

APRIL 2021

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

Pastor Update

BY: PASTOR BRIAN JANSSEN

I have recently decided to re-read for the 20th time or so that wonderful classic, "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe." The book was first read to me by my mother as she sat in the doorway of the room my older sister and I shared, my mother reading with us fighting the sleep that always won out. Every time I read it I find I have a new favorite part. Upon one reading my favorite part was Mr. Beaver's proclamation about Aslan, "safe? No he isn't safe! He is the King I tell you...but he is good." This time around, and perhaps it has to do with the timing of the year, I was struck by Lucy and Susan Pevensie's inability to sleep the night Aslan goes to meet the White Witch at the Stone Table. Upon finding him, they ask if they might travel with him, and he says, "I should be glad of the company tonight."

While the moment is brief, it is a profound explanation to children readers of what Holy Week is about. The Pevensie children have met this unsafe, but profoundly good Lion, and know that something is wrong. Over the course of Lent and throughout the year we meet this man Jesus, and we marvel at him. He too is not safe but is good. He challenges us. He tells us we are blessed. We know that we are loved, it is enough. But during this Holy Week, we know that something is not right. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem was supposed to be the start of the restoration of the kingdom of David, but it ends with Jesus looking around the temple (Mark,) cursing a fig tree (Matthew,) weeping over Jerusalem (Luke,) or confused disciples (John.) None of it makes sense, which is why every year we walk with Jesus just as the Pevensie children walk with Aslan. Jesus does not want to be alone this week and neither do we. We walk with one another through the streets of Jerusalem, we wonder why Jesus says the things he says, we are appalled that this savior who ushers in a kingdom of peace, is violently put to death, but we know that it is not the end of the story. The stone will be rolled away, the tomb will be empty. Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!

And here we are, able to walk together this year. We do so safely and without judgment. It was just one year ago that all of were trying to make sense of the world we were living in. plunged into isolation by necessity and unable to do so many of the things that we would normally do in Spring, including celebrating the resurrection of our Lord. Yet, we are here now, with vaccinations on the rise, and a rising sense of hope. We will celebrate Easter together. It will still be different and not what we are used to, but it will be good. It is such a blessing to me to be the pastor of this church, experiencing every day what God is up to in our neighborhood, and the amazing ways we join Him in that work. Blessings to you all, and Happy Easter!

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

2 - MUSIC NOTES

3 - GOD IS SPIRITUAL

4 - CONFIRMATION

**5-8 - NEWS, UPCOMING
EVENTS, BIRTHDAYS**

Music Notes

BY: JOHN HENNINGER

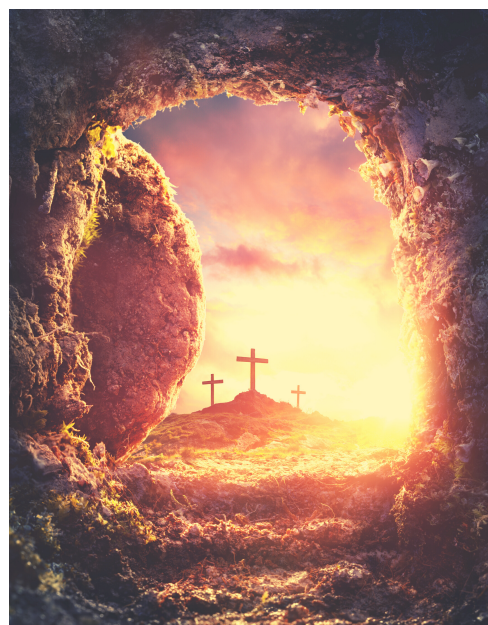
IN GRATEFUL PRAISE

Many thanks are due to those singers who have been willing to come and sing in small groups for our 10:45 service or to serve as song leaders. In due time, we will be able to again gather singers in larger groups as we have in the past; but for now, our song is coming from smaller groups. If you are interested in helping by singing in one of these small groups, please let me know. You do not have to be regular part of the Bethany Choir to participate!

From the Cross to the Grave, to the Empty Tomb

Holy Week at Bethany Presbyterian Church offers an opportunity through worship to travel through the sacrifices and ultimate victory won by Jesus Christ for OUR salvation.

