



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



November–December 2022

Devotional

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This edition of Church Chat covers a lot of territory.

We celebrate the Reformation Sunday, October 30.

Sunday, November 20 is the Feast of Christ the King, marking the end of the Liturgical year.

Advent begins Sunday of the Birth of Jesus Christ, November 27 and marks the beginning of the new liturgical year. We prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of the final coming of Jesus Christ and the completion of God's reign.

Then we celebrate Christmas.

Then Watchnight, December 31 and the start of a New Year, January 1.

January 6 is Epiphany, which is also the date when our Eastern Orthodox brothers and sisters celebrate Christmas. The Wisemen arrive to worship the newborn King, who was anything but newly born when they finally made it to Bethlehem. Isaiah 60:1-3 sets the tone:

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Here at Bethany, please note that January 22 will be my last Sunday in our pulpit, and Brenda and I will move back home to West Chester, Ohio sometime before January 31. Our time here has been one of deepening faith and love. We have faced some challenges here have grown through the experience.

We thank you for the opportunity to have been a part of the Bethany PA church family, and we pray for you as you search for your next called pastor.

Northeastern Pennsylvania is a beautiful part of the country. We shall cherish the blessings we have received here and will continue to hold you in prayer.

I remain
Sincerely yours in Christ,
Pastor David

CHRISTIAN CARE COMMITTEE NEWS



The Christian Care Committee continues to forward email prayer requests whenever we receive them and are more than happy to do so.

We, as Christians, certainly do not have all the answers about God. One thing we do know, however, is that He answers prayer! Each of us in Bethany Presbyterian Church has received answers to prayer many, many times. When God answers our requests, passed along through email, we report that for two reasons.

First and foremost, we want to glorify God for what He has done by answering our prayers. The second reason to pass along good reports is to rejoice with those who have received the answered prayer as well as to encourage those who have prayed. We each need to be encouraged from time to time and the realm of prayer is no exception.

So, keep those requests coming and we will continue to pass them along and to pray. You may contact Sue Seber directly or leave a request with David Choate, who will forward it to Sue.



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



LADIES' LUNCHESS A POPULAR GATHERING

On Saturday, September 17th the ladies met at Gretchen's Grotto for our most popular gathering of the year – our annual dessert party!

13 of us made our way to the restaurant and indulged in specially-made treats such as Peanut Butter Brownie Bomb, Carrot Cake, Banana Cream pie, Coconut Cream pie, Apple Crisp ala mode and Brownie ala mode.

Needless to say, all of us were very glad we set aside this day for a time of delicious treats and encouraging fellowship. Just maybe we will forget about dessert once each year; we may opt for every six months!

Our next get-together is Saturday, November 19 at Gretchen's Grotto at noon.

We always welcome newcomers, so if you haven't been with us before, give it a try. You won't be disappointed.

Contact me, Sue Seber, to reserve your seat at the table.

Account Balances as of October 20, 2022

General Account	\$28547.05
DWH/Rental Account	\$608.54
Capital/Living Nativity Account	\$3379.76
Savings Account	\$63445.02

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.

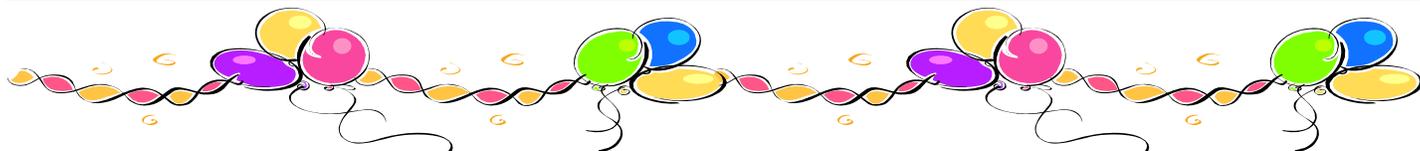
If any additional information is needed please talk to Pat Rine.

