

OCTOBER 2020

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

Pastor Message

The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God endures forever." Isaiah 40:8

My beautiful choir of flowers has been getting quieter lately. A dry August took away their optimism. Now, the color is washing out of their faces, and they're hanging a little lower. I think the work of keeping up appearances has finally caught up with them, and they are ready to fade away.

In conversations here and there, I find that some of our members are worried. Are we like the fading flowers? Has the heat of a COVID Summer taken away our optimism? One person put it this way, "You know... we get out of the habit of coming to church, and" She waited for me to fill in the other half of the sentence. "And we never take it up again?," I queried. "Mmmm Hmmm," she said.

No! The fading flower, exhausted by its moment in the sun, cannot tell our story! God is being felt among us more than ever. Our leaders feel the pulse of the Holy Spirit throughout Bethany Church. We never took our togetherness for granted, but now, we take special steps to build up the fellowship of believers. I hear stories of groups seeking our lost lambs. Each day, emails stream in containing vital news of spiritual and physical needs. People go out of their way to alert Pastor Jae and me when there is a need among our families. Church "distributions" provide in-person visits to all households, often involving a conversation. More and more people are venturing a visit to the sanctuary on Sunday Morning. Small groups remain vital and active, supporting, learning and praying.

In person gatherings still feel a little uncomfortable with the restrictions for health reasons. We are doing more meetings online and in person. Youth still gather to learn and nurture friendship. The Community Food Bank Food distribution gathered so many people to serve and be served. Lots of connecting took place. Sunday School classes are reappearing. These are just a few ways we are staying vital and connected.

In October, I'm calling each of us to make a special effort to strengthen the life of Bethany. During the month, call one member a week, that you used to visit with and haven't seen for a while. If you feel safe, come to church for the early or late service. Be part of the online stream, and offer an encouraging comment. Resume and increase your giving as God has blessed you. Join a team and connect to important ministries in the life of the church.

Throughout history, it has often been hard to be the church. Obstacles or oppression made gathering difficult. Governments and world events tried to stamp us out. We were at our strongest when it looked like we would fade away. Thanks to each of you for the resilient life of Bethany Presbyterian Church. Can't wait to see you in church!

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

2, 3 - MESSAGES FROM OUR PASTORS AND MUSICAL NOTES

4, 5, 6 - UPDATES AND EVANGELISM

7, 8 - OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS, UPCOMING EVENTS

Associate Pastor Update

I hope you are excited for the fall as Sunday School, youth confirmation, and youth group has officially started. However, this year is going to be a little different due to the pandemic in order to ensure everyone's safety. Here is our fall lineup. Not everything will be in-person but we want to make sure everyone has a way to deepen their faith through the available resources and classes we are offering at this time. Everything is subject to change so please check out the website for the latest information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP FOR FALL OF 2020:

- Sunday School Children Pre-K to 7th Grade (No in-person classes are available at this time) Check out the online resources available at the Bethany website (Home-Use Group Curriculum)
- Youth Confirmation Class 8th Grade is on Sunday mornings from 9:15am to 10:20am at the Youth Lounge or Zoom virtually.
- Senior High Youth class is on Sundays from 9:30am to 10:20am with Terry Kohlmyer at the Bethany Room.
- Youth Group is on Sundays from 4pm to 5:30pm. (In-person at the Great Room and Fellowship Hall 1st and 3rd Sundays) (Zoom virtual meetings on 2nd and 4th Sundays alternating weekends) (No meetings on 5th Sundays) (We will be studying the "Experiencing God" student edition with our small groups)
- Race Relations in America - August 23rd to November 8th from 1:30pm to 2:30pm every Sunday (Register online - Zoom only) (Anti-Racism Study pack curriculum)
- Sunday School Adult class is on Sunday mornings from 9:30am to 10:20am in-person.
- Woman's Bible Study with Becky Yanak at Room 224
- Old Testament and New Testament Foundations with Doug Bovard at the Chapel.
- Minor Prophets with Mark Rackley at the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

Also our 8:15am Worship Service started up again in September and our 2nd Worship service at 10:45am will offer both in-person or online every Sunday morning. Check out all that is going on at our website Bethanypresby.org. Also, if you're interested in serving in person or virtually for Sunday School, Youth Group, Worship or at the church there are plenty of opportunities available, please contact Pastor Jae for details. Let's continue to pray for our church, pastors, our elders, deacons, adults, youth, and children. On a personal note, Luke is already 9 months old and had his very first swimming experience on labor day weekend.

