

Dear Members and Friends,

God is good, all the time! I am so glad for the call to be your Interim Pastor. My thanks goes to your wonderful search team who found me, and your session for inviting me. And I thank God for bringing us together.

Without really knowing you yet, I feel our kinship in Christ. As I met with your Transition Team, I felt a Spirit in the room. As I sat among you in worship, that same Holy Spirit was there. You blessed your beloved pastor, John Hamilton. With joy and tears you celebrated his faithfulness to God, and his love for each of you. The Spirit that blessed you in years passed, is still here to bless you for your future. Praise God for the Spirit that makes us one in the body of Christ!

God will be working in the heart of the person being called to lead you for the years to come. And, in the months to come, God has a calling for us. We will take time to feel the absence of Pastor John. We will celebrate who we are as a church family and a light to our community. We will pray and listen for what God wants us to hear, and we will prepare to receive the one whom God will send to be your new Senior Pastor. My calling is to see that the important parts of our church life are maintained, and to prepare us for what God has for Bethany Church ahead.

We don't know how many months it will be. But we do know how to be a strong church together. I love the history of Bethany Church, and I celebrate the giftedness of you all. I look forward to serving with you, sharing God's Bread of Life together, and growing as followers of Jesus Christ.

To help us get acquainted, here are some factoids about me and my family.

- Nancy and I live in Canonsburg, PA.
- I grew up number 4 of 7 in Jackson, MI and miss the Sleeping Bear sand dunes, Traverse City, and fishing for King Salmon in Lake Michigan.
- The United States Navy sent me to boot camp in Great Lakes, IL, and taught me to be an Aviation Electronics Technician. They also sent me on a world tour, all expenses paid, aboard the aircraft carrier USS Midway.
- Jesus Christ became real to me while with a bunch of Christians high in the Sequoia mountains of California, and it totally changed my life.
- My greatest blessing was meeting and marrying Nancy Harris while at Columbia International University in Columbia, South Carolina. She serves Washington Presbytery as an administrator.
- When he was young, I gave my son Wil a book about computer programming. Today he runs an IT consulting business.
- One day my son Joe said "Dad, I want to go make some stories, like my uncles." Today he runs a language institute with 500 students in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.
- Nancy and I have two grand daughters, Melanie (3yrs) and Alice (3mos), but they live too far away in Wilkes-Barre, PA.
- Before being ordained as a pastor, I was elected to be an elder at my church while in seminary.
- We served churches in Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Boston, Pennsylvania, and Nevada during our 31 years of ministry.
- My hobbies include travel, "geeky stuff" (tech), woodworking, and home improvement projects.
- Cherished family memory #1: Serving Three Churches, for eight weeks, Isle of Skye, Scotland.
- Cherished memory #2: Running the Boston Marathon (2005).
- Life purpose: Awaken people to the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ.



See you in church,
Pastor Bill Youmans

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Isa 43:19 NIV

A Thank You Message from Pastor John Hamilton

Dear friends in Christ,

Words cannot describe my gratitude for your kindness to Melany and me. Last Sunday was truly overwhelming. The worship service was filled with praise of God, thanksgiving for our life together, God's word of hope and promise to Bethany, and also tears and laughter. What a celebration and expression of love for God and one another! The luncheon and program were filled with more praise of God and expressions of love and kind words of affirmation.

Though words do fail me, I will try: Thank you! Thank you to all who helped in the worship service: musicians and vocalists, children and bell ringers, ushers and Communion servers, sound technicians and nursery caregivers, custodians and so many more. And thanks for all who attended worship. What a praise of God!

Thank you to all who helped with the luncheon and program: the food and serving, the tables and set-up, organizing and planning, the program and visuals. To the Deacons, Session, staff and vast array of helpers, thank you. What an expression of the body of Christ at its very best!

