge, LA where I was a Candidate for the Ministry and in the Choir. My parents also kept in contact with Col. Si Scott and brought him to serve on my ordination commission.

Discerned Call to Ministry: At Montreat Youth Conference 1976 after a powerful communion service, as I sang through the Hymnbook alone on the balcony of Assembly Inn, I felt called. I was 15.

Family: Spouse – Rev. Dr. Jimmy Hopper, Hon. Ret.; married December 17, 1983, at University Pres. (Baton Rouge, LA); Children – son, Kelly, 38, Golf course superintendent Ocean Reef Key Largo, FL; and daughter, JoyAnna, 34, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Scranton



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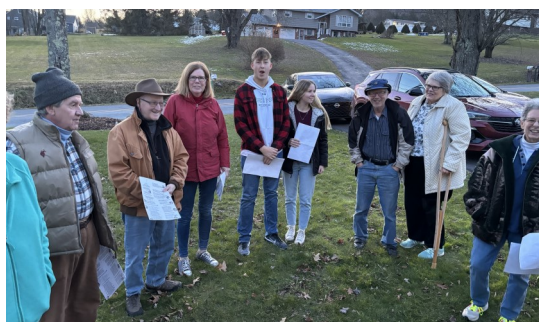
Re-cap of December Fun Fellowship Activities



It was a beautiful day when our church family participated in Bethany's Community Christmas in the Village. Sarah and Vern Hiller brought four sheep for visitors to pet. We also gave away free ornaments with our church's name and time of Sunday school and worship on the back. It was a wonderful event! Many thanks to the Hillers for sharing their expertise on sheep with visitors and to Morgan Delemarre, Linda Malakin, Jeanny Haverkorn and Terry Lawrence who were dressed in shepherds' costumes to welcome visitors.



Five women participated in a cookie exchange. The cookies were absolutely delicious, and everyone enjoyed sampling other people's cookies. Extra cookies were made and shared at Coffee Hour, to those in need, and in the homes the carolers visited.



Christmas caroling brought smiles and God's love to Bethany Village residents, Gretchen and Dick Erk, Pat Sporer, Vicki Bonear, and Marilyn Barb. After praising God through Christmas songs, the nine carolers headed to Elegantes for a bite to eat.

Donations Need for Local Food Pantry

The Wayne County Pantry Program is sponsored through County Government. It is operated with a Pantry Board comprised of private citizens and a lead agency-Wayne County Human Services. Board members are also coordinated at each of the pantry sites. The Wayne County Pantry Program has five sites in strategic areas in the county to serve eligible residents. Our church has been actively involved with the food pantry program for years, and now food is specially needed with so many out of work. Please donate non-

Place	Times	Location
Damascus Pantry	1-3 PM third Thursday	Damascus Township Building 60 Conklin Road, Damascus
Honesdale Pantry	10- 1 PM second Tues.	Tri County Beverage 214 Willow Ave. Honesdale
Lakeville Pantry	11-2 PM fourth Thursday	Paupack Township Building 25 Daniels Road Lakeville
Lakewood Pantry	12:30 -2:30 third Wed.	Northern Wayne Health Ctr 412 Como R Lake Como
Newfoundland Pantry	11-1:00 second Friday	Dreher Township Building 899 Main St. Newfoundland

perishable food items to the pantry by placing items in the box in the Ladies' Parlor in the back of the church.



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Tip of the Hat



- ◆ Many thanks to Ron Lawrence for putting up and then removing the nativity scene on the front lawn of the church.
- ◆ Many thanks to Kevin Knapp for working on the sticking side door of the church for a couple of weekends.
- ◆ A big thank you to Linda Zimmer for spending hours and hours trying to get our church on the Historical registry. Linda filled out lots of paperwork, and Sally Rutherford and Linda Zimmer met with the Historical Committee at church to give them a tour. We don't know for sure if we have been accepted, but we are hopeful.
- ◆ Under the direction of Sally Rutherford, three Sunday school children, Morgan Delamare, Piper Williams, and Grace Rutherford, played the chimes at the conclusion of the service on February 18th. The congregation really enjoyed their beautiful chime music. Thank you, kids and Sally!
- ◆ Thanks to Joan Green for always making sure we have beautiful flower arrangements in the sanctuary. If anyone wishes to place flowers in memory of or in honor of someone, give Joan a call or check out the flower calendar on the bulletin board in the Ladies' Parlor.
- ◆ Many thanks to the Lawrences for picking up free "day old" baked goods from Weis. As they head to our church on Sunday morning, they stop at the Honesdale Community Church and share boxes with them. The free baked goods have been a real blessing to our church and theirs. Also, a big thank you to Linda Zimmer for taking all the leftovers and delivering them on Monday to places that would be benefit from

