

AUGUST 2022

# CHURCH NEWSLETTER

*Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church*



## *from our Senior Pastor*

You must love a carefree moment. You know these moments are like. Things seem just perfect and you experience them when you know that God seems to be blessing you and your family, the kids are getting along, the grill is working perfectly, and life seems to be pretty good. But we know that life is not a painting, and the moments do not last. Now God does not call us to live care free lives. Yes, he tells us not to be afraid, and not to worry, but we are called to care. And so we do. We care for our children, and we care for our parents; we care for those who are grieving and we care for those experiencing joy.

But I do love the idea that August could be a care free month. August is always a month filled with potential. Kids are enjoying their last days of sleeping in before school begins and even though the wheels of education will begin spinning soon, there goes with it a sense that this is going to be a good year. Here too at Bethany we are getting ready for what God will do in our next season of life. We look forward to a mission trip for our adults beginning August 14th. We are looking forward to our annual church picnic as well.

For all of the things we are getting ready for as a congregation and a community, I am always reminded that they are evidence of the fact that God cares for us. God never has a carefree moment, because there is never a moment where God is not concerned for the well-being of each and every one of us, and for the entire world. So we are called to care as well. We do this without fear and without worry. We care with joy and love. We hope that your summer's have been blessed, and that you have known God's presence with you through it all.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian

## THE LAST FLICKER OF SUMMER FUN AND HEAT ISSUE

Page 2 & 3 -  
From our Associate  
Pastor and Music Notes

Pages 4 & 5 -  
About our Members  
and Facility News

Page 6 -  
Up Coming Events

Pages 7 & 8 -  
Mission News

Page 9 -  
Ministry Group News

Page 10 -  
The Wrath of God

Page 11 -  
Church Calendar



## from our Associate Pastor

I just got off the phone with my oldest sister, Leah. She and her husband have less than a week before their oldest – my nephew – Kai, will be off to college. They are excited for him because he'll be preparing for what he's always dreamed of doing. They are tired of the huge debate over whether or not he will need his truck his freshman year. They are full of joy, pride, sadness...you name it.

There are many families who are going through the same exact rollercoaster of emotions during these transitions of life.

To all of you parents sending your kids off to college or the military for the first time...

To all of you parents dropping your child off to preschool for the first time...

And to all of you family members who are experiencing such important and exciting milestones...



I encourage you to consider how you can approach these moments in and through and with prayer. As you take that "First Day of \_\_\_\_ Grade" photo on the front porch step, just say a prayer for your child(ren), that they will share and show kindness. As you debate back and forth with your child who is more than ready for independence, you might need to step away, and take a moment to ask God for wisdom as you pray through your frustration. No matter the situation you are dealing with as the summer comes to an end, remember that praying for and praying with your child is one of the greatest ways you can show your love to them. Prayer is a way to pause and care for your own heart. Prayer is also a great thing to teach your kids, as it is a foundational part of our relationship with Jesus.

The door of our Sunday School Coordinator's office has a poster on it that says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6 NASB). As a parent, remember you've done what you can to bring them to this point of their life. You've given them a start. Now, it's about the process of letting go and loving them through all of the ups and downs that are to come.

The Bethany Church family is also encouraged to support these parents. Reach out to your friends, neighbors, and family members who are going through these life transitions. Pray for these parents: that the Lord will give them wisdom, patience, and comfort.

I am praying that my sister will remember she is doing her best as she lets go and waits to see what God has in store for Kai. I pray the same for all of you parents, too.

Prayers abound,  
Pastor Ellen



# Music Notes

THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING,  
AND A SEASON FOR EVERY ACTIVITY UNDER THE HEAVENS:  
(ECCLESIASTES 3:1)

Dear members and friends of Bethany Presbyterian Church:

On July 18, I informed Pastor Brian that it was my intention to retire. I had been praying and thinking about this decision for months; perhaps close to a year. It was my discernment that this was the right time and season of my life.

