



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



May– June– July 2023

Dear church family,

As we continue to view violence and unrest throughout our great country, let us be even more determined to hide ourselves in our Savior's wonderful unfailing love for us. I am reminded of two psalms which assure us that we can hide ourselves in Him.

Psalm 32:7 – “You are my hiding place; You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.”

Psalm 143:9 – “Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD, for I hide myself in You.”

In this world of increasing electronic surveillance, privacy can be hard to come by. Safe places are also in short supply. So when we feel surrounded by trouble, may we remember this: “I am your hiding place.” One of the best ways to draw upon His strength is to sing praises to God. He really does dwell in the praises of His people! These determined acclamations repel the darkness and invite Him into our awareness. Problems fade into the background as we worship Him. His presence strengthens us and fills us with joy! When we praise Him in the middle of a difficult day, we are not only blessed, but we bless the Lord as well. He comes near and hides us in the secret place of His presence.

Praise be to our Lord,
Susan Seber, CLP

The Lord Has Risen He Has Indeed!

A beautiful Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday Services were celebrated under the wonderful leadership of Susan Seber CLP.

The Bell Choir, with the leadership of Sally Rutherford, was very beautifully done.

Tim Bell and the choir sang many favorites and with such powerful sound.

Joan Green's Lily arrangement on the altar was as beautiful as always.





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The CHOSEN Movie

In March's Fellowship Meeting, the committee decided to show three episodes of season one of the movie, The Chosen, in the sanctuary on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM.

After 3 episodes, people attending were asked to fill out a survey on whether to continue. People voted to continue the series and show all eight episodes of the first season. We hope to show more seasons in the fall.

Many thanks for the expertise of David Czapnik on his technical ability to show the movie plus for adding closed caption to the film. David, you are the greatest!



Coffee/ Refreshment Hour

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



On May 6th during coffee hour, we are going to have a taste tester test. Four different brands of coffee will be available for people to rate from the best to the worst.

It should be interesting how your favorite brand of coffee compares to the cheap brand! Join us for the fun.

Account Balances as of April 20 2023

General Account	\$32527.55
Rental Account	\$2640.59
Capital Account/Living Nativity	\$3757.28
Savings Account	\$78681.39
Money Market Account (new)	\$7500.16

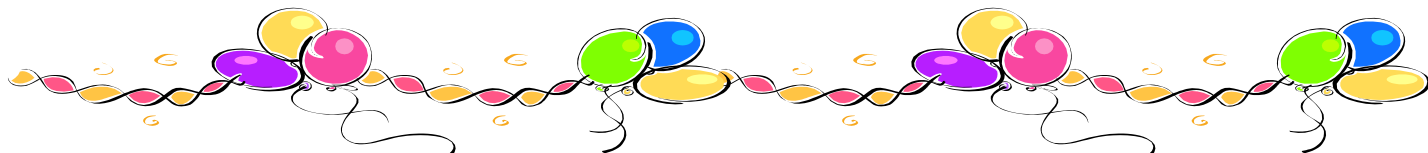
PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) May Update

The PNC continues to work hard to find our next pastor. Since the end of March, we have received 64 computer generated matches from the PCUSA computer database called the CLC. This system uses fixed data such as position, salary, location, and Leadership Competencies to make a match.

There are thirty-three Leadership Competencies to choose from. Both the PNC,s and the pastors each choose ten. The PNC picks the ten most important skills for the position while the pastors pick ten, they think they strongly process. The computer then sends a PNC a personal Information form for each pastor who matches the Leadership Competencies.

A few skills identified as important by the Bethany PNC are being an effective preacher/ worship leader, someone who demonstrates integrity by walking the talk, and the ability to build solid relationships of trust and respect inside and outside the church.

Although right now the CLC is our primary source for candidates we are working to identify other avenues. We will be sure to keep you updated as things develop. But for now, with Gods guidance, we will continue to use the CLC to look for the perfect pastor for Bethany.



Happy Birthday!!! Happy Anniversary!!!

