



# Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



March– April 2025

THOUGHTS  
FROM THE  
HEART

**Dr. Katie**

As our nation struggles between to very polarized groups of leaders, many have become concerned and worried. Karl Barth, one of my favorite theologians wrote, “The Easter message tells us that our enemies, sin, the curse, and death, are beaten. Ultimately, they can no longer start mischief. They still misbehave as though the game were not decided, the battle not fought; we must still reckon with them, but fundamentally we must cease to fear them anymore.” This is the kind of courage reflected in one of my favorite Easter stories.

In about 1930, the Communist leader Bukharin journeyed from Moscow to Kiev. His mission was to address a huge assembly. His subject was atheism. For a solid hour he aimed his heavy artillery at Christianity, hurling argument and ridicule. At last, he was finished and viewed what seemed to be the smoldering ashes of men’s faith before him. “Are there any questions?” Bukharin demanded. A solitary man arose and asked permission to speak. He mounted the platform and moved close to the Communist. The audience was breathlessly silent as the man surveyed them first to the right, then to the left. At last, he shouted the ancient Orthodox greeting, “CHRIST IS RISEN!” The vast assembly arose as like one and the response came crashing like the sound of an avalanche, “HE IS RISEN INDEED!” Nothing can change this truth. God is still in charge. Thank the Lord!!

In love, Pastor Katie.

## Ash Wednesday Service



Ash Wednesday  
— Lent Begins

This year we will observe Ash Wednesday with a powerful service of scripture and song

that like Lessons and Carols, uses the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm to tell the story of our Shepherd Jesus Christ.

Come join us for this moving presentation and receive Holy Communion and the option of Ashes to remind you of your mortality to grasp the full importance of the resurrection in your life personally. It really hits home.

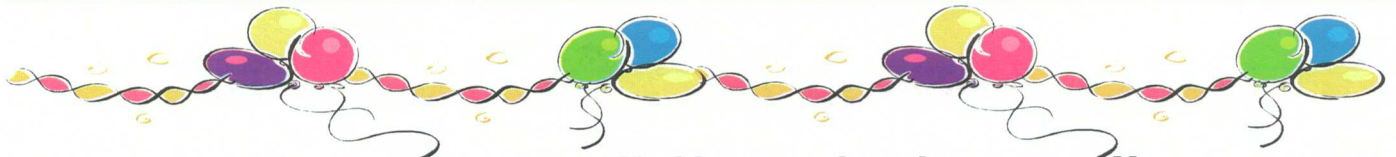
## Sermon Series for Lent

Pastor Katie will be doing a special sermon series for the Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday. The series will cover the seven sayings of Christ from the cross, know best as Seven Words of Love. These are the words read in the Tenebrae Service on the night of Maundy Thursday. But preaching a series allows Pastor Katie the opportunity to unpack the meaning and scriptural references that are tied up in these beautiful and treasured words.

For example:” Into Thy hands I commit my spirit” was the “Now I lay me down to sleep” of every Jewish child. Think of the power of that. Come and enjoy the depth of these beautiful words of love.



# Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



## Happy Birthday!!! Happy Anniversary!!!

### March Birthdays

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



### March Anniversaries

- 16-Sharon & Glen Gunuskey

### 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

### 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, Angela Mitchell



### April Anniversaries

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

### Easter Sunday

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



Pastor Katie will be preaching on, "Into Thy hands I Commit my Spirit" and there will be a special Children's sermon on caterpillars and butterflies. Following the benediction we will release the butterflies. All are welcome.

### 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.



## Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



### 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.

In December we didn't meet, as our Mission Committee held its pop-up Living Nativity at both Bethany Village and Ellen Memorial Healthcare.

January found us at Elegante's Restaurant with 8 in attendance including 1 special guest – Ryder!! Everyone enjoyed chatting with him and discovering just what has been happening with him in Pre-K. He is welcome to attend any time.

In February we ventured out to Betty Boop's Airport Café where we enjoyed good food and fellowship once again. Plans are in the works to visit the Wayne Hotel in March and to check in at Gretchen's Grotto for our semi-annual dessert party in April.

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

### Lenten Wreath Devotional Leaders Needed

Beginning Sunday the March 9th 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.

