

August 2025 Newsletter

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

From our Senior Pastor **Rev. Dr. Brian Janssen**

I want to thank you all so much for making the summer here one to remember. We have had an amazing summer of worship, Vacation Bible School, youth group events, summer bloom worship cookouts, and we have elected our Associate pastor Nominating committee. You also know how much we have helped one another through prayer, visitation, phone calls, even cards being sent just to say hello.

What a wonderful thing it is to be the church. This month on August 17 we will have our annual church picnic beginning at 10:00AM with worship at the Rotary Pavilion at Fairview Park. This is one of my favorite events the church does. Growing up I always got so excited for outdoor worship, and of course picnic food. It is a great time to be with friends and neighbors, and with our church family. So don't be afraid to invite friends, and neighbors, and family. The more the merrier.

I also hope that you will notice as you walk through the hallways of the church, particularly by the offices and the Sunday School rooms, that we have freshened the church up with some new paint. We hope that this will brighten some of the corridors of the church and also create a more welcoming atmosphere for the kids as we head into our fall program year. This continues to be an exciting time in the life of the church and the Session thanks you for your continued support!

Lastly, please keep me in your prayers. I am going to be taking some continuing education time near the end of August to do sermon series planning for the Fall-Advent. This will be a time of prayer, and reflection, and a lot of reading and spending time in God's word. I will be out of the pulpit on August 24th but you will be in good hands with our friend the Rev. Tom Hall.

I continue to be blessed to be your pastor.

In Christ,
Pastor Brian Janssen



MISSION TEAM -DID YOU KNOW?

LaCroix New Testament Mission

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. More than two thirds of the people are unemployed and the average family income is \$250.00 (US) per year.

The connection with the LaCroix New Testament Mission began in 1997, when Andrea Loether, a Pittsburgh area nurse, visited the mission along with gynecologist Dr. Dan Lattanzi to offer health care to a community that had never seen a doctor or nurse before. The first "clinic" was held under a tree using wooden benches as the exam tables and pharmacy. In 1998, Haitians and American mission workers built a medical clinic, which is currently staffed by Haitian nurses and a Haitian dentist. The medical clinic currently serves about 100 people each day and is open 5 days a week. A Birthing Center was also completed in 2007. The birthing center allows mothers to have a clean, safe place to deliver babies with the help of Haitian midwives or nurses. Pregnant women also receive pre-natal care and vitamins through the Birthing Center.

Haiti does not have a public education system and most people eat only every other day. Seven mission schools provide education to 4,000 children. The Friends of Haiti Child Sponsorship Program supports 140 children who are attending school through monthly donations from sponsors. Children receive their education, a uniform, and one hot meal each day. The LaCroix New Testament Mission serves about 15,000 people in the surrounding rural community. It employs 148 people, 56 of which are teachers. The church serves 1,300 Christians through worship, Bible Studies and Sunday School.

The Friends of Haiti is a non-profit organization, which insures that 100% of your donations go directly to the Haitian people. Bethany church has had some of our own members visit Haiti and we have many members sponsor children through Friends of Haiti. Deb Pyle is the contact for Bethany and would be more than happy to provide more information.

Pastor Pierre has worked within the communities surrounding LaCroix to build schools, churches, clinics, drill wells and provide life skills training to encourage personal development and income production. To date, Pastor Pierre and the LaCroix NT Mission has established: Friends of Haiti, sponsored by LaCroix Missions and Pastor Pierre, operates 10 schools in Haiti serving over 2,100 students. These schools are part of a larger effort to provide education and support to children who might otherwise lack access to schooling.

Sponsorship program that supports the schools to provide education, uniforms, food and medical care for the enrolled children,

- **7 village churches,**
- **2 Haitian-run and staffed clinics,**
- **Food and water projects, including a grain mill and 12 drilled wells (more to come),**
- **Sanitation initiatives in outlying villages including improved latrines and education,**
- **Improved housing for the neediest communities,**
- **Sewing initiatives for students and adults.**

Please visit their website at www.lacroixhaitimission.org to read more detailed explanations of their mission and goals.



from Abbie Gardner, Youth Director

I think August might just be my favorite month (and not just because it's Josh and I's anniversary month)!