I began my work as Director of Music at Bethany on September 1, 2001 and I will finish my work here on August 31, 2022.

I have been blessed to be a part of this church family and to be a part of the staff team that works here.

I pray that you all continue lifting your hearts and voices in praise of our triune God, and continue refining your talents in this mission.

God be with you, 'til we meet again.

...SPEAKING TO ONE ANOTHER WITH PSALMS, HYMNS, AND SONGS FROM THE SPIRIT.  
SING AND MAKE MUSIC FROM YOUR HEART TO THE LORD, ALWAYS GIVING THANKS TO  
GOD THE FATHER FOR EVERYTHING, IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

(EPHESIANS 5:19-20)

John Henninger  
Director of Music Ministries





# about our members....



## August Birthdays

James Cawley 8/01  
Tyler DeRose 8/01  
Celina Farabaugh 8/01  
Cheryl Harold 8/01  
Robin Miller 8/01  
Carol Willhite 8/01  
Stefani Jazudek 8/02  
Robert Butt 8/03  
Daine Lower 8/03  
Susan Radzik 8/03  
Lynn Underwood 8/03  
JJ Wolstoncroft 8/03  
Austin Abel 8/04  
Donna Slack 8/04  
Matthew Heasley 8/05  
Bill Ramous 8/05  
Brady Gullo 8/06  
Jennifer Jenkins 8/06  
Kimberly McAuley 8/06  
Amy Ryan 8/06  
Randi Shelton 8/06  
Arnie McAuley 8/07  
Rylie Mendenhall 8/07  
Jaymi Neely 8/07  
Joy Heaps 8/08  
Alexandra Jones 8/08  
Starr Lytle 8/08  
Jeffrey Miklavic 8/08  
Laurie Sysak 8/08

Teresa Dunn 8/09  
Veva Tessmer 8/09  
Peggy Nicholson 8/10  
Elizabeth Suppo 8/10  
Shawn Zwigart 8/10  
Bettina Beattie 8/11  
James Goerdts 8/11  
Savannah Houk 8/11  
Weston Jackson 8/11  
Mark Wolstoncroft 8/11  
Greg Price 8/13  
Sarah Smith 8/13  
Joseph Del Conte 8/14  
Robert Fulton III 8/14  
Luke Bizzack 8/15  
Joseph DePaoli 8/15  
Mark Schneider 8/15  
Randall Shaffer 8/15  
Carson DeRoss 8/16  
Jacob Kundra 8/16  
Phyllis Porter 8/16  
Ashley Vollmer 8/16  
Darcy Julius 8/17  
Bradley Miller 8/17  
Beckie Price 8/17  
Jerod Witwicki 8/18  
Lou Nowasielski 8/19  
Debra Poglein 8/19

Nicole Casciola 8/20  
Audrey Clarke 8/20  
Patricia Black 8/22  
Ian Hunter 8/22  
Sylbia Kunst 8/22  
Ashley McAuley 8/22  
Michael Shildt 8/22  
Sandra Miklavic 8/23  
Molly Mazzanni 8/24  
Jordan Underwood 8/24  
Lilly Duffill 8/25  
Eric Millerschoen 8/26  
Stanley Underwood 8/27  
Scott Pyrdek 8/28  
Miriam Julius 8/29  
Virginia Millerschoen 8/29  
Ralph Wolstoncroft 8/29  
Patrick Harding 8/30  
Colleen Venski 8/30  
Tom Phillips 8/31  
Margie Smith 8/31  
Noah Sommerfield 8/31