Important Dates

Sunday, December 11– Annual Meeting for Election of Officers

Sunday, December 18– Ordination & Installation of New Elders

Sunday, January 22– Annual Congregational & Corporate Meeting for Reports and Budget Review



Happy Birthday!!! Happy Anniversary!!!

November Birthdays

- 6-Jamie Thorpe
- 7-Rick Dulay
- 11-Sally Rutherford, MaryAnn Swingle
- 16-Alan Haviland
- 24-Frank Lacey
- 25-Marchel Paule-Green
- 28-Linda Malakin
- 29-Anita Rine



November Anniversaries

- 12-Clark & Vicky Bonear
- 23-Jim & Karen Budd
- 25-Alan & Rochelle Haviland

December Birthdays

- 5-Craig Olver, Lisa Hutchison
- 6-Clara Kelly
- 7-Madison Haviland
- 11-Kevin Swingle
- 16-Seth Gunuskey
- 18-Linda Brenner
- 25-David Seber



December Anniversaries

None

Greeter/Usher List

November

- 6-Ron & Terry Lawrence
- 13-Kevin & Marian Knapp
- 20-Marilyn Czapnik & Cindy Henry
- 27-Lorraine & Dan Gallik

December

- 4-Craig & Janet Olver
- 11-Jim & Karen Budd
- 18-Joan Green & Susan Thomes
- 24-(Christmas Eve) Kevin & Marian Knapp
- Kathie Dulay & Aaron Haviland

January Birthdays

- 4-Jeanne Bartocci
- 9-Mariann Gunuskey
- 12-Stacey Goodenough, Samantha Zimmer
- 24-Addison Grace Swingle
- 30-Kendra Dyer & Rev. David A. Choate



January Anniversaries

None

PRAYER CONCERNS



Robert Dyer, Gretchen Erk, Dick Erk, Shirley Olver, Marilyn Barbe, Ruth Ann Swingle, Adam Lawrence, & Lisa Rittenhouse

Christmas Potpourri

JAR INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 cup fresh cranberries
- 1 orange (sliced)
- 4 cinnamon sticks
- 1 tablespoon cloves
- 1/8 tsp nutmeg



INSTRUCTIONS:

To fill your home with a delicious holiday scent: bring 3 cups of water plus jar contents to a simmer over low heat, uncovered, in a small pot. Check the water periodically and add more if it starts to get low.



Christmas 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!

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!



