

Bethany Presbyterian

Church Chat



May-June-July 2024

Thoughts from the Heart:

When I say..."I am a Christian" I'm not shouting "I am saved" I'm whispering "I get lost!" "That is why I chose this way."

When I say..."I am a Christian" I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need someone to be my guide.

When I say..."I am a Christian" I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and pray for strength to carry on.

When I say..."I am a Christian" I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say..."I am a Christian" I'm not claiming to be perfect, my flaws are too visible but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say..."I am a Christian" I still feel the sting of pain I have my share of heartaches which is why I seek His name.

When I say..."I am a Christian" I do not wish to judge. I have no authority. I only know I'm loved.

This is the Season of Eastertide. It is a time to contemplate the impact that Easter has on each of our lives. What kind of Christian does the Easter message make us? From Easter to Pentecost is fifty days; fifty days to ponder, fifty days to reorder our priorities according to the Mission of Jesus Christ. Who might say at the end of these fifty days, "What a difference you made in my life!" - as a church, as individuals?

Lovingly, Pastor Katie

Pastors Hopper to travel in July	Pastor Katie's Installation
Jimmy and Katie will be travel- ing to the Outer banks of North Carolina for the first time this summer.	Everyone is invited to return to church at 3:00 PM on June 16th for Pastor Katie's installation as our pastor.
Their four children have rented a house on the beach with them and are spending time together playing and relaxing and exploring an area none have visited before.	She will take vows and we will take vows and it will be a special day. It will be very special for Katie because it actually falls on the day she was ordained 40 years ago in Throckmorton, Texas in a 15 member church.
Keep them all in your prayers for safe travel. If any teens want to earn a little spending money they have three cats that will need looking in on a couple of times during the time they are gone. They leave July 6 and return on July 13th late.	In a very real way she feels she has come full circle in her return to true small church ministry. Come make this day meaningful with your pres- ence. There will be a reception to follow in the Wilder House.





2024 Journey through Bethlehem Is Being Planned

Since January, the Nativity Committee has been meeting to prepare for our wonderful community outreach, Journey through Bethlehem: A Living Nativity.

One of the first things to be addressed at the meetings was the barn. Our concern was the structure of the barn's floor. It is not safe on the left side since the joists are too far apart; therefore, the floor is not sturdy. There are holes in the floor where someone or an animal could step through it. (This is the area where animals are placed during the nativity.) In the other sections of the barn, the joists are fine, but all the sub-flooring needs to be replaced because segments are "spongy." We received proposals from Grimm Construction to fix the floor system for \$16,002.

The other possible project is placing batons on the barn. Several years ago, W J Reining & Sons Sawmill donated siding and battens for the barn. In 2016, we had Wayne County prisoners replace the old siding with new siding. The battens were placed in the barn's basement to dry out but were never installed; therefore, there are gaps between the siding. (The prisoners' work program is now doing only limited work). If we are able to have the battens put on, the barn would be watertight with no snow or rain coming into the barn which will protect the structure of the barn. During the nativity, the battens would keep the barn warmer for characters and visitors because the cold wind would not be blowing in. The proposal from Grimm Construction Inc. for this work which would use the battens that we already have is \$18,549.

Since our church currently does not have adequate funds to repair the barn, we are hoping to get some grants that will help us. We have already sent an application to The John and Helen Villaume Foundation, Wayne Bank, for a grant. And we have another grant ready for submission to Presbytery. We hope these organizations will see how important the barn is for our event.

Without this funding, the nativity barn setting would be different than it has been in the past. We would place benches outside the barn with tarps over the visitors. Animals would be in their pens in front of the barn, and all costumed characters would stand in the doorway of the barn for their performance.

It will be interesting to see how God works through the community, the Presbytery, and committee members to get his desired outcome for the evenings. We are looking forward with excitement and joy that with God's help we will be able to spread the Good News of Jesus' birth to the community!!

Account Balances as of April 25, 2024

General Account \$32609.86 Capital Account \$3502.48 Living Nativity Account \$1597.60 Rental Account \$7775.22 Savings Account \$42725.62 Money Market (Pastor's Account \$60139.33

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.



Happy Birthday!!! Happy Anniversary!!!

