

AUGUST 2020

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

Pastor Message

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

I was admiring an impressive bouquet of color shining from a bed of perfect zinnias when a car stopped in front of my home. The door opened and a guy got out and just stood there. Suddenly, he hollered a message, "Hey man! Your flowers look beautiful." I gave him a smile of appreciation and a double thumbs up as he drove off.

What does loving my neighbor look like during these days of distance, masks, and home quarantine? Unfortunately, our cautions against an invisible virus have grown into national suspicion of the intentions of the people around us. Daily we are barraged with new categories of people we should fear and new conspiracies threatening our life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. I believe self-centered rage has become our new national pastime. How are we to be faithful to our personable, trusting Savior in these days?

I am planning an August sermon series around the book "Just Walk Across the Room: Simple Steps Pointing People to Faith" by Bill Hybels. You may wish to pick up a copy and read along. Let's rethink neighborliness and be inspired to share the gift of faith as God gives us opportunity.

I remain very proud of Bethany Church. We are finding ways to strengthen the bonds of fellowship in spite of health risks. We express our love for the community by keeping our facility accessible and staffed. With invisible love, we remain strong in prayer and connection with all our members. I feel blessed in my call to serve you for this season.

I'm grateful for the kind stranger admiring my flowers and giving me a joyous shout out. He reminded me of the many times I stopped in awe of a neighbor's flowers, and resisted the urge to march right up to the door and announce my gratitude. Look out neighbor, here I come.... masked, of course.

Hope to see you in church soon.

Pastor Bill

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

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

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

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



TOGETHER AGAIN: SAFELY RECONNECTING WITH CHURCH STAFF

The last few months have been hard on us all...we've missed seeing you! Starting on Monday, August 3, we will be back in the office, on a rotating schedule, and ready to reconnect. While you can continue to contact us through email and phone calls, we will now be available in-person from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Friday. Please call the church, at 412-221-5132, to make an appointment as our doors will remain locked. This will also ensure that the staff person you wish to see is available and in the office. If you need anything, or even just want to talk, we are here for you and look forward to seeing you!

Musical Notes

By: John Henninger

Under normal circumstances, the summer is usually filled with planning for the return of choirs, bell ringers, Sunday School singers, soloists, and instrumentalists in September. But, we are not in normal times. The need to put safety first remains our priority and will encompass our Music Ministry.

We are told to “make music to the Lord” in the scriptures. And we will continue to follow this mandate! But things might look a bit different for a while. You have probably read, and I have previously written, about the dangers of singing in groups and its inherent risk of spreading the COVID-19.

If you have ideas that I have not mentioned on how we can continue to make music for the Lord, let me know. Drop me a note at henninger@bethanypresby.org.

Peace, safety and health to all.

Here are some thoughts on what we might consider in the coming months:

- **Small Groups:** Limiting the number of singers to two each Sunday.
- **Song Leaders:** The leader will guide our hymns and offer solos during worship.
- **Solo Singers:** We would love to include your voice in our Sunday Worship. If you would like to sing a solo, you can come Sunday morning and make your musical offering. If more comfortable for you – we can record your solo during the week, when there are very few people in the church building and then include the solo in our live streamed service. If you are able, you can even record at home and send the recording to the church digitally.
- **Youth Singers:** If you know of a young person or child who would like to sing during worship – let me know.
- **Instrumentals:** If you have an instrumental talent and would like to play your instrument, we can arrange for that live on Sunday morning, or recorded in advance.
- **PPE Protection:** Safety measures will remain in place for all those helping to lead the singing, including masks, face shields and social distancing.

Associate Pastor Update

By: Pastor Jae Cho

This month, the BYG gathered for a mission project to help clear the yard of one of our beloved teachers, Joan Kundra. Our youth gathered to put love in action and bless our sister in Christ. To learn more about the project and hear what personal accounts, check out our event summary blog post: [Loving Our Neighbor in the Name of Jesus](#). Read more: bethanypresby.org/blog

The Youth Group will continue to gather both virtually and in-person for the rest of summer. In August, we have planned a bonfire and also a drive-in movie event. For more information, visit the youth group page on the website. Learn more: bethanypresby.org/youth-group

This July, we were blessed with the opportunity to hear Ralph Lowe, Pittsburgh Presbyteries director of justice ministries during service.

In his sermon, he spoke about the importance of being educated in loving our neighbors, especially those brothers and sisters of colors.

