



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



July– August 2025

THOUGHTS
FROM THE
HEART

Dr. Katie

Dear Ones,

Summer is here and with it a time to play and relax and renew our health and relationship with family travel and more sleep and fresh vegetables and fruit in abundance. All in all, we find ways to slow the pace of our lives and truly love each other. I know that especially for our families, church becomes something missing because of travel and time together. This has never really bothered me as a pastor, for I know it is just a season. But I want to remind us that our gifts to God can be mailed and are still needed, and our Sunday worship is live on our YouTube channel and saved for viewing any time or day on my Facebook page. I enjoy seeing worship when we are out of town. I also want us to remember that wherever we go, these words of one of our Early Church Mothers remind us that we take Christ with us.

St. Teresa of Ávila says,
"Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

My prayer for each of you is that as you wander and rest and recreate, you will take Christ intentionally with you and your families. So many we encounter as we travel need that compassion, that blessing, that service and care. Be a living reminder of Jesus on the beach or in the mountains, resting at home or at camp, fill your down time with His presence and you will return more than refreshed, renewed.

I love each of you very much. Pastor Katie

The Pastor's Summer Travels

Pastors Katie and Jimmy will be flying to Miami on August 5 to visit their son, Kelly and future daughter-in-law Jio and stay at his resort/club as friends and family. They will return on August 12th. Prayers are appreciated for safe travels in and out of Avoca and to Miami and to Key Largo to his resort at Ocean Reef.

July 7 through 14th Pastors Katie and Jimmy will be travelling to the Outer Banks for Pastor Katie to do a wedding of one of her precious former youth couples Lydia and Ethan. She is really looking forward to doing this for them. Lydia is the last of her youth to graduate from Penn State with a RN in Nursing this Past month and Katie is very proud of them starting life together. Prayers are appreciated for the Hopper's safe travels as they drive each way.

Our own dear Commission Lay Pastor and Elder and Stephen Minister Sue Seber will be filling the pulpit and covering pastorally while Pastor Katie is away this summer. We are blessed to have her special gifts and care.



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Happy Birthday!!! Happy Anniversary!!

July Birthdays

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



July Anniversaries

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

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

August Birthdays

1-Gibsen Goodenough
4-Tara Olver
6-Emily Gunuskey
9-Tim Bell
19-Dan Gallik
24-Rick Rine
25-Helen Ward
27-Keith Gunuskey



August Anniversaries

7-Kevin & Leslie Gunuskey
18-Dave & Sue Seber
19-David & Marilyn Czapnik
29-Justin & Marchel Paule-Green

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.

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.



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.



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New AEDs for the Church and Wilder House

At a recently called Session meeting, it was discussed that our AEDs in both buildings have batteries and pads that have expired. The decision was made to purchase new AEDs from Stephens Pharmacy at a cost of \$1695 for each unit.

Grants are available from the Honesdale Ministerium for up to \$1000 for each unit. We have applied for two grants, one per building. As the church funds are extremely tight at this time, the Building and Grounds Committee, together with the Finance Committee, invite anyone who would like to support the purchase of the new AEDs to make a donation earmarked for this purchase and place it in the offering plate. If donations exceed the purchase of the 2 AEDs, this money will be put aside for upgrading of the church's outside lighting.

Craig Olver
Buildings and Grounds

Pat Rine
Finance



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.

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!



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 eye-wear.

Each pair of glasses donated can help give the gift of sight!



Sacrament of Baptism for Christopher Ryan Heckler

Rev. David Heckler
Steve & Betsy Heckler





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NOTES FROM THE SESSION



At our April meeting, we accepted two resignations from Session: Terry Lawrence and Mark Bartocci. We also ordered a Baptism for worship on June 1 for Christopher Heckler. In addition, June 1 was our day to honor our graduates. Since these events happened on the first Sunday of June, communion for the month was moved to June 8, which was also Pentecost.

A motion was passed to use memorial funds to order a sign commemorating our designation on the National Register of Historic Sites. Look for the sign to be posted at the bottom of the ramp near our time capsule.

Due to scheduling conflicts, there was no Session meeting in May, but the June meeting will take place on June 8. Father's Day gifts will be passed out on June 15 in honor of all our fathers.

