



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



November– December 2024



Christmas

Dr. Katie “Christmas” comes from two words – *Christ* and *mass*, or *Christmass*. *Christ* is derived from the Greek word *Christos*, which means *anointed*, and refers to the long awaited Messiah whom the Jews believed would be a divine, imperial king who would rule the world. This person turned out to be the only perfect Son of God, the anointed of the Lord.


The word *mass*, in the religious sense, means *to send* or *dismiss*. It has been used for centuries by much of the church to designate worship or the celebration of worship.

Therefore, the word *Christmas* indicates the *worship of the Lord’s Anointed One*, or the *celebration of the Lord’s Anointed*.

What makes Christmas “happen” for you? Where does the joy of the season or passion come alive in you? Is it in the carols? The celebrations? The candlelight service? The food? Perhaps you find it in the shopping and gift-giving. Maybe you see the love of the season in the sparkling eyes of a child or feel it in a loved one’s hug.

Whatever it is, during this holiday season with all its frenzied festivities, stop and remember that night in the stable, those mingled smells of animals and hay, that pain and subsequent joy in the birth of one small child. Breathe deep and feel with Mary, with Joseph, the shepherds, the angels. Feel the birth of Jesus. What is it to experience such joy, such peace? Verbally express to someone close to you what the birth of Christ means to you at this point in your life. Be joyful! Experience God’s love and peace.

Lovingly,
Pastor Katie



Christmas Eve Services

This year we will offer one service at 7:00 p.m. there will be a very special message, “Mary’s Memory Box” for children young and old.

There will be lots of beautiful music and candlelight. Plan to make this your family celebration of the Birthday of our King.

College-Aged Dinner December 22

Welcome home to all our college students. We will gather together with Pastor Katie for fellowship and sharing after church on December 22nd .

We will go for 1:00 p.m. lunch at Scarfallotos. It will be good to see all of you again and catch up on your life!



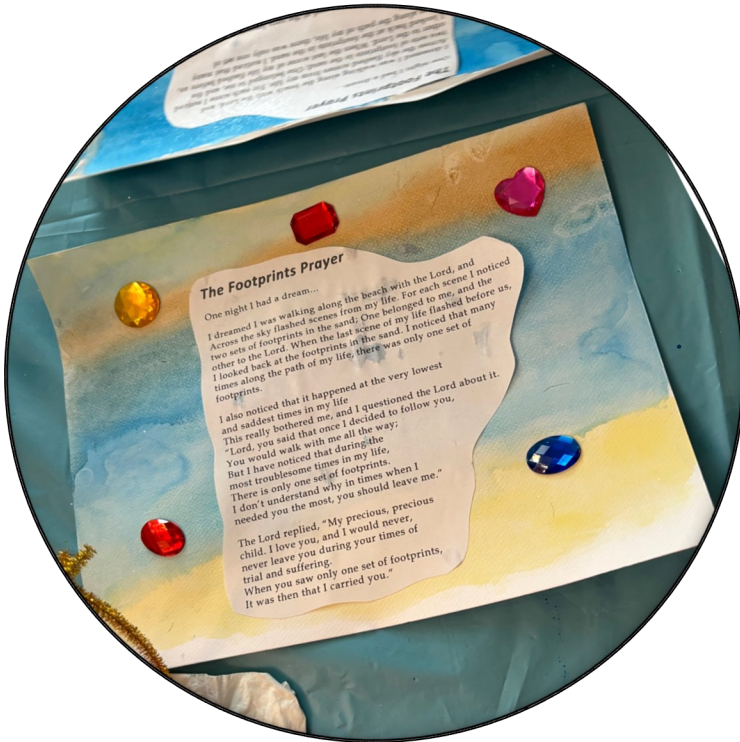
Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat

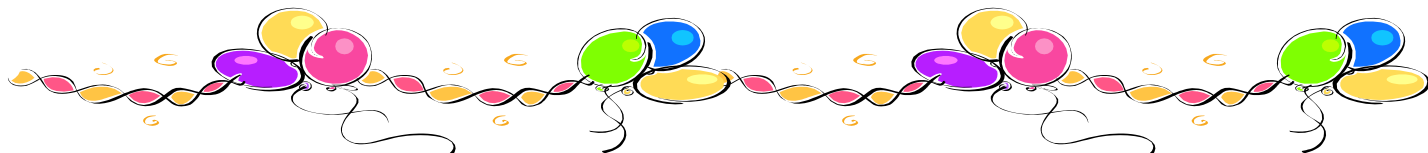


The Mission Committee held a Vacation Bible School at Bethany Village on August 28
The theme was a Hawaiian beach party.



