

NOVEMBER 2020

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

Pastor Update

BY: PASTOR BILL YOUMANS

LET ME COUNT THE WAYS. I'm glad Thanksgiving Day doesn't come 'til the end of November. It gives us a whole month to count our blessings. A heart overflowing with gratitude makes the turkey in the oven smell better! How can I give thanks? Let me count the ways.

I am thankful for you—kind, generous and caring church members. My very first visit to Bethany Church took place in the Great Room, filled with people excited to be serving a huge Thanksgiving meal. This meal would be shared around tables throughout our community. That spirit of caring has been felt all year long!

The Bible calls us to “spur one another on toward love and good works.”(Heb.10:24) What fun it is to be part of a vibrant church, eager for the next act of service to one another, the next impact for good around us, and the next life changing project from the Heart of Jesus! Thanks for being a church for Bridgeville and for the world!

I'm thankful for our smart, energetic leadership! Our Deacons and Elders serve Jesus Christ with abundant energy, and infectious love. A bounty of blessing flows from their good works. They inspire us to hear God's call to lead through serving. We already have a full slate of leaders to be elected this month. God's Spirit is actively equipping and raising up gifted leaders.

I'm thankful for the new pastor God has prepared to lead us. The Pastor Nominating Committee continues actively and prayerfully seeking our next Senior Pastor. What a joy that will be, for our next shepherd to discover a church full of brothers and sisters, faithful to our Lord Jesus and ready for God's call.

I am thankful for courageous people! Our everyday members are stepping out of the comfort zone to serve God. Whether we're feeling the risks that come with aging, or the risks presented by a world that feels dangerous, we step into them boldly. We inspire one another by keeping our connection in Christ strong.

I especially give thanks for the whole staff of people, serving God through serving us. They look after the daily things that often go unnoticed, but not unappreciated. They imagine the things that could go wrong and fix them. They plan the life of our church, preparing events, getting the word out and celebrating the results.

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

**2, 3 - MESSAGES FROM
OUR PASTORS AND
MUSICAL NOTES**

**4, 5, 6 - UPDATES AND
EVANGELISM**

**7, 8 - NOVEMBER
BIRTHDAYS, UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Here's to a good start for our month of thanksgiving. God is doing a wonderful thing among us. And I'm glad we have a whole month to count the ways. I can already smell the turkey roasting!

Associate Pastor Update

BY: PASTOR JAE CHO

The beautiful Autumn leaves are one of the amazing parts of the Fall that I have enjoyed seeing here in Pittsburgh. Of course enjoying Turkey at thanksgiving and lighting up candles at advent are amazing things we look forward to as well at Bethany.

This year we are doing everything we can to make the most of our opportunities to connect with our youth and parents. Last week, the BYG parents gathered for our Fall meeting to discuss the current status and plan for the future of the BYG. The biggest takeaway is that our weekly meeting will now be held in-person every week rather than the hybrid style. We want to promote a fun and safe environment for our youth, and realized that the atmosphere wasn't easily translated virtually.

Additionally, we will continue to ensure our meetings are tailored to both our junior and senior high school students. There will be fellowship as a large group but also individual breakout sessions for more age appropriate conversations. The weekly lessons will be topical with scripture verses that help support spiritual growth.

Parent involvement was another area of focus. This year, we would like to focus on a partnership between the youth leaders and parents. There are several ways to get involved from decorating for an event, bringing refreshments or serving as a substitute leader. If you would like to get involved, or have other ideas on how to improve the youth group, please let me know!

Looking ahead, the holiday season is quickly approaching. If any of our confirmation youth and families would like to light a candle during the Advent season, please let me know. Candles will be lit during the early morning service at 8:15 a.m. and during the 10:45 a.m. service.

May God bless you during this season as we remember we are loved by God's grace. I will continue to pray for the church for God's protection, guidance, and healing. On a personal note, baby Luke went to his first pumpkin patch last weekend and now can walk on his own.



Music Notes

BY: JOHN HENNINGER

GIVING THANKS. November is the month we set aside to give thanks, most notably on Thanksgiving Day. Let us challenge ourselves during these unprecedented circumstances to find a reason each day to be thankful.

