



Bethany Presbyterian

Church Chat

March–April 2026



I found this and it resonated deeply with me, I hope it will with you in these times that we are living through today. (written by Sarah Trent)

Dr. Katie The sacred space between the cry and the comfort. The hollow pause between the groaning and the glory. Between “Why, Lord?” and “Now I see.” Between the ashes and The crown.

Selah...I used to rush past that word in the Psalms. Skimmed it like a speed bump on the way to something louder, clearer, resolved. But now I know it’s more than a pause.

It is a dwelling place. A deep exhale in the middle of unanswered prayers. A quiet held between sobs and songs.

I am sitting here, in the ache that has not yet lifted, in the wound that has not yet healed, in the prayer that still waits for its amen. I am not where I was, but not yet where I long to be. I am in the middle... the Selah.

And I am learning this: The pause is not empty. The silence is not God’s absence. It is His breath over the waters again. It is the same voice that spoke in the beginning, not always with words, but with weight. With presence.

Here, He teaches me to wait like the psalmists did, not with passive resignation, but with hope. Selah does not mean the story is over. It means: Stop. Ponder. Let the weight of what waws just said sink into your bones.

It means: Don’t miss this moment.

It means: God is still speaking, even in the stillness.

This is the space between grief and healing. Between brokenness and breakthrough

Between Good Friday and Resurrection Morning.

I thought healing would feel like a movement, a flash of diving power. But what if healing looks more like dwelling in the pause? Like learning to trust the Surgeon while He’s still stitching the wound closed?

Selah: the ground is still wet with my tears, but the roots are reaching deeper,

Selah: I am not whole, but I am being held.

Selah: I don’t have answers, but I know the Answerer is near.

I used to beg for the fast-forward button, Now I just pray not to miss Him in the slow unfolding. Not to miss the revelation in the space between.

So I sit. I breathe. I ache. I hope.

And I whisper that word with trembling lips-- Selah.

Something to think about as we journey to the cross together in 2026.

Lovingly, Pastor Katie



Happy Birthday!!! Happy Anniversary!!!

March Birthdays

- 1-Sharon Gunuskey
- 2-Mark Zimmer
- 4-Janet Olver
- 7-Rev. Dr. Jimmy Hopper
- 9-Patricia Watson
- 14-Bianca Plastaras
- 30-Elle Plastaras



March Anniversaries

- 16-Sharon & Glen Gunuskey

April Birthdays

- 3-Pat Rine
- 8-Betsy Lacey
- 10-Glen Gunuskey
- 12-Joan Green
- 13-Mary Evans
- 14-Ruth Ann Swingle
- 16-Yvonne Plastaras
- 19-Beth Hopkins
- 20-Gretchen Erk
- 21-David Czapnik
- 22-Sarah Hiller
- 25-Brooke Hopkins



April Anniversaries

- 11-Forrest & Stacey Goodenough
- 17-Betsy & Frank Lacey

May Birthdays

- 9-Bill Bell
- 19-Pat Plastaras



May Anniversaries

- 9-Lee & Ruth Ann Swingle
- 20-Kevin & Marian Knapp
- 30-Craig & Janet Olver



PRAYER CONCERNS

Ruth Ann Swingle, Kathie Dulay, Sharon & Glen Gunuskey, Alyson Dame, Courtney, Anne, Deanna Sandlin, Steve & Mary Lou Popson, John G., Claire, Mrs. Sanderson, Jimmy.



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.



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Christian Care Committee News



During the months of December, 2025 and January, 2026 we have continued to record the weekly attendance of our congregation. The totals are as follows:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>
December (includes Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve Svcs)	221	37
January (1/25 snow – no service)	71	18

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.

Palm Sunday is March 29th



We will kick off Holy Week in our 10:00 a.m. worship with our children’s Parade of Palms and our beautiful worship.

Palm Sunday

It is said that “when you sing, you pray twice”. We will be so blessed.

Lenten Wreath Devotional Leaders Needed

Beginning Sunday the February 22nd we will be starting something very special in our worship services for Lent. Like the advent candles and devotions that are done by families and clusters of good friends each Sunday of advent, we will be using a crown of thorns-like wreath and 5 purple, one red, and one white candle for Lent.

Instead of lighting them each week. We will extinguish one each week. There are readings provided for each Sunday.



Please talk to Pastor Katie to sign up and be given the readings.

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.



Maundy Thursday Communion Tenebrae Service April 2



We will gather at 6:30 p.m. to observe this Holy night that remembers the institution of the Lord's Supper by Jesus as he prepared to go to the cross.

We will also remember his words from the cross with a selection of powerful readings by our Session Elders. This portion of the service is also known as a Tenebrae, or service of darkness.

As we progress through the last sayings of Christ from the cross from scripture, the candles will be extinguished one by one until with Christ's final words, the lights are turned off and the chancel area stripped of cloths and decorative items and then the lights and the last candle, The Christ Candle, will be extinguished. And then as we remember Christ's death, we will hear the haunting and beautiful presentation of Were You There by Jill Reed.

Come and be deeply touched by the Passion of

Daylight saving time will begin at

2:00 AM on Sunday, March 8



The account balances as of February 18:

General Account	\$ 24149.22
Rental Account	\$13582.87
Capital Account/Living Nativity	\$4289.83
Savings Account	\$34311.56
Money Market Account	\$40585.25

Easter Sunday

Join us Easter Sunday at 10:00 a.m. for glorious worship celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Come rejoice with us!

Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday.

Come see how many hidden eggs and goodies you can find!