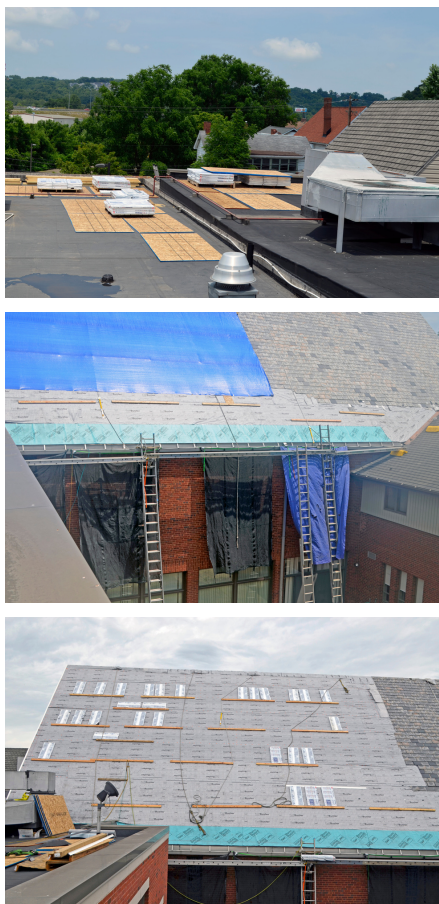
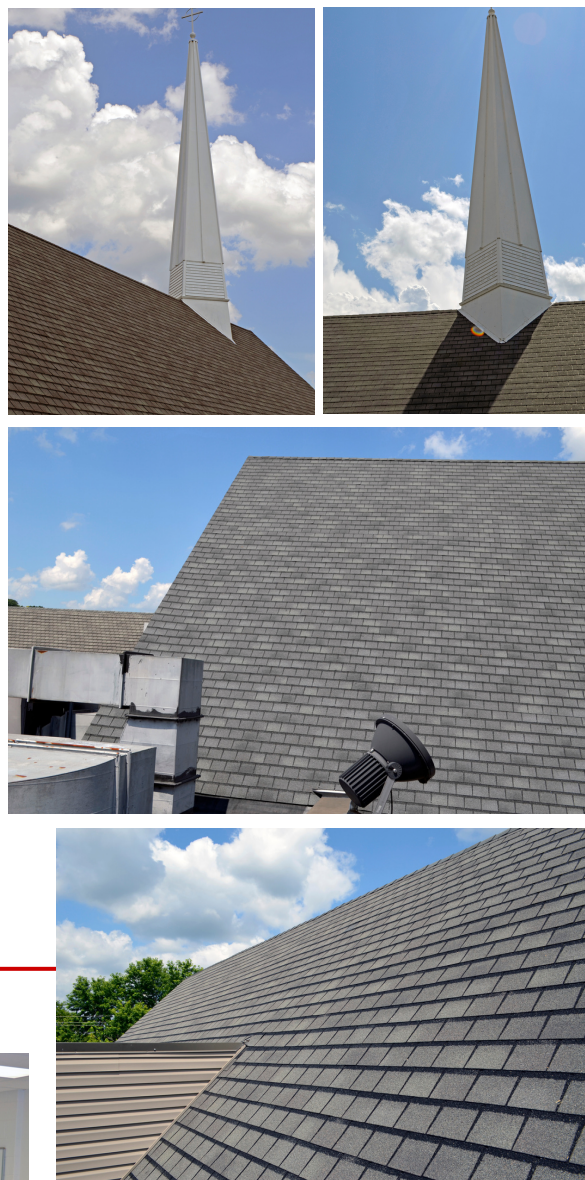
*Jaymi and Ralph Neely  
and family on the death  
of Jaymi's sister,  
Jill Yoder, on  
July 5, 2022.*

*The Ostroskie family on  
the death of  
Edward Ostroskie on  
July 24, 2022*



*Did you know that Bethany has a  
Pastoral Care team? The team  
regularly meets with shut-ins  
and handles a variety of  
concerns for the broader  
congregation. If you or someone  
you know has a concern or  
needs help, please let us know  
by calling the church office at  
412-221-5132 or email  
[prayers@bethanypresby.org](mailto:prayers@bethanypresby.org).*



**The old slate Sanctuary Roof****The Construction Process***Facility News***The new shingle Sanctuary Roof****Bethany's Youth Group Room Renovations**



# Upcoming Events



## AUGUST 14 Sounds of Joy Celebration

Join us for a cake reception honoring our Music Director, John Henninger, who will be retiring at the end of August.