May Birthdays

- 9-Bill Bell, Janet Lienert
- 11-Aaron Haviland
- 16-Ron Lawrence
- 18-Odilia Dyer
- 19-Pat Plastaras
- 23 Kristina Gonzales



May Anniversaries

- 2-Dan & Lorraine Gallik
- 9-Lee & Ruth Ann Swingle
- 20-Kevin & Marian Knapp
- 30-Craig & Janet Olver

June Birthdays

- 3-Kathie Dulay
- 10-Debbie Gottshall
- 17-Zachary Hopkins
- 21-Tim Rine, Karen Budd
- 25-Susan Darville



June Anniversaries

- 2-Pat & Yvonne Plastaras
- 4-Steve & Betsy Heckler
- 10- Jeanne & Mark Bartocci, Bruce & Lisa Hutchison
- 24-Keith & Mariann Gunuskey
- 25-Mark & Linda Zimmer

July Birthdays

- 7-Terry Lawrence
- 10-Julia Hopkins
- 11-Kaitlyn Gunuskey
- 12- Lee Swingle
- 16- Marilyn Czapanik



July Anniversaries

- 30-Helen & Frank Ward



PRAYER CONCERNS

Marilyn Barbe, Ruth Ann Swingle, Sharon Gunuskey, Yvonne Plastaras

Third Sunday Brunch

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



Come join us to see what wonderful cooks and bakers we have in church.



BIBLE STUDY STARTING UP

Bruce Hutchison has offered to head a Bible Study on Paul on Wednesdays in May at 5:30 PM in the Wilder House. Hope to see you there!



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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!



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES HAVE RESUMED EACH SUNDAY DURING WORSHIP!

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.

During 2022 and so far in 2023 the attendance has grown significantly and we've been seen with 14 or more gathered around the table. For this reason we have decided to visit new venues which can accommodate a greater number of patrons.

Earlier in the year we enjoyed lunches at the Wayne Hotel, KC Peppers and Elegante's, all of which have plenty of room for our growing group. April 21st found us at Cora's Bistro in Hawley which offered a variety of delicious lunches for all to enjoy. Possible future locations include the Waymart Hotel, the Gravity Inn and perhaps Frank's in Simpson.

We will celebrate Taco Tuesday once again at the Red Schoolhouse and our ever-popular desert party held at Gretchen's Grotto will be on the agenda either in May or June.

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.

Commissioner Report

There is a new website <https://www.polackawanna.org> check it out.

The next three Presbytery Meetings will be in person. The first one is On Saturday, May 6th at 10am at the Chestnut Retreat Center and with discussion on "Taking the Risk of Holy Experimentation and Testing our New Forms of Church."

The second meeting is Sunday, September 17th at 2pm at the Church of Christ United with a discussion on "Hear us out: Six Questions on belonging and Belief."

The 3rd is on Friday, November 18 at 10am at the Johnsonburg Camp with a discussion on "Becoming a More Vital Congregation."

Commissioner Elder Daniel Gallik



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Session Notes

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! At the writing of this newsletter, we have completed Lent, celebrated Palm Sunday, observed Maundy Thursday, faced Good Friday and rejoiced in the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, on Easter Sunday! Now we look forward to Pentecost Sunday on May 28th. (Don't forget to wear red!) The services during Lent and Holy Week were inspiring and we are grateful for the leadership of all involved.

The Elders continue to be mindful of their responsibilities as spiritual leaders and take that position very seriously. With the guidance of Rev. Samford at our Session meetings, we are moving forward with many tasks. At the last meeting, Rev. Samford asked each Elder "What excites you about the Church?" and "What do you see as the main challenge in the Church?" The answers varied somewhat, but the Elders agreed that there is a feeling of "family" and caring for one another within the congregation and there is an excitement about the future of the church. The challenges include finding the "right person" to lead us as an installed pastor and of course, finances are a concern as we move forward. It was a good conversation to have at this time!