An outdoor service with communion by intinction is scheduled for June 29, followed by a potluck picnic lunch.

At a called Session meeting, the decision was made to withdraw \$10,000 from our Money Market account in order to cover our monthly bills. Unfortunately, this means that we are currently running at a deficit. Our income per month is less than our expenses. Running our church is expensive, and we are grateful for the congregation's support, but we are currently in a difficult financial position.

Notes from the Mission Committee

The Mission Committee continues to share God's love through programs within the community and beyond. We are a very present and important part of the life of the residents of Bethany Village Senior Living Community and the Ellen Memorial Nursing Home. Our monthly visits to those facilities bring joy to all who join us, as we give them a connection to hymns and Bible readings that were so familiar to them throughout their lives. Those of us who participate from the church are also affected each month as we share with them. We hope to be able to become involved with the residents of Wayne Woodlands in the future.

Pastor Katie has Weis gift cards available from the Mission Fund to give to those people she sees who are in need. If you know of someone in need of assistance with food, please do not hesitate to speak with Pastor Katie.

Another program which we are exploring is a once a month food bank on a Saturday morning. This would be coordinated with the churches in town. Prepackaged food boxes are distributed from the food pantry.

Looking ahead, in July we are planning to provide an ice cream party at Bethany Village, in August we will do another Senior VBS and in October pumpkin painting. We will then provide Christmas gifts for the residents in December. We will also be participating in the Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child" shoebox program. The shoeboxes will be distributed in July, collected in August and stored until being shipped in November. We realize how busy everyone gets around the holidays, so we like to do this collection early and have it completed. More information will be forthcoming. We are also checking with the Senior Center to see if there are seniors in need of assistance of any kind. The Mission Committee meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 1PM. Please feel free to give us ideas or come join us at a meeting. We are always looking for ways to spread God's Word in the world and make our congregation a place where people can come and rejoice in the goodness of our Lord.



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Greeter/Usher List 2025

July

6– Joan Green and Betsy Lacey
13– Mark & Linda Zimmer
20– Cindy Henry and Pat Rine
27– David and Susan Seber

August

3– Kevin & Marian Knapp
10– Frank & Helen Ward
17– Linda Malakin, Morgan Delemarre & Sally Rutherford
24– Craig & Janet Olver
31– Pat and Yvonne Plastaras

Summer Sermon Series

Pastor Katie will be preaching a series called He Chose Twelve this summer. This will take us through the calling of the disciples.

She will add to that some of the lesser-known female disciples to fill out the balance of the summer.

In the Fall she plans to do a sermon series on The Lord's Prayer designed to take us into Advent. May these series bless our time in worship.

September

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

Nativity Meeting

A Nativity meeting was held on April 18th to discuss the future of the Living Nativity.

Terry Lawrence resigned as head of the committee. As there is no head for the committee, the nativity will not be held this year.

The funds that have been received for the barn repair will be used to update the electrical system in the barn as what is presently there is not safe to use. It could be very dangerous if not repaired.

As of now, there will be no more nativity meetings until someone volunteers to head the committee.

Submitted by Pat Rine Former co-chair

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: August 31st. Hope to see everyone there.

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

The account balances as of June 17:

General Account: \$11,251.37

Rental Account: \$10,541.70

Capital Account/Living Nativity: \$6203.31

Savings Account: \$39,735.06

Money Market Account: \$50,456.08



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A call recently went out to the congregation for volunteers to mow the lawn this summer. Several volunteers stepped up to help out, and the lawn is looking beautiful. Of course, the constant rain did its part by helping the grass grow long and lush. Many thanks to Craig Olver, Janet Olver, Sue Seber, Pastor Jimmy Hopper, and Linda Zimmer for their help.



PRAYER CONCERNS



Marilyn Barbe, Ruth Ann Swingle, Kathie Dulay, Alyson Dame, Michael, Robin Williams, Mary, Deanna Sandlin, Richard, Danell, Charlie, Steve & Mary Lou Popson, Nancy & Pat, Kathy, Jackie, Brad, Jeannie, Janet, Jennifer, Sean.