The residents enjoyed a lesson, crafts, and snacks. A good time was had by all.





Happy Birthday!!! Happy Anniversary!!!

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

December Birthdays

5-Craig Olver, Lisa Hutchison
11-Kevin Swingle
16-Seth Gunuskey
25-David Seber



December Anniversaries

17-Rev. Dr. Katie Kelly & Rev. Dr. Jimmy Hopper

January Birthdays

4-Jeanne Bartocci
9-Mariann Gunuskey
12-Stacey Goodenough,
Samantha Zimmer
24-Addison Grace Swingle



**Daylight saving time will end at
2:00 AM on Sunday, November 3
Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour**



All Saints Celebration and Dedication Sunday



On the first Sunday of November, we will be doing something special with the service of Word and Sacrament. We will be celebrating all those 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, our sanctuary becomes a "Thin space" a place where 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. I know you still see them and long to hold them again. As they pass the baton of faith to each of us we dedicate our pledges in worship and take up that baton to carry it into 2025.



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



Prayer shawl making workshop November 16th

Prayer shawl making workshop is November 16th 11:00 at the Wilder House, set up supplies provided. Come help our church begin a crocheted prayer shawl ministry. Enjoy the fun, fellowship, and be a blessing to the one who receives this special prayer filled shawl at the Blue Christmas service each year.

Emily Gunuskey Receives the 2024 Community Service Award

The Honesdale Jaycees revealed that Emily Gunuskey was the 2024 Community Service Award winner for First Responder of the Year.

Congratulations Emily! We are so proud of you!

Congratulations!



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!



Our outdoor service and Church picnic were held on September 22. It was a beautiful day to be outside, and we were even joined by a pair of bald eagles.

REMINDER from the Stewardship and Finance Committee

Please fill out and return your pledge cards as soon as possible so we can prepare the 2025 Budget. Thank you.

Officer Training News

Our Officer training retreat for Session members will be held in Westminster Hall on January 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Our study materials will be our manual and the book, *Asset Mapping*. Mark your calendars now.



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



NOTES FROM THE SESSION

Our Session has been busy with church business and some new programs that are upcoming.



- ◇ We welcomed three new members: Judy Funk, Annie Dame, and Stuart Skinner. We approved the Baptisms of two children: Carter and Beau Brennan.
- ◇ Several of our Session members have completed Stephen Minister training and will be commissioned in the near future.
- ◇ Some programs we have discussed and approved include an outdoor service with communion by intinction; Blessing of the Animals; Kirkin of the Tartans on Reformation Sunday, October 27; Vacation Bible School at Bethany Village; an All Saints celebration on November 3; a Blue Christmas service on December 2; and a women’s retreat on November 2.

- ◇ We approved some major repairs to the rental property that are still ongoing as of this writing.
- ◇ We are exploring some possibilities regarding a new church directory.

Our various church committees have been very busy, maintaining and improving our buildings and grounds, planning events, and caring for each other. Some activities include Church picnic, Paint and Eat, singing at nursing homes, highway cleanup, lunch gatherings, Bible Study with Rev. Dr. Jimmy Hopper. Look through this newsletter to find more details, or speak to one of the committee chairs. Following is a list of the Committee Chairs:

Buildings and Grounds: Kevin Knapp

Fellowship: Mark Bartocci

Christian Education, Living Nativity: Terry Lawrence

Christian Care: Susan Seber

Mission and Service: No chair

Personnel: Craig Olver

Stewardship/Finance: Janet Olver, Lorraine Gallik

THE SESSION

Class of 2024

Linda Zimmer

Bruce Hutchison

Class of 2025

Craig Olver

Emily Gunuskey

Mark Bartocci

Class of 2026

Pat Rine

Terry Lawrence

Sally Rutherford



Blue Christmas Service December 19 at 7:00 PM

This year we will host our first annual Blue Christmas Service for the whole community. It is held near the longest night of the year, so on December 19th at 7:00 p.m., we will gather in the sanctuary, decorated in blue, with candles to light in memory of loved ones lost to us but in heaven now.



There are many kinds of loss that are experienced in this life: jobs, family, friends, good health are just a few examples. Many find that the Christmas season is not a happy one for them, and they are uncomfortable with all the joyful and "ho, ho, ho" kinds of observances.

This service is sponsored by our Stephen Ministry and our church, which care deeply for the real needs and feelings of people. It is designed to allow folks to lean into their grief or disappointments by drawing closer to the Savior, who was acquainted with grief and sorrow. Come and be comforted by this loving service. Invite someone you know is hurting this holy season. There will be opportunities to be anointed in prayer by a Stephen Minister, light a candle of remembrance, place a note in the manger to Baby Jesus, and spend time in prayer and soak up the love and comfort of our Savior and our church family.