### 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!

### Palm Sunday

We will kick off Holy Week in our 10:00 a.m. worship with our children's Parade of Palms during the opening hymn.

This is such a fun time to wave palms and pretend to be with Jesus arriving in Jerusalem that day, long ago.

Jesus loved all the children so much and it is always a key ingredient in ministry to make a space for our little ones to experience that love in special ways. Palm Sunday is their day to parade and have fun with Jesus.

### 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.



# Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



## NOTES FROM THE SESSION



January and February were busy months for meetings. The Session met on January 19 with the Stewardship and Finance committee to ask questions about the budget. Several Session members helped Elder Mark Bartocci with the spaghetti supper on January 25. Our annual meeting was held on January 26. We attended a Leadership training on February 1, and had our Session stated meeting on February 2 following installation and ordination of officers. At that meeting we welcomed Judy Funk and Annie Dame to the Session. Annie

has accepted the call to serve as our Presbytery Commissioner for 2025.

We have decided to change the regular stated meeting time to the third Sunday of the month. Our next Session meeting will therefore be March 16.



### THE SESSION

Class of 2025

- Craig Olver
- Emily Gunuskey
- Mark Bartocci

Class of 2026

- Pat Rine
- Terry Lawrence
- Sally Rutherford

Class of 2027

- Linda Zimmer
- Judy Funk
- Annie Dame



# Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



## Maundy Thursday Communion/Tenebrae Service

We will gather at 7:00 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?* sung beautifully by Tim. When Pastor Katie relights the Christ candle to foreshadow the resurrection, we will depart in silence and wonder.

### 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.

### Newsflash

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!!

### 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.



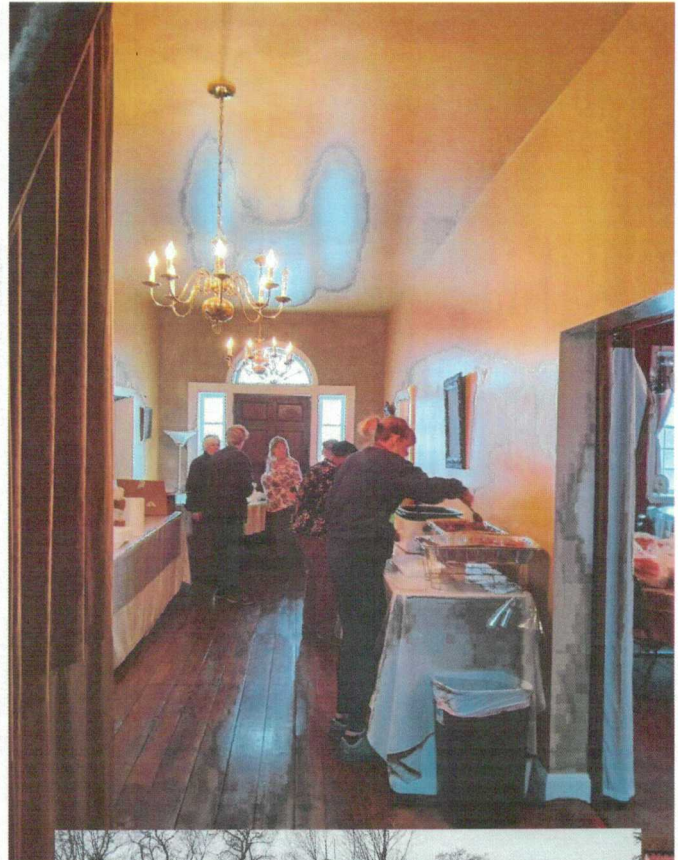
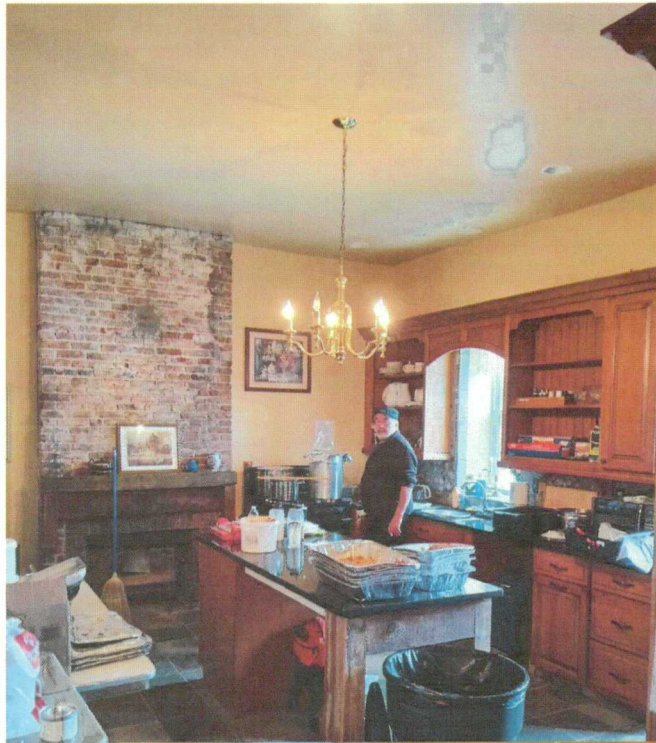
### Sunday School Teachers & assistants are needed