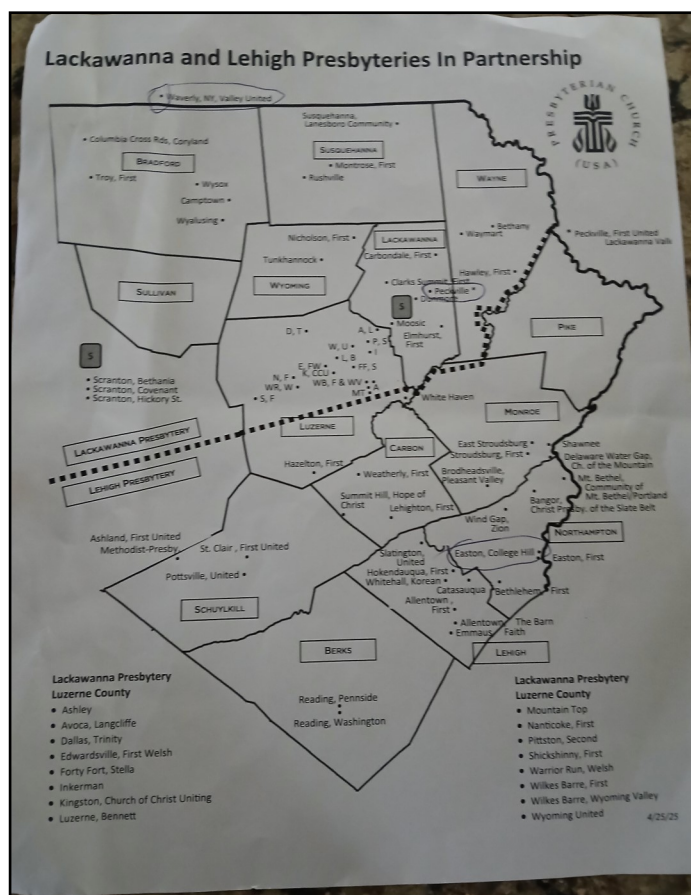
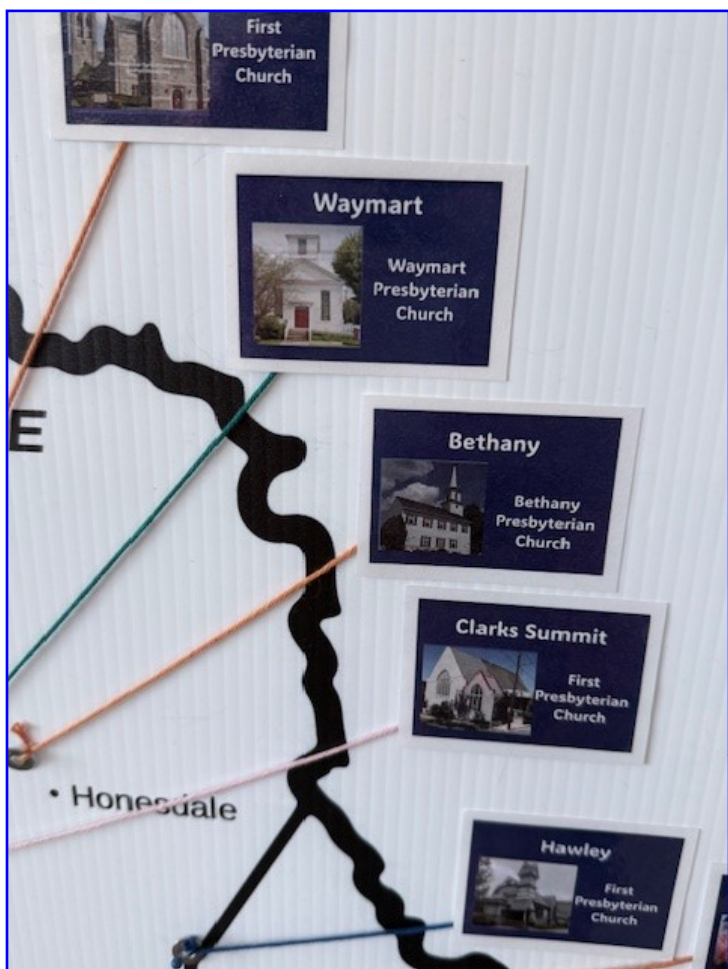
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We Have a New Presbytery!