Music Notes

WE CAN KEEP SINGING

During the pandemic, we have learned that singing out loud is not a safe practice. How does the church keep singing?

In the next few weeks, I am going to be reaching out to choir members and anyone else interested in some 'virtual singing'. Here is a bullet point outline of how we do this together:

- I send participants a recording (probably by email)
- You play the recording on a laptop or other device; it is Preferable for you to listen to the recording through earphones or a headset
- You record your self singing to the recording... preferably using the video camera from your cell phone. You send me the recording you made, or send it to a drop box -Details coming on this.
- I put the recordings together with special software that helps me do this. If you might be interested in helping us explore this or participating, please reach out to me!

BETHANY GOLDEN OLDIES

Yes, Oldies WILL gather together on Thursday, October 15 at noon at Bethany. A box lunch will be provided and we will follow all the required rules for a safe time together that is mandated by the state and our church. The church has the equipment needed to ensure a safe space.

Everyone attending must make a reservation by Monday, Oct 12. This is a very large group so reserve your space early.

- Lunch will be provided at no cost to you.
- Masks will be required and your temperature will be taken upon arrival.
- Tables will be spaced with 4 to a table.
- You will also receive a letter from the board.
- Program is sharing interesting stories you have had since we last met.

If you make a reservation and don't feel well when you get up on the 15th, please stay home and call the church to cancel. Will every Oldie's member be able to attend? Probably not since we have a large membership. Sign up early to reserve your space. Please call one of the following to reserve your space: Church phone - 412-221-5132 Ext - 283 (Oldies), Judy cell for text or message - 724-747-4719 Judy email- jpgard9247@gmail.com, Diane - 412-221-5824, Dolly R.-724-693-8326, Carole - 412-833-8114

Until we meet again, Stay Healthy, Be safe, Get ready to have some fun and laugh a lot.

STEWARDSHIP

"Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" Ephesians 5:25b-26 NIV

Generosity is a term we rarely use. Some may think it is reserved for only the wealthy. Actually, generosity is not about our bank accounts, it is about our hearts. Jesus' response to the widow's offering shows this. Generosity reflects God's nature. Our generosity impacts eternity, as people find and experience God through the ministries of our church. Ministry Flows from the Heart and is Made Possible by Your Generosity.



Please join us for worship for starting October 11, 2020 to deepen our understanding of sharing with the Heart of Jesus. "And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God." 1 Peter 2:5 NLT

BYG HOT DOGS AND S'MORES

By: Joan Kundra

On Sunday, September 27th, my backyard became BYG central for a couple of hours. Thirty-one youth converged around the camp fire with lots of fellowship and laughter. Many hot dogs were consumed. We played an outdoor bowling game and had two piñatas. Then time for s'mores. Several of the youth were guests of members and said it was so fun that they want to come back to BYG! Thank you to the youth leaders who made this possible.



SUPPORTING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN HAITI

By: Deb Pyle

The people of Haiti continue to be plagued by a failing government, increased violence and natural disasters. Roving gangs patrol the streets beating and robbing people, setting homes on fire and causing chaos.

Besides the political upheaval, the country is still suffering from a drought which caused the failure of crops. Previously, the people were still able to go to the open-air market to get some fruits and vegetables, but due to the coronavirus, the markets have had to shut down.