I am thankful for all those that have helped us worship both in-person and at home. There are song leaders, sound engineers, video coordinators and a host of others that have given of their time and talent so that we might continue to gather as the Body of Christ and lift God's name on high.

If you are able to help in any of these ministry areas, we would be grateful for your service. You can even record something from home, a solo, an instrumental selection and we can include it in our worship and live stream.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Groups / Team Updates

STEWARDSHIP TEAM: Sharing with the Heart of Jesus

Over the last few weeks, we hope you have felt inspired to *Share with the Heart of Jesus*. The messages for this season make us aware of the heart of Jesus within each of us, which guides us to bless others with all our gifts, skills and resources. Generosity reflects God's nature. When we speak of generosity it's all about expressing our gracious God in all we say and do. Generosity is not about our bank accounts; it is about our hearts.

Acting on your decision to give expresses your love and gratitude for God in a personal and tangible way. Your estimate of giving confirms your desire to be fruitful. Additionally, your pledge helps our leaders plan the ministries and witness of Bethany Presbyterian Church throughout the coming year. Visit our website, or return your Giving Card, to make your contribution for the year: www.bethanypresby.org/stewardship



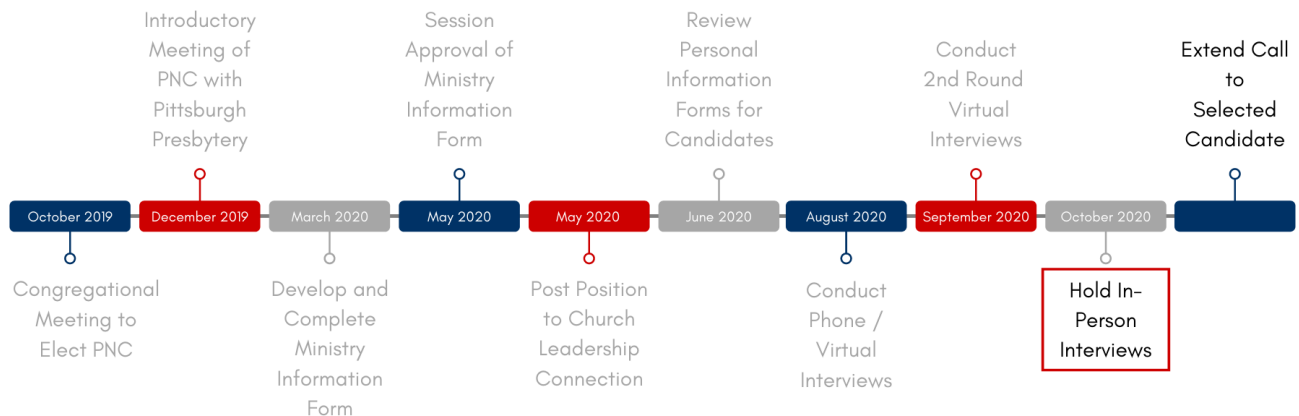


MEMBERSHIP TEAM: Bring Your Friends to Bethany

Do you know someone who is interested in joining Bethany or are you new to the Church and are looking to get more involved? The Membership team is hosting a Welcome Meeting to learn about Church opportunities, meet fellow new members and enjoy fellowship with our membership team. Contact Bill Paviol, membership chair, to attend: 412-722-3102 or membership@bethanypresby.org.

PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE: In-Person Interview with Final Candidates

The PNC continues to ask for your prayers as they narrow their search and invite candidates to participate in a final interview. They ask you to lift the candidates up in prayer for discernment of God's will. Learn more about the PNC process: www.bethanypresby.org/pnc



MISSION TEAM: Lacroix Mission Haiti Food Fundraiser - Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Lacroix Mission Haiti Food Fundraiser. In early September, we started with the goal of raising \$2,500 with the Mission Team matching it dollar-for-dollar. With everyone's help, we were able to send \$5,000 to the New Testament Mission to supply food to the people of LaCroix and the surrounding villages where the six other schools are located. Learn more about the situation in Haiti: www.bethanypresby.org/blog/lacroix-fundraiser



News and Announcements

Operation Christmas Box - Drop Off Donations by November 8

It is that time of year again when we spread God's love in a tangible way to children around the world!