Welcome to Mountain Laurel Presbytery! The following are pictures and songs and maps of our new presbytery. At our most recent presbytery meeting Lackawanna Presbytery and Lehigh Presbyteries votes to merge and form one new presbytery to be called Mountain Laurel Presbytery. Pastor Katie, Elder Annie Dame, and Moderator Joan Green were there for the historic vote. Joan Green was the one who submitted the winning name of Mountain Laurel that was chosen by the body for our new name. There is a hymn that was composed for us. Things are still in process. June 17th the Synod of the Trinity votes. Then the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania votes. Then the General Assembly votes. But, by the end of this year, it will all be official!!

Songs are continued on page 9 & 10





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Hymn Commissioned for the creation of Mountain Laurel Presbytery

We're Stronger Together

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2025

St. Denio

arr. Caniadau y Cyssegr, 1839

1. We're strong - er to - geth - er, O God, by your grace.
2. We've wor-shipped in towns and on moun-tains a - bove.
3. And yet, in your church, Lord, we can - not stand still,
4. We're strong - er to - geth - er when joined with new friends.

You've called us to serve you in this time and place.
We've sought to be root - ed and ground - ed in love.
for we're al - ways seek - ing to fol - low your will.
There's joy in this new way your mer - cy ex - tends.

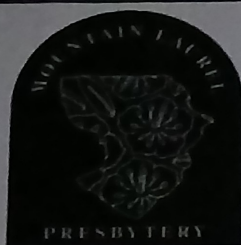
In peace, you have made us as one out of two,
In each pres - by - te - ry from which we have come,
We trust that, as one, we'll ac - comp - lish far more
Our name, Moun - tain Lau - rel, re - flects some-thing new

and out of the old you have fa - shioned the new.
we've found our con - nec - tions; we've found a church home.
than eith - er of us, by our - selves, could hope for.
as here we're u - ni - ted in ser - vice to you.

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com | New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



CONGREGATIONAL VERSION OF Hymn Commissioned for the creation of Mountain Laurel Presbytery

We're Stronger Together

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2025

St. Denio

arr. Caniadau y Cyssegr, 1839

1. We're strong - er to - geth - er, O God, by your grace.
2. We've wor-shipped in towns and on moun-tains a - bove.
3. And yet, in your church, Lord, we can - not stand still,
4. We're strong - er to - geth - er when joined with new friends.

You've called us to serve you in this time and place.
We've sought to be root - ed and ground - ed in love.
for we're al - ways seek - ing to fol - low your will.
There's joy in the new ways your mer - cy ex - tends.

In peace, you have brought us to - geth - er as one
We've loved the tra - di - tions that we have held dear.
We trust that, as one, we'll ac - comp - lish far more
When we work to - geth - er, you build some-thing new

to share in the mis - sion of Je - sus your Son.
We've trea-sured our vi - sion of min - is - try here.
than a - ny of us, by our - selves, could hope for
as we are u - ni - ted in ser - vice to you.

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Above from left is Elle Plastaras, Amanda Gunuskey, Kyler Gunuskey, Dr. Keith Gunuskey, and Pastor Katie.
On the right is Gibsen Goodenough.

**Congratulations to all
on your accomplishments!!**



Graduation was celebrated in Worship

We honored our high school, college, and graduate school graduates. Each were given a blanket from the Church & Pastor Katie.

Christian Care Committee News



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

	Total	Average
April *	212	43
May	164	41

*April's attendance was higher than normal due to our Maundy Thursday and Easter services.

We served communion to our Ellen Memorial Healthcare residents who continue to attend our monthly hymn-sings.

The e-mail prayer chain has continued with each request passed along, recorded and reported to Session each month. There has been a decrease in the number of prayers requested. When God answers our prayer requests, I have asked that those answers be reported to me so that Pastor Katie can make the good news known to the congregation. This will not only glorify God for what he has done but will also encourage others to ask for prayer.

Any questions about this committee may be directed to Sue Seber.

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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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
Judy Funk
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**