Thank you to Sally Rutherford

It is a true gift when an interim musician steps in with grace and skill to provide our church with such beautiful music. Thank you for stepping in to fill the gap.

We are truly blessed by your musical ability and talent.

You are doing a wonderful job!

THANK YOU





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NOTES FROM THE SESSION



On January 18, the annual meeting was held to review our accomplishments of the last year and our plans for 2026. Also, our new Session members were ordained and installed during worship.

We welcomed Sue Seber and Todd Watson to the Session. Elder Craig Olver graciously agreed to a second term as Elder. I

n February, Session did not meet due to the absence of the Clerk (translation: Linda is in Arizona). The March meeting will take place on March 15. Remember that the Session minutes are posted in the Ladies' Parlor. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to speak to any elder.





Greeter/Usher List 2026

March

- March 1- Dave and Sue Seber
- March 8- Kevin and Marian Knapp
- March 15- Cindy Henry and Pat Rine
- March 22- Mark and Linda Zimmer
- March 29- Annie Dame and Joan Green

April

- April 5- Joan Green and Betsy Lacey
- April 12- Frank and Helen Ward
- April 19- Craig and Janet Olver
- April 26- Cindy Henry & Pat Rine

May

- May 3- Dave and Sue Seber
- May 10- Kevin and Marian Knapp
- May 17- Morgan Delemarre, Linda Malakin & Sally Rutherford
- May 24- Mark and Linda Zimmer
- May 31- Annie Dame and Joan Green

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!

Fifth Sunday Brunch

to



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

The upcoming dates are March, May, August, November. Hope to see everyone there.

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

Pastor Jimmy's Bible Study

Pastor Jimmy's Bible study is continuing with the study of the Psalms on Wednesday afternoons at 2 and 5:30. All are welcome to join. We have also added a live feature on Pastor Katie's facebook page at 2:00 p.m. for anyone who wants to be present virtually. Login to her page at RevDr Katie

Pop-Up Easter at Bethany Village and Ellen Memorial April 2

Once again we will be taking the message of the Gospel live and in music to the good and precious souls at our two facilities near and dear to our hearts. We will costume and have scripts to tell the Easter story and have props to bring the story to life. We will sing the old hymns and they will be transported back to the time of Jesus' Resurrection morning and that Easter story will come to life for them.

These precious folks no longer get to church, so we are honored to bring church to them. Join us and add your voice or acting skills on April 2nd at 1:30 and 2:30 respectively. Be part of the love.



MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

Our final project for December was the assembling of Christmas gift bags for our Bethany Village friends. The Christmas sleighs were given as well along with bags of sugar-free candies and various puddings for those on soft diets.

During our January meeting we listed our goals for 2026 with ideas for adding new individuals and/or groups to help.

After our worship service on February 8th, known as Souper Bowl Sunday, we collected various food items and monetary donations for the Emergency Food Pantry in Honesdale. At our February hymn-sing at Bethany Village we delivered goodies for Valentine’s Day including valentines for each resident with lollipops attached. For those on restricted diets we sent valentine gift bags of sugar-free candy and assorted puddings for those requiring soft foods only.

We look forward to another successful year of assisting those individuals who need it and letting them know of God’s love for each of them.

NEW Recycle Beyond The Bag Program

Bethany Presbyterian will be participating in the Recycle Beyond The Bag program in partnership with the Odd Fellow Organization. This program which recycles plastics to make earth-friendly composite decking and railing works to not only reduce landfill waste but provide sustainable park benches to non-profit organizations at no charge. Through their efforts, the Odd Fellows recently were able to donate a bench to Ladore Retreat Center. You can help by bringing in your clean dry household plastics. A collection bin is located in the Ladies Parlor for your convenience.

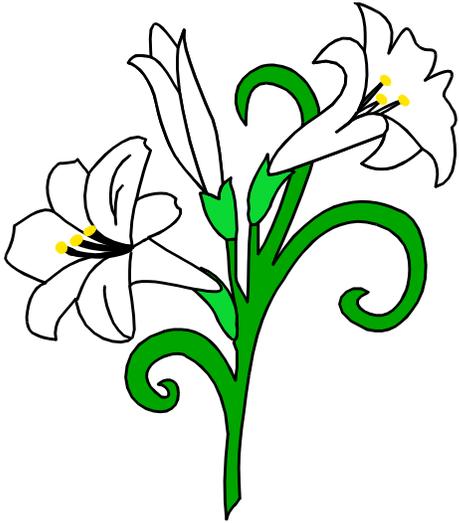
What can be recycled?

- Bread bags -Produce bags -Newspaper sleeves -Salt and Ice bags
- Grocery bags -Cereal bags -Bubble wrap -Plastic shipping envelopes
- Dry cleaning bags - Ziplock and other reclosable food storage bags

A special thank you to Forrest Goodenough for bringing this opportunity to Bethany.

EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies will be placed in front of the church on
Easter Sunday, April 5th



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
599 Bethany Turnpike
Honesdale, PA 18431
570-253-3625

EACH IS AVAILABLE FOR A DONATION OF \$12.50
(Please make check payable to Bethany Presbyterian Church)

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE:
SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026

Please Print Legibly

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

GIVEN BY:

PLEASE TAKE FLOWERS AFTER EASTER SERVICE

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

Church email –
bethanypapresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

On the web at:
www.bethanypresbychurch.org



Class of 2026
Pat Rine
Sally Rutherford

The Session
Class of 2027
Linda Zimmer
Annie Dame

Class of 2028
Sue Seber
Todd Watson
Craig Olver

**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 Pastor Katie



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