



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



September–October 2025

THOUGHTS
FROM THE
HEART

Dr. Katie

Life can be difficult at times, and we all need words of encouragement and comfort. Scripture is full of these stories, there to speak to us in our times of need. May these words borrowed from another preacher who spoke to me, touch you in your life this month. Lovingly, Pastor Katie

Nevertheless...by Max Lucado

*And the king and his men.... spoke to David, saying, "You shall not come in here: but the blind and the lame will repel you," **Nevertheless**, David took the stronghold of Zion (that is the City of David).*

2 Samuel 5:6-9

Nevertheless....

*"**Nevertheless**, David took the stronghold...."*

*Wouldn't you love God to write a **nevertheless** in your biography? Born to alcoholics, **nevertheless**, she lived a sober life. Never went to college, **nevertheless**, he mastered a trade. Didn't read the Bible until retirement age, **nevertheless**, she came to a deep abiding faith.*

*We all need a **nevertheless**. And God has plenty to go around. Strongholds mean nothing to him. Remember Paul's words? We use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the Evil one's strongholds." (2 Corinthians 10:4)*

You and I fight with toothpicks; God comes with battering rams and cannons. What he did for David, he can do for us. The question is, will we do what David did? The king models much here.

Two types of thoughts continually vie for our attention. One proclaims God's strengths; the other lists our failures. One longs to build you up; the other seeks to tear you down. And here is the great news; you select the voice you hear. Why listen to the mockers? Why heed their voices? Why give ear to pea brains and scoffers when you can with the same ears, listen to the voice of God.

Do what David did. Turn a deaf ear to the old voices. Open a wide eye to the new choices. Who knows, you may be a prayer away from a nevertheless. God loves to give them. Peter stuck his foot in his mouth. Joseph was imprisoned in Egypt. The Samaritan woman had been married five times.

Jesus was dead in the grave....

***Nevertheless**, Peter preached, Joseph ruled, the woman shared, and Jesus rose - and you?*

*You fill in the blank. Your **nevertheless** awaits you.*

From Facing Your Giants – Max Lucado



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Happy Birthday!!! Happy Anniversary!!!

September Birthdays

2-Jeanny Haverkorn
3-Melissa Gonzales
9-Morgan Delemarre
13- Kevin Knapp
14-Marian Knapp
20-Mark Bartocci
26-Taniesha Rine
28-Jenna Gonzales, Richard Erk



September Anniversaries

8-Kevin & MaryAnn Swingle

November Birthdays

7-Rick Dulay
11-Sally Rutherford, MaryAnn Swingle
24-Frank Lacey
25-Marchel Paule-Green
28-Linda Malakin



November Anniversaries

23-Jim & Karen Budd

October Birthdays

4-Jim Budd
6-Justin Green
7-Sierra Rine
8-Frank Ward
12-Linda Zimmer
14-Rev. Dr. Katie Kelly Hopper
16-Kevin Rine, Karen Bates
7-Heather Day
19-Bruce Hutchison
22-Kevin Gunuskey
28-Todd Watson



October Anniversaries

11-Linda & Tee Malakin
13-Ron & Terry Lawrence
21-Kathie & Rick Dulay
22-Richard & Gretchen Erk

Sunday School



Round up all the kids you know for Children's Sunday School which is held each Sunday after Pastor Katie's youth message.

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, Linda Zimmer, 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.

Church Supports Salvation Army Food 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.



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New Sermon Series for the Fall

Pastor Katie will begin a new sermon series for the Fall on The Lord's Prayer. She always likes to do a doctrinal sermon at least once a year on the things we take for granted, the things we tend to say so quickly that we do not even realize what we are saying or even what the words really mean or what the commitments are that we might be making.

Join us for all the Sundays this Fall as we explore this special prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray and by teaching them, teaches us today to pray.

PAINT N EAT DAY JOIN US FOR A FUN TIME ONCE AGAIN WITH A PAINT N EAT DAY. ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11a.m. to 1p.m.

Bonnie, is doing this for us once again this year and she will supply the paint, brushes, apron and pre-cut wood to paint on.

Usually, a paint n sip costs from \$35 to \$60, so this is a bargain of \$20 per person.

Besides the fall themed painting, you will receive a hoagie, a bottle of water and coffee if you wish.

Bonnie will instruct everyone through each step. No one has to be a good painter. It is to take a few hours off and just have fun.

Sign-up sheets will be passed around and there is a sign-up sheet in the ladies' parlor.

Please give the \$20 in cash to Linda Malakin.

If you don't have it the day you sign up, please give it to her the next Sunday.

