



Bethany Presbyterian Church Chat



May– June 2025

Suggested Scripture(s): Psalm 33:22 and Ecclesiastes 11:1

THOUGHTS
FROM THE
HEART

Dr. Katie

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

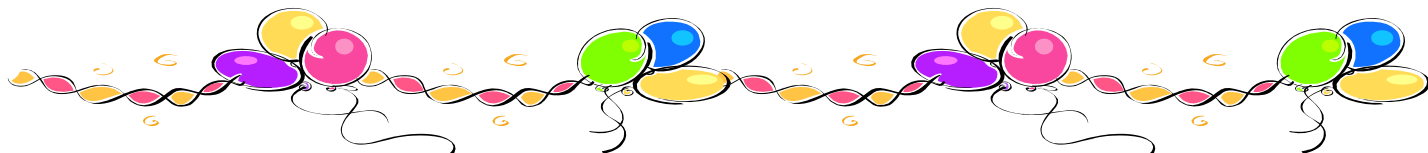
Sermon Series for the Coming Months

Pastor Katie will be continuing to preach on the words of Jesus as we enter into Eastertide, that powerful season that follows Easter and lasts until Pentecost. The theme of the next series is entitled, : The Seven Next Words of Christ. In many ways they are just as powerful and hold just as much meaning as those spoken from the cross. For these are his final words to his disciples before his ascension into heaven and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Join us as we learn together what these words have that can impact on our lives even still today.

Following this series, Pastor Katie will be preaching a series on the Twelve Disciples. Join us for worship as we head into the summer months and learn more about these first followers of Christ and how their lives were transformed by Him, and perhaps find our lives transformed as well.



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Happy Birthday!!! Happy Anniversary!!!

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

June Birthdays

- 3-Kathie Dulay
- 10-Debbie Gottshall
- 17-Zachary Hopkins
- 19- Emily Mitchell
- 21-Tim Rine, Karen Budd



June Anniversaries

- 2-Pat & Yvonne Plastaras
- 4-Steve & Betsy Heckler
- 10- Jeanne & Mark Bartocci, Bruce & Lisa Hutchison
- 24-Keith & Mariann Gunuskey
- 25-Mark & Linda Zimmer

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

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.



WHAT'S NEW WITH THE LADIES' LUNCHES?

The initial meeting to form a monthly gathering of ladies to enjoy lunch together was held in September of 2015. Yes, we have been gathering for the last 10 years! During those 10 years we have had as many as 14 ladies gathered together and as few as 2. In addition to members of our own church, two other bodies of believers have been represented over the years with one of those still attending.

During 2024 we happily welcomed Pastor Katie who is always a welcomed addition to our lunch fellowship. In other years we have celebrated new members of our church, handed out devotionals and Thanksgiving bags of muffins, enjoyed Taco Tuesdays and held a moving-away lunch for Susan T.

At one point we even held two lunches each month – one on Thursday and one on Saturday to accommodate those who weren't able to attend on the particular date chosen. During 2024 we officially named the second Thursday of each month as Ladies' Lunch Day which enabled those who wanted to attend the ability to plan ahead.

March's lunch was held at Betty Boop's Airport Café with 8 enjoying the food while watching planes taking off and landing. April 10th was our scheduled dessert party (including lunch for those who wanted it) at Gretchen's Grotto and May 8th will find us at Cora's Bistro in Hawley.

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

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!

Coffee/ Refreshment Hour



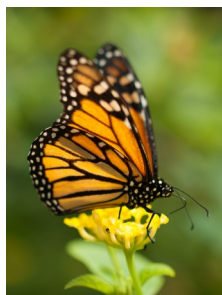
Please join us each week after worship, a coffee hour with refreshments is held. There are always interesting conversations and great fellowship during this time.



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BUTTERFLY
RELEASE
ON EASTER
SUNDAY





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NOTES FROM THE SESSION



The Session met in March to discuss church business and make some plans for the spring. Some ideas we discussed were ordering palms for Palm Sunday, looking for a way to do an online church directory, and preparing a surprise gift for mothers on Mothers Day.

Remember that once Session minutes are approved, they are posted in the Ladies Parlor, and you are free to read them. Or speak to a Session member if you have questions or concerns.

Due to a conflict with Easter falling on the third Sunday of April, our April meeting has been moved to April 27.