As a congregation, we will continue to explore ways to learn and grow in our understanding about how racism impacts people in our country and how to confront these issues that people of color face. Starting in the third week of August, Pastor Jae, Jackie Nixon, and Doug Bovard will be planning to offer a virtual course that discusses how we can understand and overcome racism in our world today through a Christian lens. If you are interested in this 8-week journey please register with Pastor Jae at jae@bethanypresby.org.

As we continue to find ways to be like Jesus we pray for God's protection and guidance for our church during these times.

Upcoming Events

BYG FAMILY EVENT: DRIVE-IN MOVIE - AUGUST 6, 7:00 - 11:00 P.M.

Are you looking for a fun, and safe, way to spend the night as a family? Join the BYG for family fellowship and pizza at the Dependable drive-in movie theater! We will be congregating in the same area, so please be sure to tell the attendant you are with the BYG when purchasing your tickets. Please RSVP by August 5th to Pastor Jae at jae@bethanypresby.org.

BYG FAMILY EVENT: WELCOME BBQ - AUGUST 29

Join us for a family-friendly BBQ to say good-bye to summer and hello to the new BYG year. This is a great event for families and children to get to know youth teachers, youth parents, and other youth and enjoy fellowship. Bethany and Steve Orosz will graciously provide hospitality at their home. If you are interested in bringing food to share, please let Pastor Jae (jae@bethanypresby.org) know when you RSVP August 24.

PNC UPDATE

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to make steady progress towards calling Bethany's next Senior Pastor. We are conducting initial interviews with candidates, on an ongoing basis, and hope to complete this stage of our process by early to mid-August. We will continue to review Personal Information Forms (PIF) as they trickle in from the Presbytery to ensure we are truly discerning God's word. The next step in the process will be viewing additional sermons by the candidates and eventually inviting the final round for in-person interviews.

On behalf of the committee and all of our potential candidates, I want to thank the congregation for your continued prayers. We want to praise God for providing the technology necessary to continue this process through the pandemic and wrapping us in His love and grace. We ask that you continue to pray for our committee members, Judy Davidson, Becky Yanak, Pam Petrow, Sarah Paviol, Jim Myers, and Tim Nagy and the ministry of the many candidates. More specifically, please pray for the Lord's discernment in revealing the pastor He has chosen for Bethany to the committee and revealing the call He has already determined to our next Senior Pastor.

Respectfully in Christ, Bob Julius



BETHANY GOLDEN OLDIES

Unfortunately, to keep everyone safe and healthy, the Bethany Golden Oldies will not meet again until September 17. All scheduled trips have sadly been cancelled and we are working to refund any trip money as soon as possible. The delay in refunding your money is due to the Lenzner bus company, not the Golden Oldies group. We hope this finds each and every one of our members happy and healthy. GOD BLESS AMERICA AND KEEP EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING SAFE FROM HARM AND DESTRUCTION.

Putting Love into Action

By: Joan Kundra

If you have never seen love in action, then you have not spent much time with the Bethany Youth Group (BYG). Let me tell you what I mean.

Calling it a jungle would better depict the state of our yard. We had every intention to handle the mess before Ken's stroke, but missed estimates and other issues delayed any progress. And, after losing both Ken and his mom, the yard fell even further down our priority list.

That's when the BYG came in big. With such an unglamorous task at hand, I anticipated a few members arriving to help with the work, but never imagined that 21 youth and adult leaders would converge on our front porch that afternoon. The sheer number of youth and adults was overwhelming (a word I use a lot surrounding this event).

Tools were unloaded from the vehicles of the Morelock family and the Orosz family cars. All types of lawn tools, and yes, even power tools like a small chain saw! (I did say there was a jungle).

The group got right to work. The Morelock and Orosz families kindly donated tools for the task, even bringing small power tools like chainsaws to tackle the mess! What would have taken months, took almost no time at all with the many hands at work and in no time my yard underwent a beautiful transformation.

Without hesitation, they pulled weeds, cut branches, dug roots and landscaped trim. The experience was, again, overwhelming.



Many times I would take a step back to cry happy tears of joy and thanksgiving. Part of our mission is "to Love like Jesus", and I've never seen as much evidence of this as I did that day. Love in action and in word.