Last year we had twenty (20) people join us, including one (1) man. Everyone enjoyed it and went home with a great picture.

Please try to join us and have some fun.

PRAYER CONCERNS



Ruth Ann Swingle, Kathie Dulay, Alyson Dame, Robin Williams, Courtney, Anne. Michael, Deanna Sandlin, Steve & Mary Lou Popson, Cosette.

Blessing of the Animals October 4 at 1 PM

October 4th is our annual blessing of the animals. If it rains, we will be in the garage of the Wilder House.

Otherwise, we will gather as usual in the parking lot by the church. This is a brief worship service followed by the blessing of each animal.

Please have large animals leashed. Stuffed animals are permitted too.

This is a fun day for humans and animals alike. Join us to thank God for our fur baby companions and the love and joy they give us each day.





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WHAT'S NEW WITH THE LADIES' LUNCHES?



The ladies' lunches have continued for the last few months, although attendance has been quite sparse lately.

April's gathering found us at Gretchen's Grotto for a dessert party with many having lunch

before indulging in some delicious treats. We were pleased to enjoy the company of eight ladies fellowshiping together and enjoying a delicious lunch and/or dessert.

In May we visited Cora's Bistro in Hawley, June found eight of us at Gretchen's once again, and for July we headed to Betty Boop's Airport Café with only three for lunch.

Because of the busy summer season we decided to forego any fellowship lunch for the month of August and will resume on September 11th at the Wayne Hotel. Any questions may be directed to Sue Seber.

World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday in October is always the Sunday we celebrate communion with the whole Christian world. It is a special time to remember that the Communion Table of Jesus Christ stretches from one end of the earth to the other.

To help us grasp how rich the diversity of the Christian Church really is, we will try out some different languages in worship, maybe Jesus loves me in Spanish, the Lord's prayer in German, and the Apostles' Creed in Russian. Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.

Come and make this day a special part of your life in Christ.



Dyberry Day Camp

The Mission Committee visited Dyberry Day Camp on July 2. After an energetic singalong, everyone enjoyed a delicious ice cream sundae from the Ice Cream Cottage. It certainly helped cool us down on a very hot day.



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NOTES FROM THE SESSION



The Session has met throughout the summer, although it is not quite so busy a time for many. We have applied for grants through the Honesdale Ministerium for funds to replace our AEDs. You may have noticed that both units are beeping because of low batteries. We received one of the two grants we applied for in the amount of \$1000. In other business, we voted to send a donation to Samaritan's Purse to help the victims of the flash floods in Texas.

In July, we regretfully accepted the resignation of Judy Funk from the Session.

The merger of Lackawanna and Lehigh Presbyteries into the Mountain Laurel Presbytery is moving forward. It was approved by the General Assembly, and the next step is the approval of the corporation by the state of Pennsylvania. That is expected by November.

The Session has approved the use of an online Church Directory. We will be uploading names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails to the platform. Now all we need is your photos. If you have a photo you would like to submit, please email to Annie Dame at anniedame50@gmail.com. If you would like to have a new picture taken, Linda Zimmer and Pastor Katie will be available after worship services to take one for you. If you'd rather not have your photo included, no problem. Just let us know. This is a secure app that can be accessed only by church members. As of this writing, we are expecting the app to be up and running by the end of August. However, if you cannot submit your photo by then, we can update the directory at any time. So smile, it's picture time!



The Church Listed on National Register of Historic Places

Last December we were notified that Bethany Presbyterian Church has been approved for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

A few weeks ago, our sign indicating that listing arrived. Look for it at the foot of the ramp near the Time Capsule. Thanks go out to Kevin Knapp for creating the mount and post and for the installation of the sign.

CHRISMON MAKING PARTY

This year we will be adding beautiful Christian symbols to the Christmas tree in the front of the sanctuary at Advent and Christmas.

They are not too complicated to make. They are made of Styrofoam and gold and silver glitter. They are the symbols like the Chi Rho and the various Crosses of history and symbols of the Trinity. We will meet on Saturday October 25th at 10:00 a.m. and work until noon. Many hands make for light work. Bring a friend. Supplies will be provided.



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Greeter/Usher List 2025

September

7– Joan Green and Betsy Lacey
14– Mark & Linda Zimmer
21– Cindy Henry and Pat Rine
28– David and Susan Seber

October

5– Kevin & Marian Knapp
12– Frank & Helen Ward
19– Linda Malakin, Morgan Delemarre & Sally Rutherford
26– Craig & Janet Olver

November

2– Joan Green and Betsy Lacey
9– Mark & Linda Zimmer
16– Cindy Henry and Pat Rine
23– Dave & Sue Seber
30– Pat and Yvonne Plastaras

Fifth Sunday Brunch



Bring one of your favorite dishes to share and join us on the fifth Sunday of the month for great food and fellowship with one another.

