



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat

May–June 2026



THOUGHTS
FROM THE
HEART

Dr. Katie

*Thoughts from the Heart for May, June, and July
“Keep Praying and Casting!”
Suggested Scripture(s): Psalm 33:22 and Ecclesiastes 11:1*

What is found below is entitled “True Story.” I cannot find an author. It’s one of those writings that someone sent me via the internet who got it from someone else via the internet!

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day while trying to eke out a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to the waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself.

Farmer Fleming saved the boy from what could have been a slow and terrifying death. And the next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the farmer’s sparse surroundings. An eloquently dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. “I want to repay you,” said the nobleman. “You saved my son’s life.”

“No, I can’t accept payment for what I did,” the farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that same moment, the farmer’s own son came to the door of the farm house. “Is that your son?” the nobleman asked. “Yes,” Farmer Fleming replied proudly.

“I’ll make you a deal,” the nobleman said. “Let me take him and give him a good education. If this lad is anything like his father, he’ll grow to a man you can be proud of.”

And that’s just what happened! In time Farmer Fleming’s son graduated from St. Mary’s Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years later, the nobleman’s son was again in peril – this time from pneumonia. What saved his life? Penicillin! The name of the nobleman whose son Farmer Fleming saved – Lord Randolph Churchill; and the name of Lord Randolph’s son? – Sir Winston Churchill.

It has been said through the years that what goes around comes around. This story is a great example – Farmer Fleming did what he had to do to save a young boy named Winston Churchill. The nobleman and father, Lord Randolph Churchill, said thank you to Farmer Fleming by giving his own son an education. And year’s later, Winston Churchill’s life was again saved, this time by Farmer Fleming’s son – Sir Alexander Fleming – through his efforts and research with penicillin. Where would England have been during World War II without Sir Winston Churchill’s inspiring leadership?

Such is the case with our faith – God saves us in Christ – in response we say thank you through faith, worship, service, and giving – and the blessings from saying thank you to God come back around to us – and the cycle continues! The Scripture says, Keep casting your bread upon the waters....

Lovingly, Pastor Katie



Happy Birthday!!! Happy Anniversary!!!

May Birthdays

9-Bill Bell

May Anniversaries

2-Dan & Lorraine Gallik

9-Lee & Ruth Ann Swingle

20-Kevin & Marian Knapp

30-Craig & Janet Olver



June Birthdays

3-Kathie Dulay

10-Debbie Gottshall

17-Zachary Hopkins

21-Tim Rine, Karen Budd

24-Lori Thorpe

10-Glen Gunuskey



June Anniversaries

4-Steve & Betsy Heckler

10- Bruce & Lisa Hutchison

24-Keith & Mariann Gunuskey

25-Mark & Linda Zimmer

July Birthdays

10-Julia Hopkins

11-Kaitlyn Gunuskey

12- Lee Swingle

26-Linda Stiles



July Anniversaries

15-Joan & Dennis Green

30-Helen & Frank Ward

**Mothers' Day and Fathers' Days
will be celebrated**

Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day will be special days in the life of Bethany Presbyterian Church. All women and all men are celebrated on these days. No one is left out. Join us for the celebrations.

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.

PRAYER CONCERNS



Ruth Ann Swingle, Kathie Dulay, Glen Gunuskey, Alyson Dame, Anne, Deanna Sandlin, Steve & Mary Lou Popson, John G., Sean, Jimmy, Stephen Moulton, Tony.



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Christian Care Committee News



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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>
February	89	22
March (5 Sundays)	149	30

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.

Graduate Celebrations

As soon as possible, let Pastor Katie know if you have any graduates in your family so the church can celebrate them in worship the first Sunday in June. This is an important occasion to all of us! We love you!

Coffee/ Refreshment Hour

Please join us after worship for coffee hour with refreshments .

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



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.