May Birthdays

9-Bill Bell 11-Aaron Haviland **16-Ron Lawrence** 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

July Birthdays

7-Terry Lawrence 10-Julia Hopkins 11-Kaitlyn Gunuskey 12- Lee Swingle 16- Marilyn Czapnik 26-Linda Stiles



July Anniversaries

15-Joan & Dennis Green 30-Helen & Frank Ward



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



Church Family Picnic

Would you like to host our church family picnic this year at your home? You pick the month, the date, and the time.

We'll all come with happy hearts and a covered dish to share. The Fellowship Committee will cover the cost of the meat and utensils. See Terry Lawrence.



Save This Date!

Get out your wall calendars or your cell phone's calendar and mark down this important date. Our Journey Through Bethlehem: A Living Nativity will be held the first weekend in December, Saturday December 7th and Sunday, December 8th. Put the date in bold let-

ters, so you won't forget this important date where you can spread the good news of Jesus' birth to the community.

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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!

The Bethany Community Strawberry Festival Saturday, June 22

Last year was so much fun! Join us this year to get to know others in the community. The Bethany Community Strawberry Festival will be held on Saturday, June 22nd from 12:30 to 4:00 PM. The groups involved in the afternoon are our church, the Bethany Community Church North, Bethany Library, Bethany Collaborative, and the Historical Society. It will be held rain or shine. There will be food in the Community North Fellowship Hall (where we'll be with food to sell), vendors lined up around the park, fiddlers playing in the band shell, kid's games in the park, and crafts in the library.

Mark and Jeanne Bartocci will be organizing our part in the event. Helpers will be needed to park cars, serve food, take money, and supervise kids as they play games. See Mark or Jeanne if you can help.

We are also asking people to bake items to sell to visitors; all profits will be split among the groups.

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE LADIES' LUNCHES?



The ladies of our church, in addition to members of one or two other local bodies of believers, have continued to meet for lunch once each

month at various restaurants in our area. During the first few months of 2024 we have enjoyed delicious food at the following locations:

January - The Wayne Hotel

February – Scheduled at Gretchen's Grotto, but there was no power when we arrived so we ventured down to the Stourbridge Bistro.

March - Gretchen's Grotto, actually happened, as the power had been restored.

April - Betty Boop's Airport Café' We have given cards to those celebrating birthdays near the day we go for lunch.

At our last gathering Linda Z. brought a dozen cupcakes to be enjoyed by all.

Our next lunch, May 9th, will be at Elegante' Restaurant in Honesdale. They offer an extensive menu, so if anyone does not care for pasta, there is a large selection of other items such as salads, soups, wraps, calzones, strombolis, etc. June will be our semi-annual dessert party at Gretchen's Grotto; however, she has requested that we make it on a Saturday so that date will be June 8th. Not a dessert fan? Don't worry - some ladies order lunch instead.

If you've never enjoyed one of our lunches, why not come with us in May. You won't be disappointed – we have a great meal and wonderful fellowship with one another. Questions or reservations? Contact Sue Seber.



Bake sale items needed for Strawberry Festival on June 22nd





NOTES FROM THE SESSION



Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed! Our church completed Lent and observed Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We joyously celebrated Palm Sunday and Easter. As of this writing, plans are underway for our Pentecost service on May 19 as we keep the message of His resurrection alive.

On March 1, we joyfully welcomed Rev. Dr. Katie Kelly Hopper as our new pastor. Rev. Katie conducted our Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae service, which was also attended by members of Bethany Church North. After at-

tending the sunrise service on Easter Sunday, she conducted our Easter Service. Rev. Katie has been busy getting to know our congregation and has already made home visits, and attended our social events, including the Ladies' Luncheon and the hymn sing at Bethany Village, as well as various committee meetings.

If you know of anyone you think the pastor should visit, please reach out and let her know.

Katie and her husband Jimmy have joined the church choir, and Jimmy has joined the handbell choir.

We look forward to Rev. Katie's installation and reception On June 16th. Watch our website and Facebook page for more information.