For many years, Bethany has been called to help serve and support the people of Haiti. The annual mission trip was cancelled this year, but the team is still looking for ways we can help from afar. We remain in communication with our beloved Pastor Pierre from the LaCroix New Testament Mission. God has placed it on our hearts to serve the mission by supplying food to the people of LaCroix and the surrounding villages where the six other schools are located. Pastor Pierre reports that his people are not dying from the virus, but rather from starvation. A simple donation can provide enough supplies to feed a Haitian family for a month. The people are so grateful to be receiving rice, beans and sometimes corn meal knowing that it will keep them and their children alive. **The Mission Team is hosting a fundraiser and will match all donations up to \$2,500.** You can make an offering online, mail a check or place a check in the collection bin with Haiti Fundraiser in the subject line before or after service on Sunday. The fundraiser runs through Friday, October 16. Learn more about this initiative by visiting: www.bethanypresby.org/blog/lacroix-fundraiser



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN UPDATE

The PW Coordinating Team met in September, for the first time since the shut down from the pandemic in March. Our Spring Gathering, Rummage Sale, Strawberry Festival and Fall Gathering have all been cancelled this year, but that doesn't mean that the women of our church aren't still active and looking forward to when we can gather again.

We have a Secret Sister program which started in September and will run through December. The Secret Sister program will return again in January for anyone who is currently participating and would like to continue, and for anyone who would like to join at that time. We are actively working on putting the pieces in place for our Thank Offering Sunday, which is scheduled for November 8. We are also looking at the possibility of how we might do our annual Christmas Gathering. Finally, our mission outreaches haven't ended either -- we will be participating again this year in Operation Christmas Child. A huge thank you to all of the women in our church for all that you are doing through this challenging time that we are in.

If PW can be of assistance, or you would like to know more about what PW is doing, email us at pw@bethanypresby.org.

Regeneration: The New Birth

By: Doug Bovard

Scripture Reference: John 3:3-5, 15-16, 36; 4:14; 5:24; 6:35; 58; 10:10; 11:25; 14:15; Ephesians 1:13-14

Sometimes we can be so afraid of losing something or damaging it that we no longer fully enjoy having it. This is true of everyday affairs and in spiritual matters. As Christians, we can rejoice in the knowledge that the forgiveness of our sins, our relationship with God, and our eternal hope can never be taken away. Few truths are as beautiful as God's promise that those who are born again receive a permanent birth and can never lose their status as His sons and daughters. My final article on the new birth will focus on its permanency – showing that as saints, we will persevere in faith because God, through His Holy Spirit, will preserve us into eternity.

Living in perpetual fear that one can lose their salvation is a terrible thing. The Bible proclaims that a person who has been born into the family of God cannot be unborn or removed from it. The analogy of birth is a permanent one, implying that once a person has entered the kingdom of God, he or she can never exit nor be removed.

"Once born, always born. Once saved, always saved." Trite but very true!

John 3:15-16 describes the life for those born again as having eternal life. It is the life to come given to us right now! Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life already (John 3:36) and for all time. We cannot be born again again. Nor can we vacillate between being born and unborn. Spiritually, we are regenerated one time. We have left the land of the dead forever, and we are forever preserved in the land of the living. It is a permanent and everlasting life (John 3:16).

John 5:24 reads in part "...he who hears my word and believes in Him who sent me has eternal life... has passed from death to life." What a great teaching this is! Saving faith involves the mind – we need knowledge of the truth of God's word. Saving faith involves the heart – we need the inner call of the Holy Spirit to change our desires. Saving faith involves the will – we joyfully respond to the gospel with a full-orbed commitment to God. When God brings about a new birth, He will allow nothing to extinguish that new life. Please read John 10:28-30. It is God who holds us tightly, not we who hold Him.

John 14:16 and 17; 25, 26 teaches that God gives the Holy Spirit to be with the regenerate forever;

to dwell with them; and to help preserve and purify them. Christ has taken permanent residence in them by His Holy Spirit!

Now moving to Ephesians 1:13 and 14 we see that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit with a guarantee that we will receive our final inheritance.

The person who is united to Christ will be eternally satisfied. John 4:14 declares that whoever drinks the water Jesus gives him will be eternally satisfied. John 6:35 declares that whoever comes to Jesus shall not hunger nor thirst. John 6:58 proclaims that whoever feeds on the bread of heaven will live forever.

Finally, John 11:25 proclaims that whoever believes in Jesus will live in spite of physical death.