Thank you for your expressions of kindness: the generosity of the session and congregation, your hugs and tears and memories, and most of all your words—spoken or written, or simply “written” in your faces. Your words describing God's impact on you and the church in our time together are beyond price. Thank you. What an expression of the love of God!

If I am not able to thank you directly, please know that you are included in this “thank you”, and that you have had Godly impact on me and on Melany and our family.

I encourage—yes urge—you to warmly welcome your Interim Pastor, pour out your love for Pastor Jae and Esther as they anticipate their child's birth and join together in worship and service to God in this season of Advent.

From Melany and me, we love you and pray God's blessing on you.

John Hamilton





We thank everyone at Bethany Presbyterian Church for your overwhelming support from the gifts, cards, and just your words of encouragement with our baby shower. From the Pres-

byterian Women who organized the church baby shower to our Bethany youth group who also surprised us. We are so thankful for all the love and support for our little one who is already so blessed.

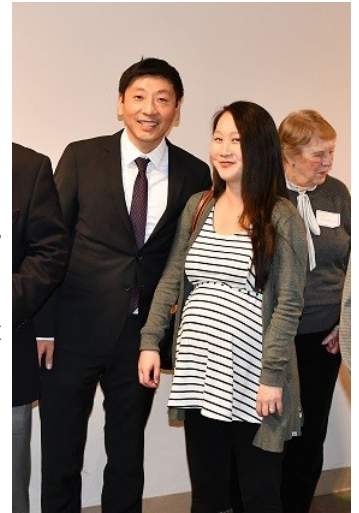
Also it was wonderful to witness Pastor John's final worship service and retirement luncheon. As you may already know like all of you he has blessed me so much with his presence this past year and learned so much from him especially his genuine care for people and his love for Jesus. With lots of love I wish him well in his next phase of his faith journey.

Our Youth Group had a wonderful time enjoying fellowship at the Main Event for our Thanksgiving week. And we plan to celebrate a BYG Christmas party on December 8th from 4-6pm. We will have a great time of fun and fellowship exchanging gifts. Please bring a \$10 gift to participate.

As you know the baby is due in December 11th so I will be taking several weeks off, after the baby is born, to care for Esther and the baby. I promise to get word out to all as soon as he arrives! Thanks again for all your love and support. Please continue to pray for us as we will also be praying for a smooth transition with our new interim pastor on the way. And may God bless you richly in this season of Advent as we wait for the Lord.

Peace,

Pastor Jae Cho



Bethany Golden Oldies

December is a busy month for the Oldies.

- All those going on the trip to the CLO Cabaret on December 12 must be at the church no later than 10:30. We have a wait list if anyone needs to cancel
- Forms are available to our trip to see "Queen Esther" at the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster on March 24-25. A show you don't want to miss.
- The Christmas luncheon is Thursday December 19 at noon in Fellowship Hall. Please join us for Fun, Fellowship with longtime and new Friends enjoying a meal and beautiful music sung by Starlite.
- We will be collecting toddler size diapers and wipes. Also, PJ's, underwear, backpacks or a toy for primary aged girls and boys taken into Foster Love during the Christmas holidays.



Evangelism Thought for the Month:

1Peter 3:15— "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..."