Joy is a reaction to God's giving and goodness that all creatures in Heaven and on Earth share. Fields, flood, rocks, hills, and plains echo the joy that sounds throughout His creation. We here at Bethany, are so blessed to have had John create the Sounds of Joy over the last 21 years. Let's celebrate and praise his beloved time within the congregation.



## AUGUST 18 Golden Oldies

Buckle up as you prepare for this exciting afternoon filled with flavorful foods, friendships and State Trooper Kalee Wietrzykowski as she engages you in the "Rules of the Road".

## AUGUST 20 Day at the Lake

All Bethany members, family and friends are invited to a DAY AT THE LAKE on August 20th at the North Shore Beach at Moraine State Park from 10am-2pm. We will meet on the right side of the beach down by the water and the picnic tables. Be sure to bring your favorite picnic basket, a lawn chair and bathing suit. Complimentary sailboat rides will be available as well as a grill.



## AUGUST 21

### Church Picnic

Our 10:00 church service will be held outside in the park - bring your chairs and summertime attire. Our annual church picnic will be immediately following the church service! This year everything will be catered for a delicious Summer Splash gathering!

## AUGUST 27

### Church Volunteer and Teacher Training

Are you interested in making a difference and passing along the faithful mission of our LORD and Savior? Be a Sunday School Teacher at Bethany! Join us at 10:00am. - 12:00pm for more information!

### KIDS NIGHT OUT - ABRACADABRA!

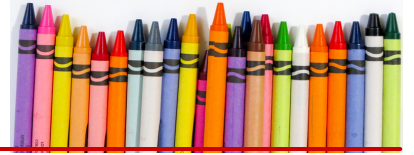
Children 4+ are invited to be dropped off at the Church to be mystified with a night of magic, games, a pizza dinner, and endless FUN! Register your child(ren) at: <https://bethanypresby.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1381704>







## Mission News



### PW Summer Mission Collection -

The Presbyterian Women have selected the Education Partnership located on Corliss Street in Pittsburgh for their Summer Mission Collection Project. The Education Partnership started as a teach resource center know as the *Storehouse for Teachers* to distribute school and classroom supplies for both, teachers and students in need. They then became the nonprofit

known today as, The Education Partnership. Since their inception they have provided \$35,000,000 of supplies to over 374,000 students in 8 countries and 157 schools. They serve Pre-K through 12th grade schools in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland counties that have at least 70% of their students qualifying for the free or reduced lunch programs. Although they collect all types of school and classroom items, each month they choose 3 items to focus on for collection. We are going to hold our collection in August and the 3 items for their August collection are as follows:

- Crayons (8 or 24 packs)
- Dry Erase Markers
- Gallon Size Zip Lock Bags

Please help us make the school year bright for these students and teachers by adding these items to your shopping list. We will have collection containers located outside of the nursery throughout August.

### MISSION TEAM SARRIS CANDY SALES FOR AUGUST -

This month's Mission Collection will be donated to The Neighborhood Academy. The Neighborhood Academy is comprised of a middle school and high school. Their mission is designated to remove every barrier that prevents young people from thinking about their futures and the steps needed to achieve these goals.

Students who cross their threshold enter into a tight-knight network of concerned adults who constantly evaluate their progress; in return they commit to valuing their education, setting new habits of heart and mind, and growing into adults with character who will contribute to their communities.



### JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT -

August 12-14th & 18-21st

You can support our *mission partner* Urban Impact by attending their summer production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Live performances are August 12-14 and August 18-21 at Christ Church at Grove Farm in Sewickley. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$14 for adults. For more information, go to the Urban Impact website <https://uifpgh.org/events/>.