Without a pastor to "shepherd the flock" we are concerned about all members feeling "cared for" and also about congregational communication. We have randomly divided the Active Membership Roll, to include regular non-member worshippers, and each Elder is responsible for five or six family units. You will be contacted by "your Elder" in the near future just for a "wellness check". If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to discuss them at that time. You may also reach out to any Elder at the contact numbers listed below.

Elders have been available at the Church Office during February, March and April and it has been very quiet. We did complete some necessary tasks, but didn't have visitors. Therefore, Elders will now be available in the Sanctuary or the Wilder House after the church service to meet with anyone wishing to voice a concern or compliment. We will try this during the month of May.

There are many activities being planned and you will find information about them in articles throughout this newsletter. There will be Bible Study, a strawberry social in the park, a baseball game, trips to concerts and out to dinner, just to name a few.

We are a busy, alive, vibrant, kind, caring congregation – you are invited to come along with us as we journey through life!

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS FOR ELDERS

Susan Seber, CLP – 570-352-4136 – Available in case of emergency	
Mark Bartocci – 570-251-4266	Dan Gallik – 570-352-4761
Joan Green – 570-253-3625	Emily Gunuskey – 570-647-9887
Bruce Hutchison – 570-251-2595	Marian Knapp -570-647-9282
Craig Olver – 570-253-4161	Yvonne Plastaras – 267-895-5105
Linda Zimmer – 570-470-0881	



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The following people have agreed to lead our Worship Service for the next quarter.

Please join us in welcoming them each Sunday.

5/7/23 – Susan Seber, CLP	6/4/23 – Susan Seber, CLP	7/2/23 – Susan Seber, CLP
5/14/23 - Rev. William Samford	6/11/23 – Rev. William Samford	7/9/23 – Rev. William Samford
5/21/23 – Susan Seber, CLP	6/18/23 – Susan Seber, CLP	7/16/23 – Susan Seber, CLP
5/28/23 – Elder Mark Zimmer	6/25/23 – Elder Bruce Hutchison	7/23/23 – Elder Bruce Hutchison
		7/30/23 – Susan Seber, CLP

We will continue to observe the Sacrament of Communion on the first Sunday of each month with Susan Seber leading the Worship Service. Many thanks to all of the above named people for sharing their faith and leading us each Sunday.

CHRISTIAN CARE COMMITTEE NEWS



Most of the duties of the Christian Care Committee are behind-the-scenes with the exception of the preparation of meals for those recovering from illness, surgery or who have some other need for food that we can provide.

Over the last three months we have continued to record the weekly attendance of our congregation. The totals for January through March are as follows:

	Total	Average
January – 5 weeks	214	43
February – 4 weeks	167	42
March – 4 weeks	165	41

As of this reporting, April has just begun. Those figures will be included in the next newsletter.

We continued our home communion visitation to Marilyn Barbe when she was feeling well enough to do so. I have been in touch with Lee and RuthAnn Swingle who would like to be served at home as well and have been advised by Lee that he will contact me when RuthAnn’s physical therapy appointments have decreased.

The e-mail prayer chain has continued with each request passed along, recorded, and reported to Session each month. We also send updates of each request to each one on the chain as they become available. If we don’t receive updates on the condition of the person being prayed for, we can’t let the ones who have prayed know how God has indeed answered. Updates serve two purposes: most importantly they enable us to glorify God for answering and secondly, they encourage the ones who prayed that their efforts have been rewarded with an answer.

Easter cards were sent to our shut-ins and to those who have been ill to wish them well and let them know we miss them, are praying for them, and look forward to seeing them soon.

We recently received a new member to our committee – Yvonne Plastaras. She is sure to be a big help when called upon. Welcome, Yvonne!

If you know that a member of our congregation is celebrating a major event, a big accomplishment or some other wonderful blessing, let our committee know and we will be sure to recognize them and the blessing they have received.

Any questions about this committee, contact any member or Sue Seber, chairman.