Our various church committees have been very busy, maintaining and improving our buildings and grounds, planning events, and caring for each other. Some upcoming events include a marathon watching of The Chosen, a strawberry festival, Mother's Day gifts, a paint-and-sip, and awarding of scholarships. 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, 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	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Yvonne Plastaras	Craig Olver	Pat Rine
Linda Zimmer	Emily Gunuskey	Terry Lawrence
Bruce Hutchison	Mark Bartocci	Sally Rutherford





Greeters and Ushers May to December 2024

<u>May</u>

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

<u>July</u>

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

September

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

<u>November</u>

3 Lorraine Gallik & Joan Green10 Mark & Linda Zimmer17 Pat Rine & Cindy Henry24 David & Sue Seber

<u>June</u>

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

<u>August</u>

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

<u>October</u>

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

December

Kevin & Marian Knapp
 Frank & Helen Ward
 Kathie Dulay & Betsy Lacey
 Craig & Janet Olver
 Lorriane Gallik & Joan Green
 Pat & Yvonne Plastaras



Did You Know We Have A Website & Facebook Page?

We invite everyone to visit our new website <u>www.bethanypresbychurch.org</u> 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 allot of other great information so check it out and see.





Thoughts from the Heart for June and July

Summer is a time for things to be more relaxed and less stressful. We invite all to come to church ready to spend the rest of the day at the lake or by the pool or on the golf course. Come in short sleeves and comfortable clothes. God has never cared what we wear, only that we came. The Sabbath as described in Ezekiel 20:12 is God's gift to humankind. It was never meant to take away from our lives but to show us that God loves us and allow him time with us to make us holy.

It is tempting, especially in the summer to take a vacation from church. The problem is, that means taking a vacation from God. I find that without God central in my life, things begin to unravel pretty quickly. Over the years I have found that even on vacation, it takes little planning to stop off the interstate at around 10 or 11 and find a church to worship. It doesn't have to be Presbyterian flavor that day, just Christian.

We all need the Sabbath's recharging. My cell phone needs to be recharged every night. I habitually plug them in on the night stand, and they are always ready to serve me. I find that I too, need to be plugged in every day, and most especially in worship on Sunday mornings.

Don't find yourself running on low battery this summer. Worship, pray, and read scripture to recharge and renew. Enjoy God's gift to you of Sabbath.

With much love and prayer for a wonderful summer – Lovingly,

Pastor Katie

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.

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, 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



SUGGESTION

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!!





News From Mission Committee

The Mission Committee has continued its hymn-sing at Bethany Village on the first Thursday of each month with approximately 25-30 residents joyfully singing God's praises. Three ladies of our church have each had a turn playing the piano to accompany us, namely Helen Ward, Sally Rutherford and Debbie Gottshall. We appreciate them for their willingness to help out. Everyone is welcome to join us.

We are also planning to resume our hymn-sing at Wayne Woodlands in Waymart on the third Sunday of each month following our congregational brunch.

One month we will have a church worship and communion service led by Pastor Katie. The following month will be a hymn-sing as in the past with a short word of encouragement for the residents. This will be led by Tim Bell and Sue Seber. Everyone from our church is encouraged to join with us as we share God's love with these precious, and many times, lonely residents.

A third hymn-sing is in the works for Ellen Memorial Health Care in Honesdale. Details will be announced when they are finalized. These are exciting times: who knows where God will lead us next?

Food Pantry

We support the Salvation Army Food Pantry located on Route 191 South in Honesdale. The members of our congregation are to be commended on their willingness to help those in need each month. We have designated the second Sunday of each month as "Pantry Sunday" during which items that are most-needed by the pantry are collected. An insert in the bulletin is provided on the first Sunday of the month listing the most-needed items for the following week. This is where all foods from the congregation are delivered.

In addition to the abundant food donations from our own congregation, we also drop off breads, rolls, pies, etc. which have been generously given to us by Weis Market. After they are picked up each week, a portion is given to the members of the Honesdale Community Church (formerly known as the Baptist Church) where they are gratefully received by their members. Then they are on their way to Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Anyone who would like to take home an item or two from supplied baked goods is welcome to do so. The remainder is transported to the Salvation Army Pantry along with any other donations received.

That pantry is always in need of volunteers to organize food items and to help with food distribution certain days of the week.

Proverbs 19:17 reminds us "Whoever gives to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done."

We have certainly seen that to be true at Bethany. As always, thank you for your continued support. Without you we wouldn't be able to help spread God's love to as many people as we do.

God bless you and your family.