# Mission News Continued...

## WEST VIRGINIA ADULT MISSION TRIP - UPDATE

**THE NEW TRIP DATES ARE August 15th, 16th and 17th**

*Micah 6:8 - He has shown you, O man, what is good;  
And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly,  
to love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.*

Bring God's love and blessings to the poor, elderly and victims of natural disaster in West Virginia. Engage in fun and fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters in WV. The adult mission trip has been updated for August 15th to August 17, 2022. We will stay at the Summersville PC in Summersville, WV. We will be working on Monday and Tuesday, and returning home on Wednesday. Evenings will bring prayer, Bible study and reflections on our day's work. Please see [wvmaw.org](http://wvmaw.org) for additional details.



**FEED MY  
STARVING  
CHILDREN**

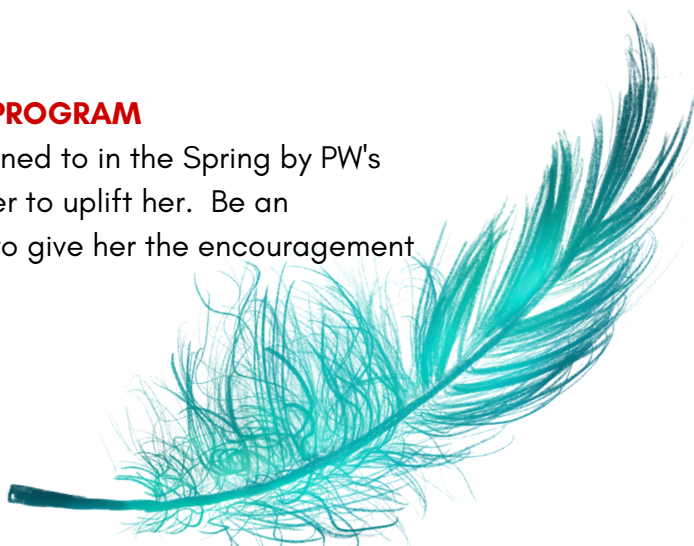


**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:  
FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MOBILEPACK -  
Saturday September 10th, three time slots available**

Gather your church family & join us for 2 hours for a FUN and fulfilling experience. Children ages 5 & up can help to pack meals, and there are jobs for all ability levels (including sitting at a table & applying labels to bags). A brief training is provided. Upbeat music, people working together, and it is all done in the name of the Lord! Volunteers are invited to pray over the meals at the end of each session. Sign up sheets are located in the welcome center. Contact Celina Farabaugh with any questions. Call or text: 724-554-6370

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SECRET SISTER PROGRAM

Do you have a Secret Sister you were assigned to in the Spring by PW's outreach program? If yes, please remember to uplift her. Be an instrument that God has placed in her life to give her the encouragement she needs, just when she needs it.







## Ministry Group News

The Fellowship of Prayer, which meets on the first Wednesday of every month here at Bethany, is a small group that was started many years ago to pray for church members and any immediate concerns within our church family. As the years went on, and the group grew, the prayer list has grown to include many other types of requests.

In order to be more focused in our prayers, and to return to the original vision for this group, Fellowship of Prayer will be making some changes in the next month. When requests come in, they will still be communicated in a timely manner for the group to pray over. The requests will stay on the list for 1 month, instead of 4-6 months. Some requests—such as those for members in the hospital or those undergoing treatment—will remain on the list for longer than a month. The Fellowship of Prayer will continue to lift up requests that are sent to us as we are led by the Spirit, even though the specific names or situations may not be on the actual prayer list.

Our hope is that these changes will make the list more manageable, and we covet your prayers as we make this transition. We are trying to keep the list "closer to home," which helps us to care for one another as a church family. And, we can always rest assured that Jesus himself intercedes for us and that the Lord knows the prayers of our hearts.