Throughout the day there was so much laughter and fun. We thought perhaps we'd received a noise complaint when a Heidelberg police officer approached the house. To our surprise, it was Bethany's own, Daine Lower! While patrolling, he stopped to see what was happening and decided to stay and help with the clean-up process.

One of the best moments was seeing Jacob's face when he returned home from work. He could not believe how different the yard looked in such a short amount of time. This is the youth of our church and the future of our church. They truly loved like Jesus and showed love in action. I'm truly blessed and grateful to be surrounded by such a loving community.

To learn more about this mission project, check out our new blog post: [Loving Our Neighbor in the Name of Jesus](#)

Regeneration: The New Birth

By: Doug Bovard

Scripture Reference: John 3: 1 – 10 and 16-18

The summer session on Sunday school will run every week through August 6 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Please contact Doug if you are interested in attending dbovardeverizon.net or call/text at 412-979-9324.

As John's gospel shows, Nicodemus was taken utterly off guard by Jesus' teaching on salvation and the new birth. Nicodemus asked whether or not a man could enter a second time into his mother's womb! Jesus knew that Nicodemus, a great teacher among the Jews, lacked understanding of the promised salvation taught in the OT. For Pharisees like Nicodemus, external matters of family lineage, being a Jew, obeying the law, etc. determined one's salvation. Such misunderstandings of salvation is an old problem not limited to Nicodemus' time. Throughout church history, the biblical doctrine of salvation by faith alone has often been trivialized and marginalized by efforts to promote salvation through human effort.

Further, today there is an alarming amount of disagreement among Christians regarding what the Bible teaches about salvation. So we need to clarify what salvation is and why we need to be saved.

This month's article will focus on a promised new birth and a saving new birth. Please read Deuteronomy 30:6; Jeremiah 9:25-26; 31:33; Ezekiel 11:19; 36:25-28; John 3:9-10; Romans 2:28-29 and Colossians 2:11-14. Jesus expected Nicodemus to understand salvation (John 3:10) because it had been promised in the OT.

Physical circumcision in the OT was the sign of belonging to the people of God. However, the promised circumcision of the heart in Deuteronomy 30:6 was the more important sign because it showed an inward devotion to God worth much more than mere external evidences.

The change of our heart's desire is real salvation! Nicodemus and the Pharisees had missed that. Upon receiving a heart circumcision, the people "will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live." Jeremiah warned the Jews, who had physical circumcision but lacked a circumcision of the heart, that they were no better off than their uncircumcised pagan neighbors! From a change of heart to a spiritual rebirth, let us rejoice in a gracious God who has promised this spiritual renewal to all of us – His people!

Now let's address the new birth as being a saving new birth. Please read John 3:5, 16-18, 36; 8:34-47; 1

Corinthians 1:18; Galatians 3:10-14 and Ephesians 2:1-13. According to the Bible, sinners are saved from God by God and for God. Through faith, sinners are saved from God's curse upon humanity and the creation.

Through faith, sinners are saved from God's wrath. Through faith, sinners are saved from God's final judgement and everlasting punishment. In John 3:5 Jesus talks about salvation as "entering the kingdom of God."

A kingdom is a sphere over which a king rules. The kingdom of God is the sphere of salvation in the hearts of those who have been born anew from above. There is no state of neutrality; one is either inside the kingdom or outside the kingdom. To be saved is to be brought into the kingdom of God. To be outside the kingdom of God is to be perishing. The earth is divided between the children of light and the children of darkness (John 8: 37-38, 44). Those who are inside the kingdom are, by God's grace, the children of God. Those who are outside the kingdom are the children of Satan, enslaved in their sins. Only by God's saving new birth can we be delivered from darkness to light and from the family of Satan to the family of God.

I'll conclude with a quote from one of my heroes of the faith, RC Sproul. I'll confess I added a tiny addition to his quote which I am certain he would approve of! You'll know it when you read it!

What do we need to be saved from? We need to be saved from God – not from kidney stones, not from hurricanes, not from military defeats and not from COVID-19. What every human being needs to be saved from is God. The last thing in the world the impenitent sinner ever wants to meet on the other side of the grave is God. But the glory of the gospel is that the One from whom we need to be saved is the very One who saves us.

Membership Updates

Birth Announcement: Welcome Aubrey Lynn Beighey

Nicole and Edward Beighey welcomed a daughter, Aubrey Lynn Beighey, on April 1, 2020. Please congratulate the family on their new blessing.