Sunday School Teachers and assistants are needed. See Sally Rutherford or Terry Lawrence if interested.

*Job 36:11 "If they obey and serve him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment."*



## Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



The fellowship committee has been busy raising funds. On January 25, under the direction of chef Mark Bartocci, church members packaged 174 pasta dinners and passed them out in our first-ever drive-through spaghetti dinner. Thank you to all who helped: Jeanne Bartocci, Linda Malakin, Marian Knapp, Kevin Knapp, Terry Lawrence, Craig Olver, Pat Rine, Betsy Lacey, Loise Johnson, Sue Seber, Dave Seber, Todd Watson and Linda Zimmer. Many thanks to all who sold tickets, The event raised about \$1200 to be put toward repairing the barn.



**BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

- Adopt-a-highway will be done in the spring. Date to be announced.

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

**Did You Know We Have A Website & Facebook Page?**



We invite everyone to visit our new website

[www.bethanypresbychurch.org](http://www.bethanypresbychurch.org) 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.

**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: March 30th. Hope to see everyone there.

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

**Butterflies for Easter Sunday**

For many years Pastor Katie has waited patiently for Easters that fall late in April. When they come, she likes to order school kits of butterfly baby caterpillars and give them out to the congregations' children and young at heart. They take them home and watch them eat and grow. When they spin their cocoon, they bring them back to Pastor Katie and she puts them in her cage until Easter Sunday.



On Easter Sunday following the benediction, praying it is 50 degrees, she hands them out one by one to children young and old to hold for a moment and let fly away, all the time explaining the miracle of the resurrection through the change of the butterfly. Pray for a warm Easter and healthy butterflies.

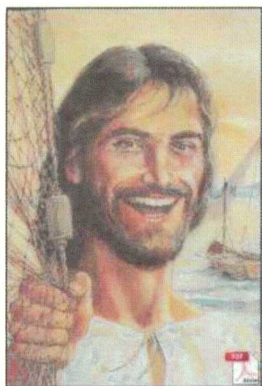
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Account balances as of February 16 are

- General Account: \$14154.06
- Rental Account: \$8328.17
- Capital Account/Living Nativity: \$5987.32
- Dime Bank Money Market: \$60368.09
- Savings Account: \$36022.01



### Holy Humor Sunday on April 27



This painting is called the *Resurrected Jesus by the Sea*. Notice he is laughing and joy filled. As a pastor I have led worship in many churches over the years. The thing that struck me most was the faces of the people. Some looked like they were at a wake or a

funeral. I preached a sermon years ago called "Where is the Passion?" Pastor Joan Salmon

Campbell, one of my favorite preachers, preached this theme at the first Wee Kirk Conference Jimmy and I ever attended. She too was dismayed to see the long dower faces in the pews.

It is as though that dower picture of Calvin made people think that was the way Presbyterians should look in worship. Not so!! Remember Jesus' first miracle? It was at a wedding party. He turned water into wine so the host, who ran out of wine would not have to stop the party. This year we are going to try something new for the Sunday after Easter. We are going to have a Holy Humor Sunday!