Operation Christmas Child boxes are available on Sundays during worship -OR- weekdays at the back-door between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Completed boxes must be returned to the Church by Sunday, November 8. Pick yours up today!



Volunteers Needed: Thanksgiving Meal Delivery

Bethany Presbyterian Church and Crossroads Church are teaming up again to deliver special Thanksgiving meals to families in the community! Last year, our efforts fed more than 730 people and, due to COVID-19, anticipate to help even more this year. Even though things will look a bit different this year, we could still use your help!

We are seeking volunteers to help with the meal delivery on Wednesday, November 25. Meal pickup will be available between 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. To volunteer, you must have access to a car, be able to physically load your car and can deliver meals to homes in the area between 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Volunteer Now: www.bethanypresby.org/thanksgiving





Annual Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat Success

A huge THANK YOU to all of our volunteers who made Bethany's first drive-thru Trunk or Treat such a success! From the logistical planning to the trunk decorations and candy prep, all your hard work paid off. More than 250 children in the community came out to enjoy this festive event. Stay tuned for more highlights from the night! If you have any photos from the event, please share them with us by uploading them here: www.bethanypresby.org/upload

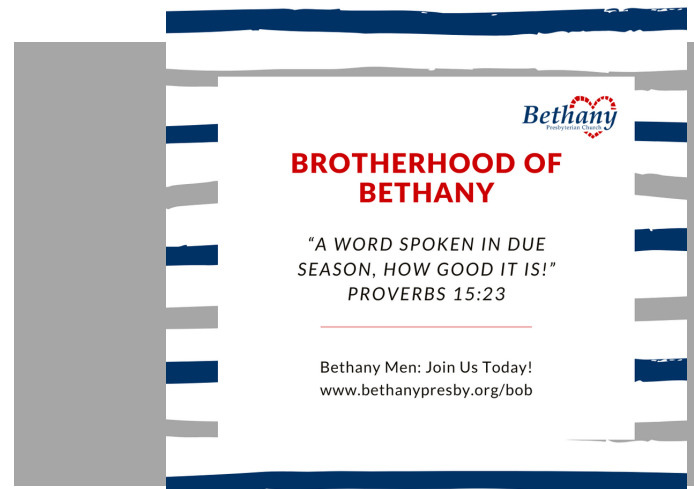
Sunday School Survey - We Need Your Input

We are looking for your input as we continue to assess the needs of our congregation for Sunday School specifically children, youth, and families. Take the Survey:

<https://bethanypresby.org/sunday-school>

Join BOB - Brotherhood of Bethany

The Brotherhood of Bethany (BOB) wants your participation! You can be the instrument that God has placed in this person's life to give them the encouragement they need right when they need it most. BOB is a great way to meet new people, rebuild old friendships and strengthen your bond with the Lord. Sign-Up Now: www.bethanypresby.org/bob



Men's Group: Join Us for Lunch

The Men's Lunch Group will resume their regular lunch schedule at the Bob Evans restaurant in Bridgeville. The group gathers at 12:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Friday of the month. Joe Oylar will be leading a short Bible study, which will then lead into a discussion on current happenings over lunch.

Upcoming Events

View Church Calendar

The Church calendar is a great resource to see the on-going events that are taking place at Bethany! To see a list of upcoming events, as well as a daily breakdown of other meetings, gatherings and groups, please visit: www.bethanypresby.org/events

Presbyterian Women - Thank Offering Service - November 8

Join the Presbyterian Women as they present their annual Thank Offering Service. The guest speaker will be Madel Beck. "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

Thanksgiving Food Donation Drive - Ends November 15

Providing a high-quality meal to families is our main goal for this year's Thanksgiving Meal Delivery with Crossroads Church. This year, to ensure the safety of our volunteers and families, we will be using bulk canned items from Sam's Club or Gordon Food Services (GFS). These items will ensure flavor consistency and limit the possibility of contamination. All donations must be collected before November 15 at the rear of the Church in a box labeled for the event. View acceptable donations: www.bethanypresby.org/thanksgiving

Bethany Golden Oldies - November 19

Oldies will meet again at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 19. Those who came to the October meeting had a tasty meal, with lots of talk and laughter. Come help us celebrate our mini version of an old-time Thanksgiving together with a long time and some new friends. You won't be disappointed. Please call Carole 412-833-8114 or Judy 724-747-4719 to reserve your seat.