The upcoming date is: November 30. Hope to see everyone there.

We'll relax, laugh, and enjoy great fellowship while tasting good food.

The account balances as of August 19:

General Account: \$4588.53

Capital Account: \$4580.57

Rental Account: \$12221.45

Living Nativity: \$1597.60

Savings Account: \$36829.20

Money Market Account: \$50493.42

Remembering Momo



Our longtime beloved member, Marilyn "Momo" Barbe passed away on June 22, 2025, at the age of 97.

Momo was active in the church and in the community. Momo gave generously of her time, as she was an ordained elder, as well as a long-time volunteer for the Wayne County Pantry, the library, and the Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary.

Her generosity continues after her death, as she has left the church the sum of \$20,000 in her will. This comes at a time when it is most needed, as finances in the church have been strained. We gratefully remember Momo with this legacy.

PASTOR JIMMY BIBLE STUDY RESUMES IN OCTOBER



Pastor Jimmy will be doing an overview of the Psalms beginning the first Wednesday in October. Come join his Bible Study. This is his favorite thing to do as a pastor. He loves to have the time to do those deep dives and rabbit trails and answer your questions, things that preaching doesn't allow one to pursue. Come have some fun with some of the most interesting pieces of scripture.



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Kirk'n of the Tartans

We will have our special Kirk'n of the Tartan's Service on Reformation Sunday, October 26th. Our worship will actually fall on the real date of the Reformation start on October 31, 1517.

During the difficulty between Scotland and England the King of England did not want the northern neighbors gathering in groups to plan attacks. They saw the Tartan's, the family uniform of kilts and shawls in beautiful plaids, as a threat of imminent attack. So, the wearing of the family/clan tartans was outlawed. The local Kirk, Scottish for church, Presbyterian Kirk, still attempted to have a service to bless the families or clans each year.

Some were held on St. Andrew's Day and others on Reformation Sunday. The people very carefully brought small squares of their tartan to worship and laid them on the communion tables. There the Kirk Pastor was able to bless all of them at one time, much the way he would have blessed them wearing their clan colors. This year, we will once again be bringing something to represent our families or ourselves to be blessed in worship as the tartans were blessed long ago. Perhaps you have a tartan shawl or kilt? Perhaps you have a family crest as I do for the Kelly's, or just a family photo. If you do not have any of these a set of your keys to your home and vehicles will allow me to bless you and yours. These will all be blessed during our morning prayers, remembering the importance of our worshipping together as families and individuals.

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.

**Daylight saving time will end at
2:00 AM on Sunday, November 2
Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour**



All Saints Celebration

On the first Sunday of November, we will be celebrating all our precious saints that have entered our Father's House in the past year. It is so very appropriate that we do this each year and especially when we are celebrating Communion. One of the dearest doctrines of the Presbyterian church is that of the Communion of the Saints. This doctrine teaches that when we take communion, this world and heaven are one and those that have gone before us are mystically present in worship with us sharing in communion. To the widow or widower or even the loving daughter or son, this is so special. If you want to see a vivid illustration of this doctrine, rent the movie Places in the Heart. It closes with a communion service where all the people who have died in the movie suddenly appear next to the living passing and taking communion. On All Saints Day we celebrate this reality and the "balcony people of heaven" are in attendance. Come join us and remember those who once sat around you and are dear to your heart.



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Popsicle Party

The Mission Committee held a patriotic-themed popsicle party at Bethany Village on July 17. Everyone enjoyed red, white, and blue popsicles, patriotic pinwheels, and good fellowship. Some impromptu singing even broke out. We certainly enjoy our time with our friends from Bethany Village.





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Building & Grounds Meeting Minutes July 24, 2025

Attendees: Craig Olver (Chair) Mary Evans, Rev. Katie Hopper, Kevin Knapp, Yvonne Plastaras, Sally Rutherford and Linda Zimmer.

Rev. Katie opened the meeting with prayer.

The following old business was discussed:

Outside lighting project update: Craig gave a tour of the work that had been done installing the lighting at the barn. The biggest cost was to reconnect the underground conduit that had been installed years ago. The conduit had to be completed to the barn and to the Wilder House. Unfortunately, this is where most of the money went to upgrade the lighting at the barn. Craig explained to the group how the barn lighting would work. When people use the barn parking lot for an evening meeting at the Wilder House.