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES HAVE RESUMED

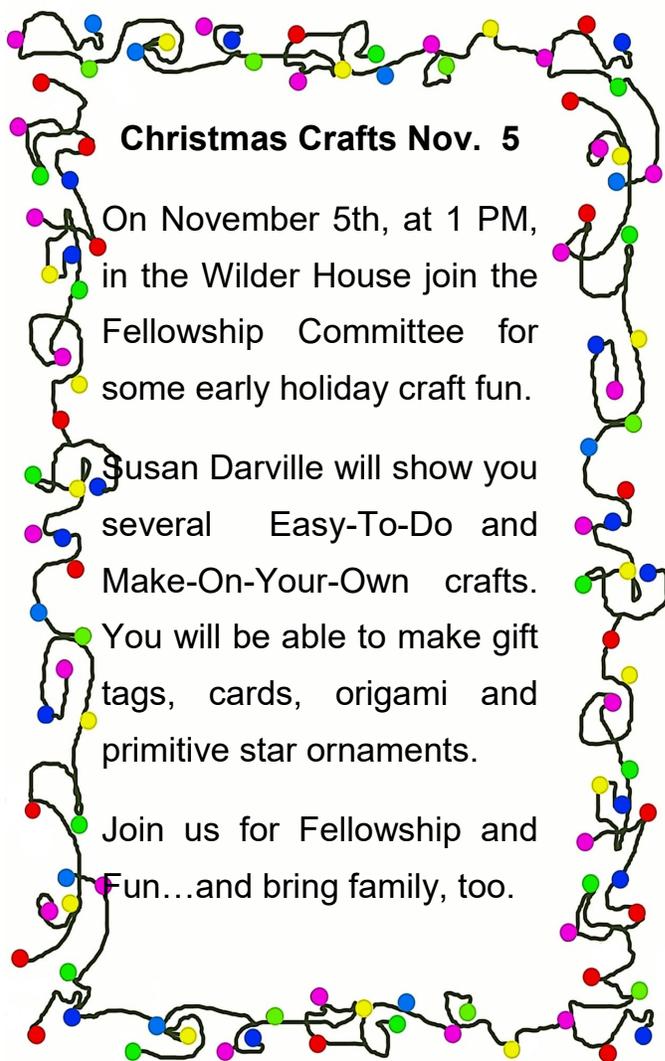
CAROLING SAT. DECEMBER 10



Wanna get in the Christmas spirit? Well, singing, giving to others, and being with other believers will most certainly make you feel joyful this holiday!

Join us on Saturday, December 10th serving our Lord and enjoying the life He has given us by singing Christmas carols to shut ins.

After caroling we'll grab a bite to eat, so mark your calendars and bring smiles to others.



Christmas Crafts Nov. 5

On November 5th, at 1 PM, in the Wilder House join the Fellowship Committee for some early holiday craft fun.

Susan Darville will show you several Easy-To-Do and Make-On-Your-Own crafts.

You will be able to make gift tags, cards, origami and primitive star ornaments.

Join us for Fellowship and Fun...and bring family, too.



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



Christmas Eve/Candlelight Service

We will be having our traditional Christmas Eve/Candlelight Service on December 24 at 7pm. If there are changes or the service is cancelled there will be an announcement on the church answering machine (570-256-6316).



Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Join us as we prepare for the advent season on Sunday, November 20th after worship to decorate our sanctuary, the Wilder House, and outside the church.

There will be no Sunday worship service on Christmas Day December 25

Do You Know of a Family in Need?

Do You Know of a Family in Need? Wayne County Human Services offers free food baskets for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas for those in need. If you know of a person/family that may benefit, contact Susan Thomes.



Please note that even if a family receives food stamps, they are not automatically eligible for a basket from Wayne County Human Services. They still need to be referred. Information that will be needed to make the referrals is: name of family members, address, phone number, ages of family members, total number of family members, and their pantry number.

If the family does not have a pantry number, they will need to call Wayne County office of Human Services at 570-253-4262 and provide them with their name(s), date(s) birth, Social Security number, and income.



We celebrated the baptism of Morgan Delamarre, daughter of Edward and Bridget Delamarre and granddaughter of Ted and Linda Malakin on Sunday, September 25, 2022. What a privilege it is to welcome a child of God into our midst! May God bless Morgan always.

New APP for the church

We have a new APP for the church and all you have to do is go to the app store and download, type in Bethany Presbyterian church at app store. Give it a try and let David Czapnik know what you think.



Fun Congregational Picnic

The rain held off for our Congregational Picnic at the Wilder House on Saturday, October 1st. Forty-three members and guests enjoyed BBQ meat, sides, and delicious desserts. Some sat around a roaring fire, while others played horseshoes, corn hole, badminton, and croquet. Some enjoyed watching Susan Darville put a ringer on top of Ron Lawrence's ringer! It was a wonderful day to spend with our church family. Thank you from the session to the Fellowship Committee for hosting the picnic this year





Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



The Pastoral Nominating Committee from left to right Craig Olver, Yvonne Plastaras, Kevin Knapp, Mark Zimmer, Sally Rutherford, Terry Lawrence. These members will be hard a work to help seek for permanent pastor in the coming months.

News From Mission Committee

The Mission Committee will be offering turkey dinners to anyone in need.

Thanksgiving baskets will also be given to Children and Youth Services as they have expressed a need for them. We'll have options for the congregation to give either food or money to buy food. We will continue to offer baskets from Wayne County Office of Human Resources. Look for a display in the Ladies Parlor soon with post it notes to pick food items to donate for baskets.