Praise and Thanks Sunday and Christ the King Sunday fall together this year

Christ the King Sunday is when we remember, just before Advent starts that the baby that will come is really the King of the Universe, our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. It is the final Sunday in the liturgical church year. It is meant to remind us that the work of Christ is complete and He is seated now on the right hand of the Father. It is also a time for us to remember that a Second Advent will come and Christ will return to take us home. On really bad days I always pray with John from Revelation, "E'n so Lord Jesus, quickly come again, and night will be no more. We need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ shall be our all."

For now we celebrate his Kingship, his completion of our forgiveness of sins with his sacrifice on the cross, and his return for us. Try not to fast forward to Advent, until you have worshipped the King on November 24th.

Advent Wreath Readers needed

One of the really fun parts of Advent is the Advent Wreath. I remember as a child being fascinated with the lighting of the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. It was so much fun when our family volunteered to take one of the Sundays.



I still remember my father's deep bass voice as he read the passage of scripture and gave my mother the prayer. My sister and I were allowed to help light the candle for that week.

Make this a special part of your celebration of Advent and preparation for the coming of the Christ Child.

Let Pastor Katie or Marian know if you can serve on one of the Sundays beginning in December 1st through Christmas Eve.



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



MISSION COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Mission Committee continues to provide assistance to those in need in the local area and around the world. We have had a busy year working to meet the needs of those during a crisis or financial hardship. We have been blessed by large gifts to the fund this year from people outside of the congregation who have heard of our work. The Lord continues to provide as we work to care for the needy.

Local Assistance: This year we gave donations to two families who had lost everything they owned in house fires. We also sent assistance to two families devastated by the loss of the father, when each was killed in a car accident. People also received help with fuel oil or other financial assistance. We also continue to support the local food pantries, the fire companies, Dyberry Day Camp, the Salvation Army, the Children's Christmas Bureau, Bethany 4-H and VIP with budgeted monies.

Christmas in July! The Operation Christmas Child Shoebox collection was held and we have 24 boxes ready to send when the collection period opens in November. (There are still shoeboxes available if you would like to fill one or more.) Thank you to everyone who participated in this program for Samaritan's Purse. Someone mentioned that they didn't really know what Samaritan's Purse was all about. The following is the answer they give to that question on their website. "After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said "Go and do likewise." That is the mission of Samaritan's Purse—to follow the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel." They have an incredible response time to disasters all around the globe and are headquartered in Boone, NC. There are several people in the Honesdale area who have responded to their call for volunteers and have served with them following hurricanes in Florida and Texas. For much more information on the history and work of the organization, please go to Samaritanspurse.org.

Thanksgiving Baskets! We will be collecting items for the Thanksgiving Baskets during November. Items needed will be listed in the Ladies Parlor, as they were last year. Take a "turkey" or "leaf" from the board, make those purchases and bring the items to church by November 24th. Don't feel like shopping? That's fine - you may make a monetary donation so the members of the committee can shop for the turkeys, rolls and pies right before the baskets are delivered. Thank you in advance! Several baskets are provided to families through Wayne County Children and Youth and if you know of someone in need, please give the name to Rev. Katie. We will make as many baskets as are needed.

Christmas Gifts for Bethany Village! In December, we will be collecting gifts for our friends at Bethany Village. We will find out some specific items that are needed and pass this information along to you. The Committee also will be creating something special for each one of the residents. We continue to visit and sing hymns once a month at Bethany Village and we have added a monthly visit to sing with the residents at Ellen Memorial. This summer we also spent an afternoon at Bethany Village with a "beach themed" VBS for the residents. What a blessing for the residents AND for us.

Church Library! The library bookcase has arrived and we will be ready for donations to our Christian Book Library starting the first Sunday in November. It is located in the Blanche Heller Room in the Wilder House. Please feel free to browse and borrow any books that interest you. There is no time limit for use and feel free to share books with friends as you wish.

Missionary Support! We continue to support global missions through Mike and Jamie Lungu who work with Pioneer Bible Translators in Africa. Their letters can be found on the bulletin board in the Ladies Parlor. Please listen to the announcements for our next meeting and join us if you feel the urge to do Mission work. It is so very rewarding! Committee members are: Linda Zimmer, Helen Ward, Sue Seber, Yvonne Plataras, Betsy Lacey, Joan Green and Rev. Katie.



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



Greeters and Ushers November to December 2024

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 Lorraine Gallik & Joan Green
29 Pat & Yvonne Plataras

Did You Know We Have A Website & Facebook Page?