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

Graduate Celebration in Worship



June 1st we will be recognizing our Graduates. We will honor any high school, college, or graduate school graduates. Come celebrate these special life passages. Let the Pastor

Katie know if you have a high school or college graduate in your family that we have not heard about. We will be honoring high school seniors Elle Plastaras and Kristina Gonzales; College Graduates Amanda Gunuskey B.A. Elementary Education Special Education Shippensburg University, Kyler Gunuskey B.A. Elementary Education Special Education Bloomsburg University; Graduate School Dr. Keith Gunuskey PHD Education and School Safety from Louisiana State University. Come and enjoy this very special day.

Pentecost Sunday Birthday of the Church

It's time to pull out your red dress and sports jacket or tie. June 8th 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 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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Greeter/Usher List 2025

May

- 4- Joan Green and Betsy Lacey
- 11- Mark & Linda Zimmer
- 18- Cindy Henry and Pat Rine
- 25- David and Susan Seber

June

- 1- Kevin & Marian Knapp
- 8- Frank & Helen Ward
- 15- Linda Malakin & Morgan Delamarre
- 22- Craig & Janet Olver
- 29- Pat and Yvonne Plastaras

July

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

For Mother's Day from Pastor Katie with Love = A Mother's Prayers

Dr. McCosh, long ago president of Princeton had the custom of praying with members of his senior class before He told them goodbye, blessing them as they went into the world.

One day he asked a certain young man to kneel and pray with him, the man responded that he did not believe in God and did not believe in prayer. Hurt and astonished, the president shook hands with him and said, goodbye.

Some years later, Dr. McCosh was delivering a course of lectures in Ohio. Before going to the lecture hall, he was sitting in the lobby of his hotel. A man came to him and sat down beside him and said, "What is this, Dr. McCosh, I hear you are turning out infidels at Princeton? Surprised, Dr. McCosh asked him what he meant? The man then gave the history of the student who hand once refused to pray. It seems he had advanced to an important post in the schools of Cincinnati and that everywhere he went he was sowing seeds of unbelief and infidelity. But the man added, "He has a godly, praying mother, and I believe that in the end, she will win."

A year or two later Dr. McCosh was in his study at Princeton when a young man appeared with his young wife. He said to Dr. McCosh: "You would not remember me, but I am the student who refused to let you pray with him. I thought that I was an unbeliever, and wherever I could I sowed seeds of unbelief; but all that time my mother was praying for me. Her prayers have won. I am here at Princeton to enter the theological seminary, and before I go, I want you to kneel down with me and offer that long postponed prayer."

My dear and precious church family and friends never underestimate the prayers of a godly mother. If you are a mother be one and pray for your children. If you are a child with a mother still living love her and listen to what she prays for in, you and in your life.

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.



Easter Pop Up

The Mission Committee added a special twist to its monthly hymn sing at Bethany Village and Ellen Memorial. A pop-up Easter was presented, which included Mary Magdalene, the other women, the apostles, and Jesus emerging from the tomb. Helen Ward accompanied the hymns on the piano, and Pastor Katie provided the script. Cast members included Pastor Katie, Frank Ward, Mark Zimmer, Dave Seber, Sue Seber, Joan Green, Sally Rutherford, and Linda Zimmer. The audiences enjoyed the presentation and sang along. It was a beautiful celebration of Easter.



PRAYER CONCERNS



Marilyn Barbe, Ruth Ann Swingle, Kathie Dulay, Alyson Dame, Lisa, Michael, Robin Williams, Mary, Deanna Sandlin, Richard, Danell, Charlie, Steve & Mary Lou Popso, Nancy & Pat.



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BUILDING AND GROUND

- Adopt-a-highway will be done on April 26th. Weather permitting.
- We are looking into having the rain gutters cleaned on the church & DWH.
- Purchased a small heater for the women's parlor for Sunday School.
- We are looking for a volunteer to mow the church grounds
- Waste management garbage contract was extended for 5 more years.
- Mark Bartocci stepped down for the committee.
- Kevin Knapp is stepping down as chairperson as of April 27.



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 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.

Account balances as of April 16:

General Account: \$5057.35

Rental Account: \$9682.92

Capital Account/Living Nativity: \$6087.81

Savings Account: \$39731.80

Money Market Account: \$60410.52

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: June 29th. Hope to see everyone there.

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



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.

Christian Care Committee News

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



	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>
February	72*	36
March	201	40

*February's attendance was lower than normal due to snow and ice disruption of services.

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.

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

Church email –
bethanypapresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

On the web at:
www.bethanypresbychurch.org



The Session

Class of 2025

Craig Olver
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Mark Bartocci

Class of 2026

Pat Rine
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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**