Hallelujah! What a Savior! I will conclude with the relevant Westminster Confession of Faith, XVII, 1: "They, whom God hath accepted in His Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved."

JOIN DOUG IN HIS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 9:30 AM IN THE CHAPEL.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Nursery Directory Melina Robinson and her husband Adam welcomed their daughter, Vivian Lynn on September 16, 2020
- Starr & Robert Lytle and family welcomed their grandson, Reece Robert who was born on September 6, 2020



BAPTISM

Aubrey Lynn Beighey, daughter of Nicole and Edward Beighey was baptized on September 27, 2020

CONDOLENCES

- Geraldine McDonough passed on May 18, 2020. Funeral services were private.
- Wilson A. Matthews, Jr., husband of member Phyllis Matthews passed away on August 28, 2020
- Richard "Richie" French, brother of Paul Eichler passed away on September 6, 2020
- James T. Perryman, grandfather of Bob Julius passed on September 24, 2020
- Former member Ralph Arison, husband of Ellen Arison, passed away on September 26, 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.*

October Birthdays

10/01 Wanda Chilleo	10/08 Elizabeth Just	10/15 William Gray	10/25 Lindsey Myers
10/01 Laurie Edwards	10/08 Dawn Manzini	10/15 Caleb Schwotzer	10/25 Rebecca Quinn
10/01 James Mours	10/08 Katherine Perry	10/17 Geraldine Tschudi	10/25 Edward Silassy
10/02 Cathy Schulz	10/08 Virginia Platt	10/17 Cailee Gibson	10/25 Kellie Stewart
10/02 Audrieanna Lambert	10/08 Isabella Sysak	10/17 Caroline Poiche	10/26 Alan Witwicki
10/02 Michael Barish	10/09 Logan North	10/18 Ronald Coulter	10/26 Lacey Schwotzer
10/03 Hayden Zissis	10/09 Nancy Krek	10/18 Becky Cook	10/26 Ami Layne Wolstoncroft
10/04 Kathy Brown	10/10 Matthew Bizzack	10/18 Rachel Dunlap	10/27 Virginia Silassy
10/04 Alan DePaoli	10/11 Marlene Ostroskie	10/19 Hannah Farabaugh	10/28 Eva Lacher
10/04 Randall Wilkerson	10/11 Layla Edney	10/19 Frank Katrin	10/28 Noah Edney
10/04 Donna Miller	10/12 Chelsea Schultz	10/19 Karen Verduci	10/29 Patricia Swanson
10/05 Beckham Valentine	10/12 Amy Rush	10/19 Kathryn Teller	10/29 Ross Wilkerson
10/06 Dolores Rastetter	10/13 Tammy Underwood	10/20 Ashley Strouse	10/30 Marjorie Jablonski
10/06 Virginia Kirsopp	10/13 Koda Miller	10/20 Paul Gastgeb	10/30 Bruce Barnhart
10/06 Louis Cimaroli	10/14 Robert Lytle	10/22 Mallory Goerd	10/30 Janet Jones
	10/14 Heather Hunter	10/22 JoAnn Alexy	10/30 Tenley Muraco
		10/24 Jessica Dempe	10/31 John Turnbull
		10/24 Brayden Underwood	10/31 Zachary Beattie

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GET INVOLVED

- **Join Brotherhood of Bethany** - In a time when so many are isolated, the men of Bethany have rallied together to form a ministry of fellowship, the Brotherhood of Bethany (BOB). 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. If you are interested in joining, visit: <https://bethanypresby.org/bob>
- **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.
- **First Annual Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat** - October 24, 5-7 pm Join us on October 24 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. for our first annual Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat. Enjoy all the traditional fun of Halloween trick-or-treating with none of the risks. All are welcome for this family-friendly event. More information and RSVP: www.bethanypresby.org/event/trunk-or-treat

We still have a few spaces left! If you'd like to deck out your trunk, reserve your spot today! Stay tuned for more information about the guidelines and safety procedures. Volunteer: www.bethanypresby.org/event/trunk-or-treat-volunteer