Eyeglass Collection

What would happen if you didn't have your glasses to read this Newsletters or if you didn't have your glasses to read the signs along the road.? It would be tough!



One of our outreach missions is to collect corrective lenses and usable glasses for those in need. A box has been placed in the Ladies' Parlor for all the glasses you longer wear. We will then give them to our local Lions' Recycle for Sight Program who partner with other non-profit organizations to distribute them to those at the poverty level who cannot afford eyewear. Each pair of glasses donated can help give the gift of sight!

Spring



Wondrously February withdraws to warm March with a golden glow from Spring's shining sun sent down to lead the way for April's soothing showers soon to bring fragrant flowers and dance on May's blossoming bounty.

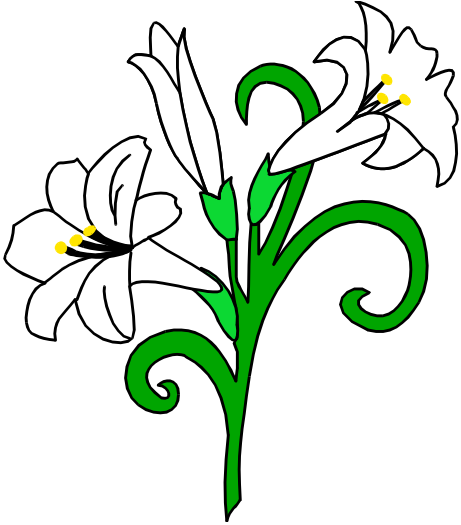
Free Baked Goods



The Weis market in Honesdale is donating their "old" baked goods to our church. Each Sunday, Ron and Terry Lawrence pick up these baked goods and drop some boxes off at the Honesdale Community Church (formerly the Baptist Church) and keep some baked goods for our own coffee hour and, also, to pass out to our attendees. This is such a wonderful way for us to support fellow Christians!

EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies will be placed in front of the church on
Easter Sunday, March 31st



If you would like to purchase one in
memory or in honor of a loved one, please
complete the section below and return it
with payment to:

Joan Green
599 Bethany Turnpike
Honesdale, PA 18431
570 253-3625

EACH IS AVAILABLE FOR A DONATION OF \$11.50

(Please make check payable to Bethany Presbyterian Church)

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE:
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

Please Print Legibly

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

GIVEN BY:

Bethany Presbyterian Church

431 Wayne Street
Bethany, PA 18431
(570) 253-6316

Church email –
bethanypapresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

On the web at:
www.bethanypresbychurch.org



The Session

Class of 2024

Yvonne Plastaras
Linda Zimmer
Bruce Hutchison

Class of 2025

Emily Gunuskey
Mark Bartocci
Craig Olver

Class of 2026

Terry Lawrence
Sally Rutherford
Pat Rine

**Please inform
Pastor Katie if you
are aware of anyone
in the hospital
or in need
of a visit**



Rev. Dr. Katheen (Katie) Kelly Hopper
814-496-9371
Email: revdrkatie@gmail.com

Clerk of Session – Linda Zimmer
Church Treasurer – Pat Rine
Church Secretary – Marian Knapp

Choir practice is usually held Sunday mornings @8:30am September-May. New members are always welcomed and encouraged to join! If you have any questions see our choir director Tim Bell.



**Church sermons are
Now available
on our website and YouTube
www.bethanypresbychurch.org
Audio version will be made
available every Sunday**