We decided to send each of our college students a \$25 gift card.

The committee will be having a coat drive to collect clean useable hats, coats, gloves and scarves to give out to the community on November 12th. Please bring whatever items you wish to donate to Church by Friday, November 11th.

blessing mix

- Bucles** represent the cornucopia, a horn of plenty.
- Pretzels** represent arms folded in thanks and prayer.
- Gandy corn** reminds us that during the first winter, the Pilgrims were allowed only a few kernels of corn per day because food was so scarce.
- Seeds** are promise of a future harvest if they are planted and well tended.
- Fruit** is a reminder of the harvest gifts from the land.
- M&Ms** are for Memories of those who came before us.
- Hershey's Kiss** is a reminder of the love of family and friends that sweetens our lives.

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.



Before and after photos of Craig Olver and Gary Heller taking care of a tree on the church grounds that has been affected by the emerald ash borer insect.



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



NOTES FROM THE SESSION

There have been important steps taken recently concerning the future of the church. The major event was the election of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) at a Called Congregational Meeting on October 9, 2022. The Church Nominating Committee worked diligently to provide a slate of people who accepted the responsibility of searching for our next Installed Pastor. Those elected to serve as the PNC are Yvonne Plataras, representing the Session, Terry Lawrence, Craig Olver, Sally Rutherford, Mark Zimmer, representing the congregation, and Kevin Knapp, as alternate. The Committee will meet, in the near future, with Rev. David Brague, from the Presbytery, to discuss the process and begin their work. We are thankful for these people who were willing to take on this task. Please pray in earnest for them as they begin, continue and complete their work.



We will be celebrating Thanksgiving Sunday on November 20, 2022, with Sue Seber leading the Worship Service. We truly are blessed and have much for which to be thankful. Come join us to celebrate Thanksgiving.

It's hard to believe that Advent is not far off, with the first Sunday coming on November 27, 2022. We will have our annual Christmas Eve Service at 7:00PM on Saturday, December 24, 2022. Since Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, it has been the tradition of this congregation to not have a service on Christmas Day. The Poinsettia display will be on Sunday, December 18th and the order form can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. 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.

The Annual Congregational Meeting for Election of Officers will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2022, immediately following the Worship Service. The Ordination and Installation of Officers will take place on Sunday, December 18, 2022, during the Worship Service. The Annual Congregational Meeting for Reports and Budget Review will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2023, immediately following the Worship Service. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend these important meetings. This is your church at work.

We celebrated the baptism of Morgan Delamarre, daughter of Edward and Bridget Delamarre and granddaughter of Ted and Linda Malakin on Sunday, September 25, 2022. What a privilege it is to welcome a child of God into our midst! May God bless Morgan always.

It is an exciting and busy time for the Session as we look forward to the future to see what God has planned for the Bethany Presbyterian Church. We ask that you keep the Elders and the Congregation in your daily prayers and for God's guidance in the future.

**JOIN US FOR AN ENJOYABLE EVENING
AT THE
JAZZ NOEL CONCERT
6:30 PM-7:30 PM
AT THE
CARBONDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022**

Pastor David's Stated Office Hours

Pastor David's stated office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM and Wednesday 2:00 – 8:00 PM.

Please remember that Pastor David is available to meet with you at times other than these, and that there are times when he is called away from the office during posted office hours.

If you would like to see Pastor David at church, your home, office, a restaurant for a meal or coffee, or for a hospital or nursing home visit, please call him anytime at 937 581-7414.



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- ◆ Looking into painting the exterior of the church in the spring 2023.
- ◆ Adopt-a-highway was done in the fall.
- ◆ Thank you to Pat Plastaras, Craig Olver, & Gary Heller & all who helped in staining the exterior and replacing the window trim of Blancher Heller Room.
- ◆ The church emergency lighting will be worked on.
- ◆ The Bell Choir is moved to the front of the church on the North Side.
- ◆ Thanks to Dan Gallik for doing the upkeep on the lawn mowing.
- ◆ The luminaries will be done this year for Christmas Eve Service. Weather permitting.
- ◆ The budget for 2023 is being worked on. 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

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.