My garden has been doing very well this summer so far. My plants are big and healthy, and now are starting to produce fruits! I have picked so many cucumbers that I think I might have to start a pickle company so let me know if you're interested ;). It has been a joy to watch my plants grow from seed, to tiny plants, and now to a large garden.

I say this all, not to brag about my plants, but to share this awesome metaphor for the summer months. Although the church seems to slow down a little bit in the summer, that is far from the truth.

There has been prayers and discernment over the ministries in the church. There are physical preparations and changes happening to prepare for the events and programs happening. I think this is why August is my favorite, because we get the first glimpses of how the work, prayer, and God's hand has been working in our church over the summer!!

For youth ministry, the leaders and I are so excited to get back into our weekly routine. To start some new ideas while bringing back some awesome traditions. We had a great time at the Brandon Lake and Phil Wickham concert, maybe we even discovered some new songs to share with you all.

Coming up, we have Adulting 101 on Saturday August 9th 11am-1pm open to all youth (and adults) seeking to learn some tips and tricks to life. Car maintenance, cooking some basic meals, fixing a hole in your pants, hemming your jeans, etc.! It will be a great time of learning and fellowship. If you have any skills you'd like to present - please reach out to Abbie! BYG will officially kick off their program year on Sunday September 7th with a Back-To-School Bash 5pm-7pm where we will make our own tie dye shirts, play water games, compete in some challenges, and more! ALL students kindergarten through college are invited to participate!

Don't Forget to Sign up for Preschool at Bethany! Visit preschool@bethanypresby.org and there is also a registration form available on the website!



BETHANY PRESCHOOL

ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN

**FOR THE 2025-2026
SCHOOL YEAR**

*Our experienced teachers and
engaging curriculum offer
children the opportunity
to learn and grow in a safe,
nurturing environment.*



From our Music Director

Nadina Robusto

Music ministry is having a blast this summer! Thanks for stopping by our Sacred Music Sampling classes, Choral Courtyards, our beautiful PYCO Flute Quartet Courtyard Event, and praising with us at Bloom, whether at Triangle Park Gazebo, at Bethany Cafe Cookout, or out on the lawn or the courtyard- God is with us everywhere we go!

We were blessed by so many musical gifts this summer in worship! Special thanks for sharing your gifts as special anthems in worship- we are blessed! And a big shout out to the Bethany Chime Choir for their dedication even during summer hours to provide us such glorious music! We had a special blessing during our Sacred Music Sampling class from a member, too. Mr. Joe Oyler shared his musical gifts on the mountain dulcimer with our participants. I know many of you have been blessed by his music in the past, but this was a first for me and many of us in the Sacred Music Sampling class- we were blown away! The children that participate in our sampling classes are such a blessing and really have shown potential as budding musicians! Can't wait to hear the ukulele choir that starts up this Fall... we found out at the demo that we have gifted children in our midst! Our summer Modern Worship service was blessed by not only Bloom musicians' gifts, but also with Mr. Brian Hayes' faith sharing in his testimony- more of that in our special Musician Spotlight section. And Bloom welcomed a guest musician for our modern worship service whom you will get to hear more about him in the next newsletter. Shout out to Pastor Brian for being the grill master for the Bethany Cafe Cookout and to all the volunteers whom helped with food prep and clean-up- what a fun summer event! Hoping you all continue to enjoy your summer!

Upcoming Dates

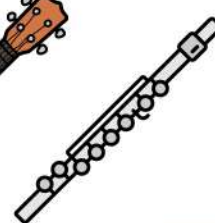
The end of August brings all the transitions, back to school, back to regularly scheduled programs, and I always look forward to the return of our Bethany Choir! Mark your calendar- rehearsal will resume Wednesday, August 27th at 7 pm in the choir room :)

Musician Spotlight!

We give our thanks to Brian Hayes for sharing his testimony at our Bloom Modern Worship service this summer. We are blessed by his music every time he worships with us, though this summer, he chose to share his heart and testimony of how God is working and moving in his life. We were all truly inspired and blessed by his personal testimony and grateful for his faith sharing.