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Greeters and Ushers May to December 2023

May

7th Joan Green/Sue Thomes
 14th Kathleen Noonan/Gary Heller
 21st Pat Rine/Cindy Henry
 28th Frank & Helen Ward

July

2nd Frank & Helen Ward
 9th Pat Rine & Cindy Henry
 16th Kevin & Marian Knapp
 23rd Kathie Dulay & Marilyn Czapnik
 30th Kathleen Noonan & Gary Heller

September

3rd Craig & Janet Oliver
 10th Frank & Helen Ward
 17th Kevin & Marian Knapp
 24th Mark & Linda Zimmer

November

5th Craig & Janet Oliver
 12th Dave & Sue Seber
 19th Frank & Helen Ward
 26th Kevin & Marian Knapp

June

4th Kevin & Marian Knapp
 11th Dave & Sue Seber
 18th Mark & Linda Zimmer
 25th Dan & Lorraine Gallik

August

6th Dan & Lorraine Gallik
 13th Cindy Henry/Aaron Haviland
 20th Joan Green/Sue Thomes
 27th Dave & Sue Seber

October

1st Joan Green/Sue Thomes
 8th Cindy Henry/Marilyn Czapnik
 15th Forest & Stacy Goodenough
 22nd Dan & Lorraine Gallik
 29th Aaron Haviland/Kathie Dulay

December

3rd Pat Rine/Cindy Henry
 10th Mark & Linda Zimmer
 17th Joan Green/Sue Thomes
 24th Dan & Lorraine Gallik
 Kevin & Marian Knapp
 31st Kathie Dulay/ Aaron Haviland

Fifth Sunday Out-to-Eat

If you want to take a day off from cooking, then join our church family and friends when we travel to area restaurants on July 20th, October 29th and December 31st.

The dates were chosen because these are the dates of the last Sunday in the months that have five Sundays.

We'll relax, laugh, and enjoy great fellowship while tasting good food. No sign-up is necessary; we will take a head count be-

Blessed Is The Lord

Poet: Catherine Pulsifer

God, we praise you each and every day
 Please guide us and help us not to go astray.
 Your grace and mercy we do not deserve
 To show appreciation and thanks,
 You we do serve.

We praise and worship You each day anew,
 Joining our voices in prayer so true;
 Lord, we worship you so
 Blessed is the Lord, from whom all good flows.



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Progressive Dinner

Great food, great fellowship, and a fun time are the descriptive words to recall how the Progressive Dinner went on February 25, 2023. We were blessed with good weather as sixteen people traveled to three houses- the Sebers for the appetizers, the Olvers for the entree and the Knapps for deserts. It was a relaxing afternoon, and many felt we should do it again. Sounds good!





BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- We had coffee and refreshments in the DWH house after Easter Sunrise Service for about 25 people.
- The painting of the exterior of the church and new window shutters will be done this spring/summer.
- A site survey was done at the church with Rick Dulay (our coordinator), a couple security guards and the coordinator from SCI for the work program to get prisoners to do work at our church grounds. They will take our information to the "Board" for approval.
- Adopt-a-highway was on April 22. We met in the church parking lot at 9am. Thank you to all that participated.



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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School continues each Sunday during worship. Each class includes the saying of a memory verse plus the Lord's Prayer, chime playing *Jesus Loves Me*, the main lesson, and usually a craft.

We are blessed to have many people who are willing to devote their gifts for teaching children about God's word. The teachers are Sally Rutherford, Bruce Hutchison, Linda Zimmer, Emily Gunuskey, and Terry Lawrence. The assistants are Linda Malakin, Ron Lawrence, Kathie Noonan, and Glen Gunuskey.

On Easter day, the children heard a story about Easter and then had an egg hunt in the church basement. The children had fun as they tried to find those unseen eggs that Ron Lawrence hid. Thank you, Ron, for bringing joy to children!

Attention All Men

Join us the first Thursday of every month for breakfast at 8:00 AM and the third Thursday for lunch at noon. See David Czapnik.