The Mission Committee

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BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- Adopt-a-highway was on April 20 @ 9 am. 5 people participated, and 6 bags of garbage were collected. Thank you to those who helped.
- Light fixtures upstairs in the DWH were installed.
- The burned-out light bulbs in the church basement will be replaced.
- Carbon monoxide alarms were installed at the church & DWH.
- We will be installing a emergency panic bar on the north door of the steeple.
- A big thank you to Ken S. for volunteering to mow the church &DWH grounds this year.
- Ron L. has been working on finishing the bathroom upstairs in DWH.
- We are looking into installing automatic door closers on the 2 doors in the balcony of the sanctuary.
- We will be installing a wireless automatic door lock and an wireless intercom for the DWH for the safety of the secretary's office and Rev. Katies' office.
- We will be installing 2 panes of glass in Rev. Katies office door for security purposes.
- Thank you to those that do the behind-thescenes 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



PRAYER CONCERNS

Marilyn Barbe, Ruth Ann Swingle, Rev. William Samford, Kathie Dulay.

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.





Christian Care Committee News

During the first quarter of 2024 we have continued to record the weekly attendance of our congregation.

The totals for January through March are as follows:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>
January	118	39
February	187	47
March	326	54

January's attendance was a bit low due to snow which caused no services that day. March was higher than normal because we had a Maundy Thursday service and many attended our Easter service.

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.

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE HAS ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR YOU TO ENJOY!

Saturday, June 1st- Progressive Dinner- 4 PM

Saturday, June 22nd - Bethany Community Strawberry Festival- 12:30 to 4 PM

Sunday, June 30th- Fifth Sunday Out-to-Eat after worship.

July – Sing along and Ice cream Sundaes with Dyberry Day Campers- Date to be announced.

Saturday, September 21st- Booth at the Fairgrounds for Wayne County Library Fundraising Event- 11- 4

Saturday, October 5th – Paint a picture with lots of others and laugh as your artistic talents shine. - 11 AM

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 June 30th, September 29th and December 29th.

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 before worship.



Eat Out

Soup Supper

Delicious soups were enjoyed at our Soup Supper! Keith Lawrence was the speaker,

and 12 people attended. It was a relaxing evening with wonderful fellowship.

BETHANY LIBRARY PRESENT

Strauberry Festival SATURDAY JUNE 22, 2024 12:30 -4:00

FREE ADMISSION

Live Music | Kids Activities Over 25 Craft, Homemade, and Treasurers Vendors

Homemade Shortcake 🍯

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





Pentecost Sunday



May 19th will be Pentecost Sunday. There are three big days in the life of the Christian Church. They are Easter, Christmas, and Pentecost. Pente means 50 and refers to fifty days after Easter. It is the day we celebrate the birth of the Christian Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit into the lives of the followers of Christ.

This year our celebration will include inviting the congregation to wear the color red to worship. There will be red memorial geraniums filling the chancel area of

our sanctuary.

Please keep this holy day as a special part of your family traditions.

© © LOOKING FOR A BBQ TRUCK



Do you know anyone with a BBQ truck who might come to our church and prepare BBQ food for us on the premises?

Eyeglass Collection

What would happen if you didn't have your glasses to read this Newsletters or if you did-



n't have your glasses to read the signs along the road.? It would be tough!

One of our outreach missions is to collect correc-

tive 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!

Progressive Dinner June 1st

We will be having a Progressive Dinner on Saturday

June 1st at 4:00 PM. And we will travel to three house that night. One house will serve the appetizers, one house will serve the entree, and another house will serve desserts.



We ask that each family who is not hosting bring a covered dish of either an appetizer, part of entrée, or dessert.

Sign up in the Ladies' Parlor for this fun evening.

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!

PENTECOST SUNDAY

We will be celebrating **Pentecost Sunday** on May 19, 2024, and will have a beautiful display of **RED** geraniums in the sanctuary. They will be in bloom and in 6 1/2-inch pots at a cost of \$6.00 each. If you are planning on planting **RED** geraniums in your flower pots, boxes or flower beds, why not purchase them through the church and then take them with you after the Worship Service? You may order as many as you would like and have them "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone special or you may want to just add to the beauty of the Service.

Please fill out the form below and return to Joan Green at 599 Bethany Tpke, Honesdale, PA by May 8, 2024. Please make checks payable to <u>Bethany Presbyterian Church.</u>

Name:	
In Memory of	
In Honor of	

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Name:	 	 	
In Memory of	 		
In Honor of	 		
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Class of 2026 Terry Lawrence

Sally Rutherford

Pat Rine

Clerk of Session – Linda Zimmer

Church Secretary – Marian Knapp

Church Treasurer – Pat Rine

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