Pentecost Sunday Birthday of the Church

It's time to pull out your red dress and sports jacket or tie. May 24th we will be celebrating Pentecost Sunday marking 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord and time to celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church in a big way.

Pentecost is actually the second most important Sunday of the Christian Year, following Easter Sunday. Christmas was added into the Christian calendar many years later, as cultures began to celebrate birthdays of important figures. It was placed in December to rival the pagan winter solstice observance, but would most likely have been in the Spring, since sheep were in the fields. So, we make a huge deal out of Pentecost and the Coming of the Holy Spirit. We will be decorating the sanctuary with red geraniums ordered by members in honor or memory of someone precious. We will have full communion, which is when the elders bring communion to you in the pews. We will wear red clothing and have red balloons and sing special music. Our response will be expressed in worship as we remember the Holy Spirit's blowing in and among us.



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NOTES FROM THE SESSION



The Session met in March to receive reports, pray for our church, and conduct church business. Discussion was held regarding a meeting between the Session and two local Presbyterian pastors to ascertain whether we could find a way to make our investments perform better.

Some suggestions were received and two church members are planning to meet with the Dime Bank to see if our money should be moved.

The next Session meeting is May 17. Please speak to any Session member if you have questions or concerns.

The Pastor's Summer Travels

Pastors Hopper to travel in July with their adult children July 25 through August 8 to travel to the northern part of New York state and then make a loop through Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut to help Katie complete her lower 49 bucket list.

Jimmy of course will be hitting golf courses and Katie, literary spots. They both will be looking for historical spots that they both love. Keep them in your prayers.

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE LADIES' LUNCHESES?



Now that spring has arrived, we are pretty much assured of good weather for our ladies' lunches. We have enjoyed lunch and fellowship during the last three months at Betty Boop's Airport Café, the

Wayne Hotel and Gretchen's Grotto. We are always open to suggestions about additional restaurants to enjoy our time together and to try a new meal.

If you've never enjoyed one of our lunches, why not come with us in May? You just might meet a special guest, as we have had surprise visitors in the past. We have a great meal and wonderful fellowship with one another. Questions or reservations? Contact Sue Seber

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 dates are May, August, & November. Hope to see everyone there.

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

Account balances as of 4/20/26:

General Account:	\$20733.71
Rental Account:	\$15453.12
Capital Account/Living Nativity:	\$4390.18
Savings Account:	\$34314.38
Money Market Account:	\$40611.05



Greeter/Usher List 2026

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

June

- June 7, 2026 - Joan Green and Betsy Lacey
- June 14, 2026 - Joan Green & Cindy Henry
- June 21, 2026 - Craig and Janet Olver
- June 28, 2026 - Morgan Delamarre, Linda Malakin and Sally Rutherford

July

- July 5, 2026 - Dave and Sue Seber
- July 12, 2026 - Kevin and Marian Knapp
- July 19, 2026 - Cindy Henry and Pat Rine
- July 26, 2026 - Mark and Linda Zimmer

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 Kelly Hopper. All are welcome.

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

The Mission committee has once again been busy over the last two months. At our February meeting we discussed providing Easter hams for families in need and announced our plans to take orders up until the end of March. We also purchased 5 lb. bags of potatoes to be given with each ham. All in all, 11 families have benefitted from the Mission Committee's gifts to them.

We provided an Easter pop-up for the residents of Bethany Village and Ellen Memorial Healthcare. Jesus, Peter, John, Mary and two angels provided the Easter story at both locations where the residents enjoyed seeing the live presentation.

Sally provided the music for our hymns and, although not in costume, was an integral part of the story. There are pictures of the event in another page of this newsletter.

It was such a blessing to be a blessing to others in the name of the Lord! We have as much fun helping others as the recipients do in receiving the love of God.

If anyone is interested in joining this committee, you may attend one of our monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday at 1:00 pm. We have lots of fun joining together to serve others in the name of the Lord!

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 May-September. 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**