### Churches resurrect an old Easter custom (and so will we!)

*Many American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity-"Holy Humor Sunday" celebrations of Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday after Easter. For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including "Bright Sunday" (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced.*

Can you see us dancing to the hymn, "Lord of the Dance"? We can sing Amazing Grace to the tune of "Puff the Magic Dragon." And so many other fun worship experiences.

The custom of Holy Humor Sunday is rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. (I loved it when Easter fell on April Fools Day). "*Risus paschalis* - the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it.



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





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## 2025 RALPH A. TAYLOR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP Application Deadline



The Finance Committee will begin accepting applications for the Ralph A. Taylor Memorial Scholarship on February 1, 2025. This scholarship is available to high school graduates pursuing an undergraduate higher education and students currently enrolled in full-time college or tech school programs. The deadline to submit an application for consideration of a Ralph A. Taylor Memorial Scholarship is **April 15**.

Copies of the applications for First Time Applicants and for Returning Applicants along with the Guidelines/Qualifications will be available in the Ladies Parlor. These documents may also be found on the Church's website – [www.bethanypresbychurch.org](http://www.bethanypresbychurch.org).

Be sure to submit the application to the Scholarship Finance Committee, Bethany Presbyterian Church, 431 Wayne Street, Bethany, PA 18431, for receipt by April 15, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Finance Committee (Janet Olver, Lorraine Gallik, Pat Rine, Sally Rutherford, Elle Plastaras, or Mark Bartocci). Good luck to all applicants.

**Daylight saving time will begin at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 9**



### PRAYER CONCERNS



Marilyn Barbe, Ruth Ann Swingle, Kathie Dulay, Alyson Dame, Michael, Robin Williams, Mary, Neal Lawrence, Deanna & Bob Sandlin, Richard, Danell, Charlie, Steve & Mary Lou Popson.

### Christian Care Committee News



During the months of December of 2024 and January of 2025 we have continued to record the weekly attendance of our congregation. The totals are as follows:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>
December, 2024 *	271	10
January, 2025	153	9

\*The total attendance for the month of December is much higher than usual due to the month having 5 Sundays in addition to a Christmas Eve service

We served communion to Alison Dame and RuthAnn Swingle who are residents of Ellen Memorial Health Care. They attend our monthly hymn-sings and enjoy the fellowship and singing with other residents and appreciative of our visits as well.

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.

# EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies will be placed in front of the church on  
Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>



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 \$11.50**

(Please make check payable to Bethany Presbyterian Church)

**ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE:**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025**

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Please Print Legibly

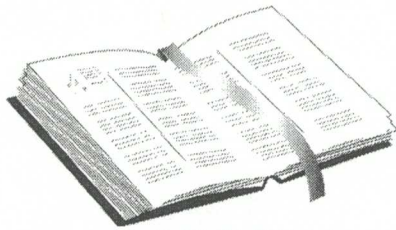
**IN MEMORY OF:**

**IN HONOR OF:**

**GIVEN BY:**

PLEASE PICK UP FLOWERS AFTER EASTER SERVICE

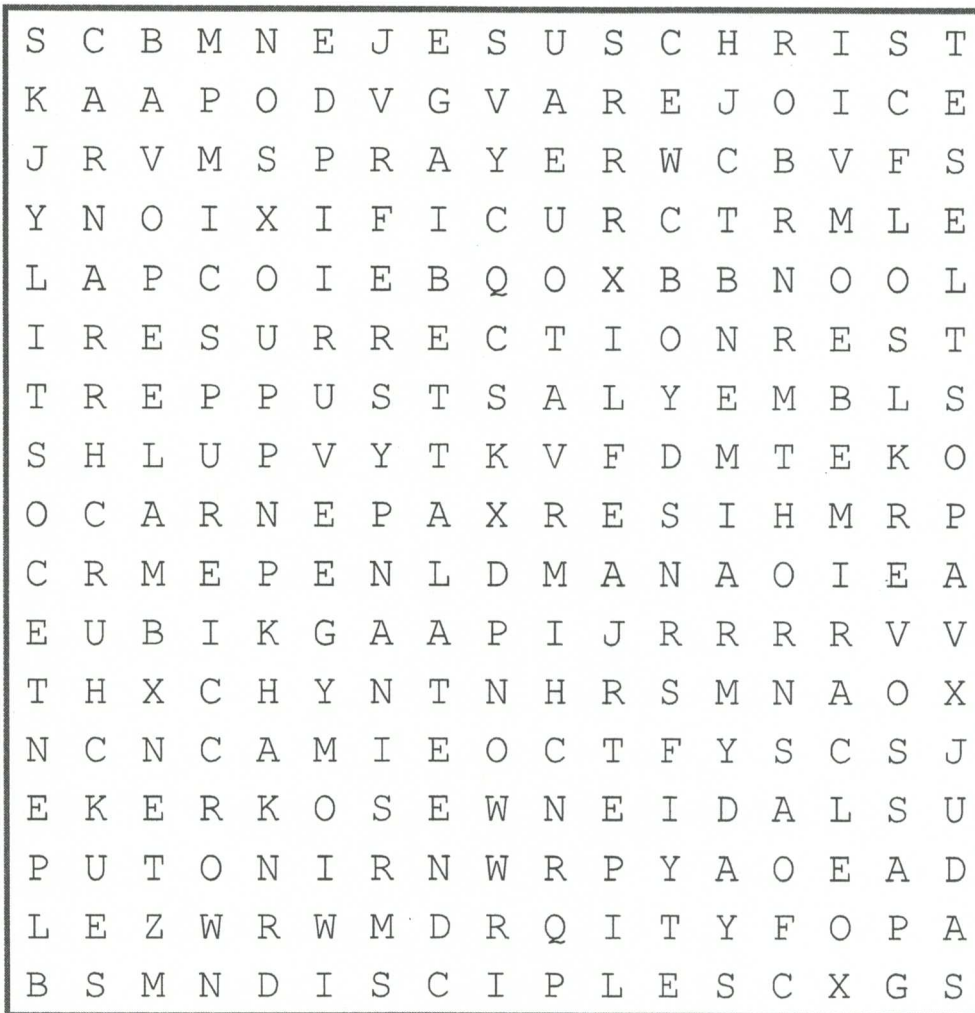
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Easter Story

## WORD SEARCH

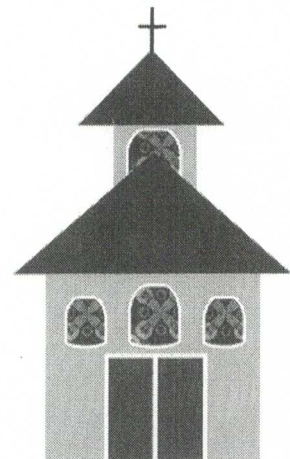
DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



APOSTLES  
BETRAYAL  
CAVE  
CHURCH  
CROSS  
CROWN  
CRUCIFIXION  
DISCIPLES  
FAITH  
GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST  
JUDAS  
LAMB  
LAST SUPPER  
LENT  
MARY  
MIRACLE  
PASSOVER  
PENANCE  
PENTECOST

PRAYER  
REDEMPTION  
REJOICE  
RESURRECTION  
RISEN  
SAVIOR  
SON  
THORNS  
TOMB

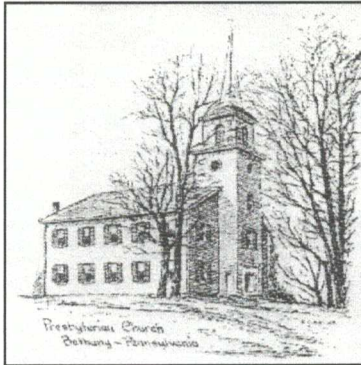


## Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

Church email –  
[bethanypapresbyterianchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bethanypapresbyterianchurch@gmail.com)

On the web at:  
[www.bethanypresbychurch.org](http://www.bethanypresbychurch.org)



### The Session

#### ***Class of 2025***

Craig Olver  
Emily Gunuskey  
Mark Bartocci

#### ***Class of 2026***

Pat Rine  
Terry Lawrence  
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](mailto:revdrkatie@gmail.com)

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.



Clerk of Session – Linda Zimmer  
Church Treasurer – Pat Rine  
Church Secretary – Marian Knapp

**Church sermons are  
Now available  
on our website and YouTube  
[www.bethanypresbychurch.org](http://www.bethanypresbychurch.org)  
Audio version will be made  
available every Sunday**