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:15 AM Worship 10:45 AM Worship 4:00 PM BYG Jr. & Sr. High 6:00 PM Worship	2 6:00 PM Engagement Team 6:15 PM PW Body Carpenter Workout 6:00 PM Annual Joint Session/Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM Dartball League Meeting	3 9:30 AM Womens Day Out 6:30 PM Men's Huddle Group 7:00 PM Coed Dartball	4 9:30 AM Preschool 10:00 AM Fellowship of Prayer 6:00 PM Ringers 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Modern Svc Rehearsal	5 9:15 AM Quilting 12:00 PM Knitters 6:30 PM Locking Arms Mens Group 7:30 PM Dartball 8:00 PM AA Mtg	6 9:30 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Womens Small Group 12:00 PM Preschool Lunch Bunch 6:30 PM P.W. Setup	7 10:00 AM Cantata Rehearsal 1:00 PM PW Christmas Gala 1:00 PM Southwood Boys Christmas Party 4:30 PM Foodbank Kids Christmas Party Setup
8 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:15 AM Worship 9:00 AM Advent Breakfast 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Christmas Cantata 12:00 PM Foodbank Kids Christmas Party 4:00 PM BYG Jr. & Sr. High Christmas Party 6:00 PM Worship	9 9:30 AM Preschool 6:15 PM PW Body Carpenter Workout 7:00 PM MOPS Steering Mtg	10 9:30 AM Womens Day Out 6:30 PM Men's Huddle Group 7:00 PM Coed Dartball	11 9:30 AM Preschool 6:00 PM Ringers 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Modern Svc Rehearsal	12 9:15 AM MOPS 9:15 AM Quilting 12:00 PM Knitters 6:30 PM Locking Arms Mens Group 7:30 PM Dartball 8:00 PM AA Mtg	13 9:30 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Womens Small Group 12:00 PM Men's Friday Lunch 12:00 PM Preschool Lunch Bunch 5:30 PM BWS Set up	14 9:00 AM Breakfast with Santa 9:00 AM PW Bible study 11:00 AM Knitters
15 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:15 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 6:00 PM Worship	16 9:30 AM Preschool 6:15 PM PW Body Carpenter Workout	17 9:30 AM Womens Day Out 6:30 PM Men's Huddle Group 6:30 PM PW Planning Meeting 7:00 PM Coed Dartball	18 9:30 AM Preschool 6:00 PM Ringers 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Modern Svc Rehearsal	19 9:15 AM Quilting 12:00 PM Golden Oldies Luncheon 12:00 PM Knitters 1:00 PM Food Bank Gift Organizing 6:30 PM Locking Arms Mens Group 7:30 PM Dartball 8:00 PM AA Mtg	20 9:30 AM Preschool Christmas Party 9:30 AM Womens Small Group 6:00 PM Kids Night Out	21 7:30 AM Food Bank
22 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT Family Promise 8:15 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 6:00 PM Worship	23 Family Promise 6:15 PM PW Body Carpenter Workout	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Family Promise 4:00 PM Family Service 8:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service 10:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED Family Promise	26 Family Promise OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 PM Locking Arms Mens Group 8:00 PM AA Mtg	27 Family Promise 12:00 PM Men's Friday Lunch	28 Family Promise 9:00 AM PW Bible study 9:00 AM Supplemental Diaper Bank 11:00 AM Knitters
29 Family Promise 10:00 AM Worship	30 6:15 PM PW Body Carpenter Workout	31 NEW YEARS EVE	1 NEW YEARS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:15 AM Quilting 12:00 PM Thursday Knitters 6:30 PM Locking Arms Mens Group 7:00 PM Upward Coaches & Referee Training 7:30 PM Dartball 8:00 PM AA Mtg	3	4 9:30 AM Upward Cheer Camp

Happy Birthday!