Mark Your Calendar: Annual Congregational Meeting - November 28

Join us for the annual Congregational Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 28. There will be in-person and Zoom options available. Stay tuned for additional information.

BYG Event: Holiday Party - December 6

Join the BYG for their annual Christmas party at 4:00 p.m. on December 6. We would like to make this a memorable night for all. If you'd like to volunteer to help with decorations or refreshments, please let us know. This year, we will also be hosting a White Elephant gift exchange - to participate, please bring a gift. Register Today: www.bethanypresby.org/events/byg/holiday-party

Mark Your Calendar: Bethany Blood Drive Donation - December 13

The Annual Bethany Blood Drive will take place on Sunday, December 13. We will be partnering with Vitalent again this year – stay tuned for additional information!

Memberships Updates

CONDOLENCES

- Arthur Kuntz, father of Sylbia Kuntz, on October 4, 2020
- William George Stephan, Jr. , father of building supervisor Bill Stephan, on October 23, 2020

**Please call the church office (412-221-5132) if you have any updates to your family's information or if you have a change of address.*



November Birthdays

11/01 Tanner Zissis	11/09 Logan Leigh	11/18 Judith Davidson	11/26 Melanie Bedner
11/03 JaCoby Davis	11/09 Haley Nicholson	11/18 Brandon Davis	11/26 Roman Franchi
11/03 Brandon Dempe	11/09 John Stitch	11/18 Nancy Hartz	11/26 Brady Kane
11/03 Carl Skerl	11/09 Evan Zombek	11/18 David Reynolds	11/26 Becky Yanak
11/03 Carrie Stitch	11/09 Stephen Zombek	11/19 Alice Montagna	11/27 Michelle Gastgeb
11/04 Samantha Berton	11/10 Kaitlyn Black	11/19 Malia Padula	11/28 Antonio DePaoli
11/04 Rocco Matusic	11/10 Robert Matusic	11/20 Hunter Hoffman	11/28 Mackenzie Timco
11/04 Catharina Rackley	11/11 Bonnie Hendershot	11/21 Taryn Briggs	11/28 Joseph Underwood
11/04 Sharon Salvini	11/12 Kelly Barish	11/21 Katelyn Gilmore	11/29 Linda Karns
11/05 Raymond Browner	11/12 Ava Orosz	11/21 Beverly Lytle	11/30 Jacob Nelson
11/05 Phillip Carman	11/12 Geri Phillips	11/22 Carole Aspinall	
11/05 Sean Carman	11/13 Enzo Franchi	11/22 Sandra Casciola	
11/05 Madison Marrow	11/13 Steven Lower	11/22 Maxwell Hanich	
11/05 Tom Sisk	11/13 Gregory Pitzer	11/22 Julie Marrow	
11/05 Aaron Timco	11/13 Andrew Shrewsbury	11/22 Tawyna Shrewsbury	
11/06 Garnet Mikush	11/15 Erica Anderson	11/23 Landon Gossic	
11/06 Jeanine Rainone	11/15 Amy Miklavic	11/23 Leo Vighetti	
11/07 Amanda Doty	11/15 Sydney Niecgorski	11/24 Olivia Goerd	
11/07 Kasey Rothermund	11/16 Aiden Harding	11/24 Grace Schneider	
11/08 John Evans	11/17 William Gray	11/25 Michal Barbaryka	
11/08 Earl Marlett	11/17 Michele Rutkowski	11/25 Heather Dempster	
11/08 Katie Regan		11/25 Jean Roemer	
11/08 Arthur Rutkowski			

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Get Involved

- **A/V Technology Committee** - The Worship team is seeking eager volunteers to help with our weekly livestream production. Please let the Worship Team know ASAP if you have skills and/or are interested in: Audio Mix Engineer, Livestream Operator, Social Media Rep, Graphics Prep, etc. Email us today: worship@bethanypresby.org Sunday Worship Opportunities
- **There are now TWO options for in-person worship on Sunday** - 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. All are encouraged to join us as we continue to worship in the safest way possible. We will continue to provide the livestream and dial in option for the 10:45 a.m. service only.