Daylight saving time will end at 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 6
Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour



Repairs to the Exterior of Church Building

Building & Grounds committee has been looking at the need to repair the exterior of the church building. We have estimates for both painting and siding, and the prices for both are staggering. We had hoped to obtain federal or state grant money to help offset the costs. In order to make the grant applications, our building must be listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. We are moving forward to apply for our church to get this designation.

One piece of the application is that we must submit a history of the building, together with a bibliography. There is an excellent history both on the church's website and in our mission study booklet. However, there is no bibliography citing where the information came from. If anyone knows what publication the history information came from, please contact Linda Zimmer with this information. It is an important piece in completing the application.

We have disappointing news as far as the grants that are available. We have looked into grants that were suggested by professionals. Specifically they are the Keystone Grant, Partners for Sacred Places, and the USDA Community Development grants. We discovered that the grants would not supply funds for either paint or siding, although possibly replacement windows, shutters, and doors could be eligible. Additionally, some of the eligibility requirements preclude us from being able to receive the grants, for instance the building would need to be open to the public a minimum of 100 days per year. This is just one example of the restrictions.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is in the process of deciding whether to move forward with the grant applications in light of the above conditions. -Submitted by Linda Zimmer, Building & Grounds member



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



2022 RALPH A. TAYLOR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



The Finance Committee is pleased to announce that the Ralph A. Taylor Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to the following members of our congregation:

Bianca Plastaras – attending Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ

Emily Gunuskey – attending Lackawanna College, Hawley, PA / East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg, PA

Amanda Gunuskey – attending Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA

Kyler Gunuskey – attending Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA

Julia Hopkins – attending New England College, Henniker, NH

Congratulations and our best wishes to these students in their future endeavors.

Did You Know We Have A Website & Facebook Page?



We invite everyone to visit our new website www.bethanypresbychurch.com to listen to Rev. David A. Choate's sermon each Sunday.

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

Dave Czapnik is continuing to post our videos on our website and Facebook page. He has noticed using my Google Analytics that the viewership has dropped off and believes the reason for this is people are starting to go back to church in larger numbers.

If anyone has any interesting information that we could put on our Facebook site please reach out to Dave Czapnik by email davidczapnik@yahoo.com or call 570-698-5006 and he will put it on.

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.



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 the poinsettia.



The Poinsettia display will be on Sunday, December 18th. 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, November 27, 2022

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 \$10.50

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

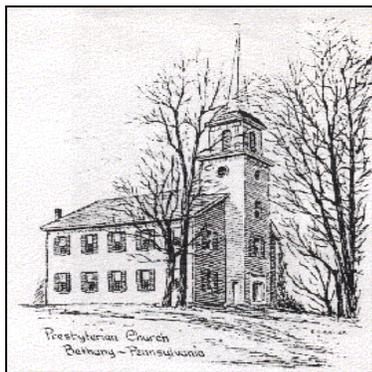
431 Wayne Street

Bethany, PA 18431

(570) 253-6316

On the web at:

www.bethanypresbychurch.com



The Session

Class of 2022

Janet Olver

Pat Rine

David Czapnik

Dan Gallik

Class of 2023

Marian Knapp

Joan Green

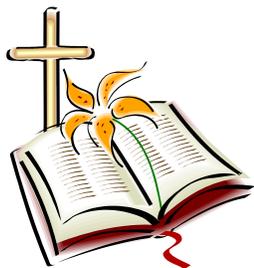
Class of 2024

Yvonne Plastaras

Linda Zimmer

Bruce Hutchison

Please inform the Pastor if you are aware of anyone in the hospital or in need of a visit



Rev. David A. Choate, Pastor

Cell 937-581-7414

Email: Rvdac@yahoo.com

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.



Rev. Choate's sermons are available on our website

www.bethanypresbychurch.com

Audio version will be made available every Sunday.