12/01	Devin Underwood	12/11	Betty Boykin	12/23	Lane Ramage
12/02	Joyce Bartolomeo	12/11	Emma Danziger	12/23	Robert Loebig
12/02	Landon Smith	12/12	Edward Ostroskie	12/25	Bernard Kramer
12/02	Nolan Veneski	12/13	Lauren Butt	12/25	Daniel Hartz
12/03	Karen Lucas	12/13	Rosemarie Thielet	12/26	Maggie Regan
12/03	Reilley Barish	12/14	Alice Sherwin	12/26	Abby Sysak
12/04	Louella Campbell	12/14	Meagan Smith	12/26	Krista Trimmer
12/04	Naudia Lutz	12/14	Karl Salvini	12/27	Elizabeth Durocher
12/05	Kristen Grossi	12/15	Douglas Bovard	12/27	Pamela Petrow
12/05	Jenifer Goff	12/15	Jonathan Bovard	12/27	John O'Brien
12/05	Sheri Darpino	12/15	Karalee Nelson	12/28	Harry Stefanski
12/05	Mason Gastgeb	12/17	Beckie Harbison	12/28	Tory McKee
12/06	Thelma Cimarolli	12/17	Bridget Schneider	12/28	Alexander Furman
12/06	Donna Carman	12/17	Ronin Colvin	12/29	William Pitzer
12/06	Tera Brickner	12/19	Ava Faulkner	12/30	Thomas Willhite
12/06	Karen Harkins	12/19	Thomas Nass	12/30	Lori Calgaro
12/08	Dawn Salerno	12/20	Christopher Snatchko	12/30	Bonnie Miller
12/08	Michael Vennum	12/20	Kelly Wilhelm	12/30	Gary Casciola
12/09	Barbara Rahr	12/20	Anna Grafe	12/30	Cheryl Smith
12/09	Lynne Cawley	12/21	Nikolas Krieg	12/30	Tyler Nicholson
12/09	Elizabeth Lacher	12/21	Ruth Gabelhart	12/30	Lynne Suchoza
12/10	Anna Scalise	12/21	Michael Talerico	12/31	Charles Edwards
12/10	Halie Pattison	12/22	Haley Anderson	12/31	Kris Sabin
12/10	Kelli Pattison	12/23	James Myers		



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS: Poinsettias will be available for purchase this year to decorate the church for Christmas. Please look in your bulletins for the order form or call Jill in the church office.

CHANCEL FLOWERS 2020: The schedule for chancel flowers will be in the Welcome Center starting on December 8. If you are already on the schedule from 2019, you will automatically be put on for 2020. If you have a change for your flowers please make the corrections on the schedule or call Jill in the church office. Flowers are \$30 for a vase and \$40 for a centerpiece. All of our flowers are ordered from local florist Broniak & Kraf in South Fayette.

Presbyterian Women Christmas Gala

Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 1:00PM

Entertainment provided by Pianist, Xuelai Wu

There will be an ornament exchange (\$5) wrapped or gift bag

Silent Auction, we are looking for basket donations (new items) for the Silent Auction

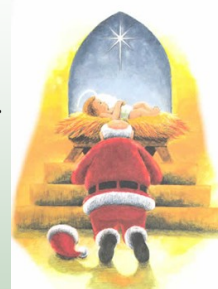


Breakfast with Santa at the Manger

Save the Date!

The Annual Breakfast with Santa will take place on Saturday December 14 from 9 AM to Noon.

Please register online or at worship the next 2 Sundays.



The following persons were elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting held on November 24, 2019 to serve in leadership positions in 2020:

ELDERS- Tom Aspinall, Doug Bovard, Kara Julius, Terry Kohlmyer, Karin Nass, Dolly Rastetter, Connie Segeleon, Peggy Walsh and Ryan Wolstoncroft

DEACONS - Taylor Barbaryka, Kevin Cox, Clyde Davis, Alice Eiszler, Judy Gastgeb, Nikki O'Brien, Jeanine Rainone, Paul Rinald, and Michele Zwigart

AUDITORS - Eric Gregory and Joe Verduci

2020 NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Jim Davidson, Celina Farabaugh, Kim Hartnett, Joan Kundra, Lynne Suchoza, and alternate, Fred Gerstacker

THE CHECK'S IN THE MAIL...

As the end of the year approaches, please keep in mind that all contributions for 2019 must be received at the church no later than **December 31, 2019**. IRS general rules state that a check placed in the church offering plate in January 2020 cannot be recorded as a 2019 contribution, even if the check has been dated 2019. The only exception to this rule would be for contributions that are mailed and postmarked in 2019. These contributions would be deductible in 2019 even though the contributions were not received until 2020.