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Fellowship Activities

The Fellowship Committee is happy to announce some up-and-coming events: More details will be given as time gets near.



May

May 6th Coffee Taste Tester Test during Coffee Hour

June

BBQ truck at Wilder House

June 24th- Bethany Community Strawberry Festival- Help is needed for set-up and to serve ice cream. 12:30 to 4:30 PM



July

Dyberry Day Camp sing and serve ice cream.

Out-to-Eat at restaurant and then concert at Central Park in Honesdale

July 18th-Lunch & Wood Carvers Show at Cherry Ridge Campground

August

August 12th Out-to-Eat for supper and then Dorflinger's Sanctuary- The McKrells- Blue-grass/Folk Band Concert

September

September 16th- Miller Concert at our church 7 PM

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.*

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.



Wildlife-Friendly Alternatives to Lawn



By replacing all or part of your lawn with native vegetation that provides food and cover, you can create a refuge to attract variety of wildlife.

In the United States, over 24 million acres of lawn surround our homes. As suburban development continues to spread into open and forested land alike, we lose more and more of our native vegetation and wildlife habitat.

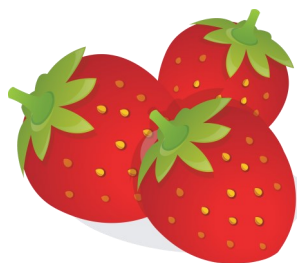
By replacing all or part of your lawn with native vegetation that provides food and cover, you can create a refuge to attract a variety of wildlife. This not only will provide much-needed habitat, but it will also create an opportunity for you to see and learn about wildlife.

Although lawns can provide benefits, large expanses of lawn displace other diverse natural habitats that most wildlife species find appealing. The lawn, clipped short and consisting of very few species, is a rather hostile, sterile environment for most wildlife, being devoid of food and places to hide or nest. Planting and maintaining a lawn also has time, economic, and environmental costs.

As homeowners become aware of the costs of maintaining lawns, both to people and to wildlife, many are choosing to replace all or part of their lawns with more wildlife- and environment-friendly alternatives.

Submitted by Craig Olver

Strawberry Festival Saturday, June 25



The Bethany Presbyterian Church is joining with the Bethany Methodist Church and the Bethany Library to organize a Strawberry Festival on June 24th from 12:30 to 4:30 PM. It should be a fun-filled day with lots of vendors, good food and music.

The Bethany Library will be selling strawberry shortcakes. Our church is hoping to sell ice cream, including strawberry flavor, with a few toppings. We will be setting up a schedule for members to help dish out ice cream.

On Saturday morning, people are also needed to set up tarps and tables and to bring our benches to place in front of the bandshell.

The committee is looking for people who might be interested in making strawberry food items to sell such as: strawberry pie, strawberry cake, strawberry jam, etc. See Bruce Hutchison if interested.

It should be a wonderful community event, so mark your calendars and come join the fun.



BETHANY LIBRARY PRESENTS

Strawberry Festival

SATURDAY JUNE 24, 2023
12:30 -4:30

FREE ADMISSION

Live Music | Kids Activities | Vendors

Homemade Shortcake

8 COURT STREET, BETHANY, PA 18431
(570) 253-4349

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

On the web at:

www.bethanypresbychurch.com



The Session

Class of 2023

Dan Gallik
Marian Knapp
Joan Green

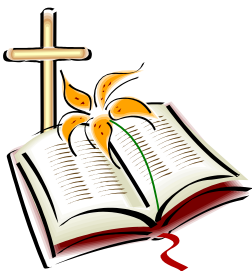
Class of 2024

Yvonne Plastaras
Linda Zimmer
Bruce Hutchison

Class of 2024

Emily Gunuskey
Mark Bartocci
Craig Oliver

Please inform Sue Seber CLP if you are aware of anyone in the hospital or in need of a visit



Clerk of Session – Joan Green

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.



In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Sue Seber CLP
570-253-6881,
570-352-4136 or
email susan55@ptd.net