Sincerely,  
Deb Gossic, Pastoral Care Associate



# The Wrath of God

by Doug Bovard

*There is a dreadful pit of the glowing flames of the wrath of God; there is hell's wide gaping mouth open; and you have nothing to stand upon, nor any thing to take hold of; there is nothing between you and hell but the air; it is only the power and mere pleasure of God that holds you up.*

– Jonathan Edwards

The wisdom of God devised a way for the love of God to deliver sinners from the wrath of God while not compromising the righteousness of God. – John Piper

Scripture Readings: Proverbs 1:24–31; Romans 1:18–32; Genesis 6 and 7 (the flood); Hos. 8:7; Gal. 6:7; Rev. 19; and Rev. 20:14

This will conclude my articles on the characteristics of God. While the Bible speaks about God's wrath, it is not something we are attentive to – particularly nowadays with so much emphasis on self-esteem. My hope is to explain the various modes and the necessity of God's wrath. I imagine you are like me and struggle with the nature and necessity of God's wrath. However, I believe it is through our struggles with God's word (wrath in this case) that we mature and grow closer to Him. This article and the referenced scriptures should instill a holy fear of God and elicit thanksgiving as we consider what we are saved from, and what Christ suffered for on our behalf.

Since God cannot be neutral toward sin, the wrath of God is an expression of His holiness. He is holy and we are unholy. That is the primary difference between God and man. A holy and righteous God cannot ignore sin nor the unholy sinner. That is a good thing!

One aspect of God's wrath is that it is abiding wrath. His wrath is abiding on the heads of impenitent sinners! See Rom 1:18. Presently, His mercy is holding back His wrath. Keep in mind that throughout history God has brought severe judgement upon man. This severe judgement is a catastrophic wrath and includes the flood from Genesis 6 and 7; fire and brimstone upon Sodom and Gomorrah; and, the plagues upon the Egyptians.

God's wrath can be consequential and even abandoning. The principle of sowing and reaping (Gal. 6:7 and Hos. 8:7) reveal a consequential wrath for sinful behavior. Sin has its ugly consequences. God's wrath expresses itself when the sinner, after repeatedly rejecting the knowledge of God and the gospel of Christ, is abandoned by God and turned over to the pursuit of his/her own sins. See Romans 1:24–26. The Book of Revelation chapter 19 reveals the wrath of God in the end times – the final hour of human history and immediately preceding the return of God's Son. In Revelation 20:14 the eternal wrath of God is displayed in hell.

In conclusion, let's consider some wrath that we all need – redemptive wrath! Redemptive wrath is displayed as God pours out His wrath upon Christ who bares our sins and suffers on the cross so that we will never receive God's condemnation and wrath. This glorious sacrificial love of Christ is the only cure for God's wrath.

Some people may claim that it is unfair for God to release His wrath on His own creation. How would you respond? Is God's wrath similar to human wrath? What are the similarities and differences? In Christ, we no longer stand under the wrath of God. What would be the benefit of meditating on this characteristic of God?



# Church Calendar for August



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7PM – Deacon Meeting 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	9AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice	10AM – Fellowship of Prayer 5:30PM – Bible Study	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
COMMUNION Worship at 8:15AM & 10:00AM	5:30PM – Deacon Book Discussion 6:45PM – Session Teams 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice		9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA		11:30AM - Knitters
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship at 8:15AM & 10:00AM  11AM - Celebration honoring John Henninger	7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	9AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – PW CT Meeting 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice		9AM – Quilters 12PM – Golden Oldies 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA		FOOD BANK
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship at 8:15AM at Bethany Worship in the Park at 10:00AM at Chartiers Park followed by the Annual Church Picnic	7PM – Session Meeting 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	9AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – DQ Practice	7PM – Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA		DIAPER BANK 10AM – Volunteer and Teacher Training 11:30AM - Knitters 6PM- Kids Night Out: ABRACADABRA!
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Worship at 8:15AM & 10:00AM	7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	9AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	7PM – Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA		

# Session News

The mortgage Bethany Church took out for the 2005 addition has officially been paid off! A celebration, including guest pastors, and luncheon will be hosted on Sunday, October 9th, here at Bethany. Save The Date for this blissful event!



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