If you have any questions please call Kim McCann, Financial Accountant, at 412-221-5132. Kim is generally in the office Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Church offering envelopes for 2020 will be mailed to you each month. If you are not receiving envelopes and want them please call Kim McCann.

2020 Stewardship Campaign Update



We hope you had the opportunity to hear the inspirational messages of our 4 speakers during the campaign. Thanks to Scott Trimmer, Shawn Zwigart, Norbert Ndamira and Judy Davidson for sharing their personal messages.

If you have submitted your Estimate of Giving Card—thank you! To date, 97 Estimate of Giving Cards have been received.

It's not too late to submit a card. Please drop your card in the offering plate or mail it to the church. If you need another card, please reach out to the Church Office or an usher!

Thanks for being part of the generous giving family of Bethany Church!

The Bridgeville Community Food Bank served 131 families on November 16th.

That number included 61 children, 99 adults and 89 elderly. Thank you for your continued support for the Bridgeville community Food Bank.

MISSION NEWS and CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:

Throughout 2019, Bethany has continued to support Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, again this Christmas season your Mission team has decided to support Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs with our Christmas Joy Offering. Half of all monies raised during our Christmas services will be donated to GAMSD. As you can read below, from Jack Wagner, spokesperson for the organization, he gives us an update on the new facility being built here:



First and foremost, thank you for all of the help and financial donations from Bethany Presbyterian Church in support of the mission of Guardian Angels Medical Service Dog's (GAMSD). With your support we have been able to help Veterans, First Responders and Civilians struggling with visible and invisible disabilities. The cost of raising and training a Medical Service Dog is \$25,000 and they are provided at no cost to the recipient. And many of our dogs have been placed with recipients here in Western Pa.

In 2019 we purchased 102 acres in Robinson Twp., Washington County to build our first campus outside of Williston, Florida. With a second campus we will be able to double the number of Medical Service Dogs to those in need.

Our plan is to break ground on the Pittsburgh Campus in 2020 and be up and operating in the fall of 2021. That is an aggressive schedule and is dependent on our ability to raise the necessary revenue. We are optimistic it will occur.

- GAMSD's have put together a very professional group to design and build the campus. Rocky Bleier Construction Group will be The Construction Management firm that directs and overseas the project. A service-disabled veteran owned company with significant experience and a great reputation.*
- Avon-Graff is our architectural firm. They will provide professional expertise and innovative ideas for a campus environment. They are a well-respected company and are located in Sewickley, Pa.*
- And finally our Civil Engineering & Site Development Firm is Lennon, Smith, Souleret. They are also local and have considerable experience with former surface mine property especially in the Airport Area.*

Thank you for all of the help we have received from Bethany Presbyterian Church!

*Sincerely,
Jack Wagner*

If you have any questions regarding this ministry, or the Christmas Joy offering, please contact the church or any member of the mission team. May God bless you during this Christmas season.

Caroline B. Poiche

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Permit #38



ADVENT WORSHIP

December 1

- First Sunday of Advent
- Services at 8:15 AM, 10:45 AM & 6:00 PM

December 15

- Third Sunday of Advent
- Services at 8:15 AM, 10:45 AM & 6:00 PM

December 8

- Second Sunday of Advent
- Christmas Cantata at 10:45 AM
- Services at 8:15 AM and 6:00 PM

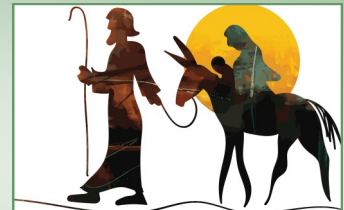


December 22

- Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Services at 8:15 AM, 10:45 AM & 6:00 PM

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

- 4:00 PM—Family Service with The Praise Band
- 8:00 PM—Traditional Candlelight Service
- 10:00 PM—Candlelight Communion Service



December 29—One worship service at 10:00 AM—No Sunday School