We invite everyone to visit our new website

www.bethanypresbychurch.org to listen to a sermon each Sunday.

The sermons can be seen our Facebook page and on all smartphones.

UPCOMING EVENTS from the church bulletin are being posted and in the future there may be a photo gallery and video to keep everyone informed of church activities.

Our Daily Bread can be viewed on line and on smart phones along with alot of other great information so check it out and see.

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: December 29th. Hope to see everyone there.

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

Advent Sermon Series

Pastor Katie will be preaching a special Advent sermon series on the Original Songs of Christmas beginning with the First Sunday of Advent and Zechariah's Song.



Join us for each of these beautiful songs that play a special part in the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Account balances as of October 21 are

General Account Balance	\$8861.53
Rental Account Balance	\$9215.74
Capital Account/Living Nativity	\$5381.39
Savings Account	\$34211.14
Money Market Account	\$60275.14

Coffee/ Refreshment Hour

Please join us after worship for coffee hour with refreshments .

There are always interesting conversations and great fellowship during this time.





Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



Sunday, November 10th we will Commission 9 Stephen Ministers

Sunday, November 10th we will Commission 9 Stephen Ministers in a special worship service designed to introduce the ministry to our church family. There will be two brief skits based on scripture that illustrate the caring confidential relationships of Stephen Ministers and their care receivers. We all pass through normal life crises, like the empty nest, loss of a job, loss of a spouse or significant other, new baby in the family. Any change in life causes grief to the body.



Stephen Ministers are specifically trained to help us walk prayerfully through these times. We are blessed to be adding this ministry to our church. Call Pastor Katie if you think you might benefit from a Stephen Minister's listening care.

Eyeglass Collection

What would happen if you didn't have your glasses to read this Newsletter 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

Take Out Spaghetti Dinner Coming in 2025

1st Annual Take Out Spaghetti Dinner



coming first of the year to benefit renovations of the Barn.

More information to follow.

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.

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!!

The "Meaning" Of Poinsettia

The Poinsettia is known as the "Christmas star" or the "Christmas flower." It is also the December birth flower.

This winter flower's association with Christmas comes from a Mexican legend. The legend is told that a child with no means must take a gift to a Christmas eve church service.



Being penniless, the child picked weeds from the side of the road. The congregation witnessed a miracle when the weeds turned into beautiful red and green flowers on the altar. These weeds, of course, turned out to be poinsettia.

The Poinsettia display will be set on Sunday, December 22nd. This display not only brings beauty to the Sanctuary but gives the congregation an opportunity to remember loved ones who are no longer with us or honor special people in our lives.

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 before or after any church service.

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY Sunday, December 1, 2024

If you need to mail them, please send to:

**Joan Green
599 Bethany Turnpike
Honesdale, PA 18431**

Checks can be made payable to Bethany Presbyterian Church
Donation of \$11.50

Questions? Call Joan at 570-253-3625 or email hgreen@ptd.net

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

GIVEN BY:

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR FLOWERS AFTER CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



BUILDING AND GROUNDS



- Adopt-a-highway was done on Sept. 7 Thank you to all that helped
- The burned-out light bulbs in the church basement have been replaced.
- The emergency panic bar on the north door of the steeple has been installed.
- The automatic door closers on the 2 doors in the balcony of the sanctuary have been installed.
- Thank you to those that do the behind-the-scenes projects.
- We are working on budget for 2025.
- The pump in the well at the rental house has been replaced with all new wire, hose and water tank. The hand dug well has been filled in.
- The septic tank at the rental house will be replaced.
- We are looking for a snow shoveler for the church and DWH this year if you know of anybody, please contact Kevin from the committee.
- Weather permitting, we will be putting out the luminaries for Christmas Eve service.

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!

ONLINE BANKING FOR GIVING OFFERING

Some of our local banks and our national banks are offering "Online Banking" to pay our expenses or bills, but did you know that you can also use Online banking to pay your "Estimate of Giving Offering?"



Payments online can be made on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly from Your bank by listing our church as a vendor.

On the Bill Pay Page Enter:

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

431 Wayne Street

Bethany, PA 18431

Phone #570-253-6316

Account Number: *(would be your church envelope number)*

Amount to be paid: *(List the frequency that you would like it to be paid)*

The bank will forward your payments, on your behalf to the church following your requested frequency.

If any additional information is needed please talk to Pat Rine.



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

PRAYER CONCERNS



Marilyn Barbe, Ruth Ann Swingle, Kathie Dulay, Alyson Dame, Michael, Robin Williams, Pat Watson, Stanley Rolston, Mary.

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

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

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.



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

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