A little more about Brian-

Brian Hayes is a musician, writer, and longtime music educator based in Pittsburgh. He has taught students of all ages in classrooms, private lessons, and community programs, always with an emphasis on creativity, patience, and joy. Guided by the simple philosophy to "make it better," Brian seeks to grow both himself and his community through reflection, connection, and the healing power of music.



Day At The Lake!

Join us again for the annual **"Day at the Lake"** scheduled for **Saturday, August 23rd from 11am-3pm** at the North Shore Beach at Moraine State Park. We will attempt to occupy two to three picnic tables on the right side of the swimming area. Look for the Bethany Presbyterian sign or simply come down to the beach and you will run right into us. We'll have a couple of sailboats giving rides by two US Sailing instructors so you will get a free lesson along with a fishing bass boat to take rides on and the men's ministry will provide hot dogs and the fixings. Bring a chair and a picnic snack to share and munch on or just bring yourself and your family or a friend! :)

Directions are as follow's: Take 79 N to exit 99 (422 Butler/New Castle) turn immediately off of Rt 422 to NORTH SHORE and at the stop sign, take a right on W. Park Road. Take the first right onto N. Shore Drive and following this through the park to the Beach turn off. Go straight past the first parking lot all the way to the end as it takes you past the pavilions down towards the water. We will be directly up from the water and to the right of the swim beach. Bring your bathing suit to swim, sandals to enjoy the sand or just go barefoot along the beach. Call Bill Paviol should you have further questions or get lost. Bill Paviol 412-722-3102



FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Dear Bethany Family,

Summer is in full swing, the days are longer, they are hot, there is always a chance for a pop-up storm... Think about that - for most, when we are hot, we are uncomfortable. We watch the news, and the world is in conflict, a pop-up storm. There is no need to take shelter, because the one thing we have - God's Love for us, Jesus's love for us. That is not changing. There is a song by Zach Williams; "Jesus Loves" that will pop into my head when I am in one of those heated, uncomfortable, stormy moments in my life.

*So come on in, the door is open
And the Savior's arms are too
The table's set, a seat is waiting
And He saved it just for you
So no more running, no more hiding
Come on in and you will find
That you don't have to be enough
To be someone Jesus loves*

No matter what we are going through, WE ARE SOMEONE THAT JESUS LOVES... That is so powerful. We have more support than we realize. The Bible is full of stories of God's love and faithfulness towards his people, which can remind us that God loves us and will never abandon us, no matter what we go through. Remember, every day is a new day, the sun will come up and when it does remember this.

Psalm 143:8 "Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life."

If we have faith, we are loved and we have it all. Now we just need to remember it and share it.

Look at all the kids who came for VBS, they felt love. Our church family is spreading love in all the activities that we are able to support here at Bethany. Thank you for your commitment to and support of Bethany Presbyterian Church. In hope and blessings,

Pam Petrow and Becky Quinn/Bethany Stewardship Team

Deacon and Session met in July for an evening of fellowship with snacks, pizza, and a bonfire. Stay tuned for the next one in October - perfect bonfire weather!





Church Picnic!

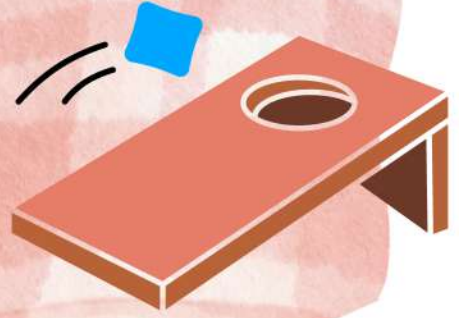


Contest!

Craft

We will have our 10:00am church service on Sunday, August 17th at the picnic area at Fairview Park at the Rotary Pavilion followed by CRAFTS and GAMES and a BAKE CONTEST! Sign up for the BAKE CONTEST in the Welcome Center!

GAMES!



Greetings Ladies and Gentlemen of Bethany,
As we get excited about the church picnic this month, you must remember the DESSERT COMPETITION so bake, bake, bake! We even have prizes for the top 3 people with the most votes. We are ready to pig out on desserts.