Condolences:

- Charlotte Guisewite, mother of Marlene Haley, Maxine Berton and Joy Heaps passed away on July 26, 2020 in Florida. All funeral arrangements will be private and handled by Warchols. Please keep the family in your prayers.
- Emma Danziger passed away on July 13, 2020. Please keep Emma's family in your prayers during this difficult time.
- Norm Miller, beloved Boy Scout Troop 2 Scout Master, passed away on July 31, 2020 of natural causes. The funeral will be private and a memorial service will be held at a future date.

**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.*

August Birthdays

08/01 James Cawley	08/06 Randi Shelton	08/13 Sarah Smith	08/22 Sylbia Kunst
08/01 Tyler De Rose	08/07 Arnold McAuley	08/14 Joseph Del Conte	08/22 Ashley McAuley
08/01 Celina Farabaugh	08/07 Rylie Mendenhall	08/14 Robert Fulton	08/22 Michael Shildt
08/01 Cheryl Harold	08/07 Jaymi Neely	08/15 Luke Bizzack	08/23 Sandra Miklavic
08/01 Case Martinec	08/08 Alexandra Findley	08/15 Joseph DePaoli	08/24 Ava Martinec
08/01 Carol Willhite	08/08 Joy Heaps	08/15 Randall Shaffer	08/24 Sophia Martinec
08/02 Patricia Fischer	08/08 Dawn Starr Lytle	08/16 Erynn Barish	08/24 Molly Mazzanni
08/02 Stefani Jazudek	08/08 Jeffrey Miklavic	08/16 Carson DeRoss	08/24 Jordan Underwood
08/03 Robert Butt	08/08 Laurie Sysak	08/16 Jacob Kundra	08/25 Lily Duffill
08/03 Daine Lower	08/09 Teresa Dunn	08/16 Phyllis Porter	08/26 Eric Millerschoen
08/03 Susan Radzik	08/09 Brittany Rhodes	08/16 Ashley Vollmer	08/27 William Gray
08/03 Samantha Saracco	08/09 Veva Tessmer	08/17 Darcy Julius	08/27 Stanley Underwood
08/03 Lynn Underwood	08/10 Margaret Nicholson	08/17 Bradley Miller	08/28 Kathryn Martinec
08/03 John Wolstoncroft	08/10 Elizabeth Suppo	08/17 Rebecca Price	08/28 Scott Pyrdek
08/04 Austin Abel	08/10 Shawn Zwigart	08/18 Jerod Witwicki	08/29 Miriam Julius
08/04 Donna Slack	08/11 Bettina Beattie	08/19 Lou Nowasielski	08/29 Virginia Millerschoen
08/05 Matthew Heasley	08/11 James Goerd	08/19 Debra Poglein	08/29 Ralph Wolstoncroft
08/05 Bill Ramous	08/11 Savannah Houk	08/20 Nicole Casciola	08/30 Patrick Harding
08/06 Brady Gullo	08/11 Weston Jackson	08/20 Audrey Clarke	08/30 Colleen Veneski
08/06 Jennifer Jenkins	08/11 Mark Wolstoncroft	08/22 Patricia Black	08/31 Tom Phillips
08/06 Kimberly McAuley	08/12 Stephanie Saracco	08/22 Mary Beth Hampson	08/31 Dorothy Smith
08/06 Amy Ryan	08/13 Gregory Price	08/22 Ian Hunter	08/31 Noah Sommerfield

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Upcoming Events

Join Us for Summer Sunday School – Chapel from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

What comes to mind when you think about God is arguably very important to you. The summer session will run every week through August 6 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Join us for a 20-minute video teaching an attribute of God by Ligonier Ministries teaching fellow Dr. Steven J. Lawson. An outline and discussion questions will be provided. The remainder of the class will be Q&A and open discussion.

Back to School Event – August 13

Join us on August 13 for our annual Back to School event! School supplies and goodies will be distributed in a way that maintains proper social distance and limits contact with others. Stay tuned for more information!

Mark Your Calendar: Annual Church Picnic – August 23

The Annual Church Picnic is a wonderful fellowship opportunity. The Deacons are working to plan a wonderful event for the congregation to gather and celebrate with outdoor worship and picnic after so many months apart. Planning is currently underway to ensure we adhere to government safety mandates, but we know this will be a safe and fun event for all members of the church. Stay tuned for more information!