National Register update: Linda showed the committee the plaque that was presented to the church. Kevin volunteered to install the post and make a bracket to hold the plaque. It was discussed where the appropriate location for the plaque to be installed. It was unanimously decided that the best location would be at the bottom of the ramp behind the railing.

AED. Update: Yvonne gave a brief update to replace our 2 AED's. She noted that the battery and pads need to be replaced. We made a grant application with Presbytery to receive funding for the AEDs with training. Linda reported that the grant money can be used to replace the old pads and batteries in our AEDs.

Fire extinguisher update.: Craig said all the fire extinguishers were inspected. With some of them needing to be replaced. Mander Fire & Safety did the work.

Vendor/password notebook: The committee members had planned to create an information notebook of all the vendors/password that the church & Wilder House use. That way in the future this information could easily be obtained.

Strawberry festival was held Saturday June 21st. The Building & Grounds committee was asked to provide a tent, bring benches, set them up at the grandstand and for someone to assist with the overflow parking at our church parking lot. Pat and Yvonne [Plastaras](#) helped me set up the tent and benches in front of the pavilion bandstand the morning of the event. Volunteers from other organizations helped Craig with the overflow parking at our property. At one time the church parking lot was filled, and the barn parking lot was filled except for three parking spaces.

Yvonne and Pat Plastaras replaced 2 windowpanes in the lunch hallway at the Wilder House. They also repaired the loose bathroom sink in the upstairs bathroom at the Wilder House.

July 14th at 7:00 PM the Building & Grounds committee had a cell phone conference call to discuss the gas stove at the rental property. After a brief discussion it was decided that we should replace it, and Linda would investigate getting one that would fit the stove location at the rental property, remove the old one and install the new one.

Next Meeting: The meeting date of August 26, 2025, at 6pm in the church basement was scheduled.



(Updating) The Bethany Presbyterian Church Lighting

One on each side of the 2 Front main doors



Z-Lite Tiberius 34" High Black 6-Light Outdoor Wall Light

Product Details

- ◇ 34" high x 12" wide. Extends 13 1/2" from the wall. Backplate is 11" Uses six 60 watt candelabra base bulbs.
- ◇ Transitional six-light outdoor wall light from the Tiberius collection by Z-Lite. Marine-grade. Non-corrosive safe for coastal environments.
- ◇ Black finish over aluminum frame. Clear seeded glass.

Westchester Barn Gooseneck Lighting

All 4 church side doors.

Product Details

- Product Weight: 9lbs
- Wattage: (150 watts)
- American Made
- Indoor & Outdoor UL Approved



LED Rotatable Wall pack

Lighting Church Structure, Ramp. & ½ of parking lot.

The Rotatable Wall Packs can be adjusted to highlight specific areas with Light heads that can Rotate at 350° directing light where it's needed



The new rotatable LED wall pack is an excellent solution for general site lighting, effectively illuminating areas such as parking lots. The robust construction ensures that it can endure exposure to the elements, making it a reliable choice for any commercial application. One of the standout features of these LED wall pack lights is their rotatable lenses,

which provide the flexibility to direct light exactly where it's needed. The lifespan of this high-quality rotatable LED wall pack far exceeds 70,000 hours.



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Some photos from our outdoor worship service on June 29



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!





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Morgan Delemarre drew this great picture. It was such a wonderful day.

Church Picnic

6/29/2025



Morgan Delemarre



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



The Ralph Taylor Scholarships were awarded on July 20.

The recipients were Seth Gunuskey, Emily Gunuskey, Elle Plastaras, Bianca Plastaras, and Katelyn Gunuskey. Congratulations, and we wish them all the best in the coming school year and always!

Christian Care Committee News



During the months of June and July of 2025 we have continued to record the weekly attendance of our congregation. The totals are as follows:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>	
June	177	36	(5 Sundays)
July	126	32	(4 Sundays)

Phone calls and text messages were sent to those having surgery and for another hospitalization.

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

A reminder for those of you requesting prayer – please let us know of God’s answer to your prayer so that we can pass along God’s love and faithfulness to others. This will encourage everyone.

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

To request prayer, please contact Pastor Katie or Sue Seber so that it can be posted and passed along so others can pray.

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

Church email –
bethanypapresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

On the web at:
www.bethanypresbychurch.org



Class of 2025

Craig Olver
Emily Gunuskey

The Session

Class of 2026

Pat Rine
Sally Rutherford

Class of 2027

Linda Zimmer
Annie Dame

**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**