Sincerely, The Dessert Committee

During the July 19th Food Bank distribution, 96 families were assisted which included 24 children, 117 adults and 88 elderly.



*Golden Oldies
Trip - Sept 10
and 11*

The Golden Oldies will be going to see "Noah" at the Sight and Sound Theater on September 10th and 11th. The trip also includes "The Buddy Holly Story" at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater. Call Carole Aspinall at 412-833-8114 if you have any questions.



CONDOLENCES

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Fredrick Gerstacker and family on the passing of Roberta Gerstacker who passed away on July 27, 2025.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
COMMUNION SUNDAY Worship with Communion at 8:15AM & 10:00AM	6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	7PM – ALANON	10AM – Fellowship of Prayer 11:30AM – Knitters 12:30PM – AIU Preschool	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 7:30PM – AA		11:00AM – Knitters
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship at 8:15AM & 10:00AM	6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	6:45PM – Session Team Meetings 7PM – ALANON	11:30AM – Knitters	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 6:30PM – BLOOM 7:30PM – AA		FOOD BANK
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
CHURCH PICNIC @ FAIRVIEW PARK 10:00AM Worship at 8:15AM AT THE CHURCH 10:00AM SERVICE AND PICNIC AT THE PARK	6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – Deacons Meeting	7PM – ALANON	11:30AM – Knitters	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Golden Oldies 12PM – Rotary 7:30PM – AA		DIAPER BANK 11:00AM – Knitters
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship at 8:15AM & 10:00AM	6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	9AM – Chartiers Center 7PM – ALANON 7PM – Session Meeting	11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Choir Practice	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 6:30PM – BLOOM 7:30PM – AA		
31	1					
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER COMMISSIONING Worship at 8:15AM & 10:00AM	LABOR DAY Office Closed					

August Birthdays



08/01	Tyler De Rose	08/11	Savannah Houk	08/25	Lily Duffill
08/01	Cheryl Harold	08/11	Bettina Beattie	08/26	Eric Millerschoen
08/01	Carol Willhite	08/11	James Goerd	08/27	Stanley Underwood
08/01	Robin Miller	08/11	Weston Jackson	08/28	Scott Pyrdek
08/01	Celina Farabaugh	08/12	Susan Anderson	08/29	Miriam Julius
08/01	James Cawley	08/13	Sarah Smith	08/29	Virginia Millerschoen
08/02	Stefani Jazudek	08/14	Joseph Del Conte	08/30	Patrick Harding
08/03	Daine Lower	08/15	Randall Shaffer	08/30	Colleen Veneski
08/03	Susan Radzik	08/15	Joseph DePaoli	08/31	Margie Smith
08/03	Lynn Underwood	08/15	Luke Bizzack	08/31	Noah Sommerfield
08/04	Donna Slack	08/15	Mark Schneider		
08/05	Bill Ramous	08/16	Melvin Sepuri		
08/05	Matthew Heasley	08/16	Peter Young		
08/06	Brady Gullo	08/16	Carson DeRoss		
08/06	Kimberly McAuley	08/16	Ashley Vollmer		
08/06	Randi Shelton	08/17	Bradley Miller		
08/06	Amy Ryan	08/17	Darcy Julius		
08/06	Jennifer Jenkins	08/18	Jerod Witwicki		
08/07	Jaymi Neely	08/19	Debra Poglein		
08/07	Arnie McAuley	08/19	Lou Nowasielski		
08/07	Rylie Mendenhall	08/20	Nicole Casciola		
08/08	Joy Heaps	08/20	Audrey Clarke		
08/08	Laurie Sysak	08/22	Michael Schildt		
08/08	Dawn Starr Lytle	08/22	Patricia Black		
08/08	Alexandra Jones	08/22	Ashley McAuley		
08/08	Jeffrey Miklavic	08/22	Ian Hunter		
08/09	Veva Tessmer	08/23	Sandra Miklavic		
08/10	Peggy Nicholson	08/24	Jordan Underwood		
08/10	Shawn Zwigart	08/24	Molly Mazzanni		



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