- Thursday, April 1 - we gather at 7:00 pm to remember the Lord's Supper, the Last Supper.
- Friday, April 2, we gather solemnly to remember the sacrifice made by Christ - giving HIS life for our salvation.
- Sunday, April 4 - we celebrate the victory and resurrection of Jesus with two services at 9:00 and 11:00 am.



Make a plan to travel through Holy Week.

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
All creation, join to say Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

God is Spiritual

BY: DOUG BOVARD

Everywhere in the Old and New Testament, God is represented as a spiritual Being, without form, invisible, whom no man hath seen or can see; dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, and full of glory; as not only the creator, and the preserver, but as the governor of all things; as everywhere present, and everywhere imparting life, and securing order. – Charles Hodge

Scripture Readings: John 1:18; John 4:23-24; 1 Timothy 1:16-17. Hymn: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise by Charles C. Smith

God is spirit and does not have a material body (John 4:24). In order to reveal Himself, God uses figurative language so that we can more easily understand who He is. The Bible speaks of God's hands (Jer. 18:6), eyes (2 Chron. 16:9), arms (Isa. 53:1), and ears (Ps. 130:2). Several times the Bible talks figuratively about meeting God face-to-face (Gen. 32:30 and Exodus 33:11).

Consider that God's lack of a physical body is not a limitation but rather part of what makes Him the divine Lord of all. Without a body, He can be present in all places at all times – never subject to spatial constraints. It is precisely because He has no body that He is able to keep His promises to be with us His people (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5). The very fact that He is spirit, gives us assurance that wherever we go, and no matter how alone we may feel, God is with us.

While some people claim to have seen God, the truth is that He is invisible (1 Tim. 1:17). The only physical manifestation of God in human form is Jesus Christ – the God-man (John 1:18; Col. 1:15). We know God through revelation in three distinct ways:

1. We can know about God by examining the world He has made. Known as general revelation, God demonstrates His glory through all of the created universe (Ps. 19: 1-2; Rom. 1:19-20).
2. We can know God by reading what the Bible says about Him. This is special revelation.
3. Finally, we can know God by entering into a relationship with Jesus Christ (John 1:14).

As a spirit being, God is infinite and has no boundaries or limits. His being permeates every part of time and space. As finite beings, we just can't understand a God who transcends time and space. The fullness of His being, which is beyond our comprehension, should bring us to our knees in wonder and amazement. This mystery of God ought to increase our sense of worship of Him. It is at this point we begin to understand what is meant by an almighty God!

Personally, I get great comfort worshipping and serving an almighty God. A God who is far superior to man and a God with incomprehensible attributes! God must be that way and I want nothing less! I love that about God! Does this high view of God give you comfort as well? If so, why?

Christians have been given a faith by an invisible spirit God. This faith has us looking forward to heaven with resurrected bodies and souls and a glorious face-to-face meeting with our God!

Confirmation 2021



Zach Beattie
Amanda Doty
Ashley Farabaugh
Katelyn Morelock
Presley Vennum
Ami Layne Wolstoncroft

Not pictured:
Henry Brickner
Jack Vollmer



The Confirmation Class read their Statements of Faith to Session on the evening of March 22, 2021. Thank you parents for entrusting your student's Christian education to us for this school year. Thank you to the reopening team for allowing us to have this class in person, as well as virtually. It was so important to be able to have the in-person option. Thank you for all of the past Sunday School teachers from Bethany, and other churches, who have helped to shape the faith of these young people. Thank you to the people of Bethany church who have entrusted us with the opportunity to teach the confirmation class. These students have been a true blessing! Most of all, thank you to the confirmation class. The eight of you have been amazing through this year. Thank you for being you and for letting us be a part of your faith journey. You have all blessed us greatly.

In Christ's love,
Niki and Joan

Upcoming Events

**All events subject to change. Please look on the Bethany website for the most up to date calendar of events.*

CHURCH LEADERSHIP MEETINGS FOR APRIL

- Deacons – April 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
- Session Teams – April 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
- Session Meeting – April 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

DRIVE-THRU PALM DISTRIBUTION - THIS SATURDAY!

Bethany will be distributing palms on Saturday, March 27 to those who are unable to attend Palm Sunday service. Drive by the church any time between 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM to collect your palm without having to leave your car! If you are unable to collect your palm, please call the church at 412.221.5132 to make alternative arrangements.

MODERN WORSHIP - THIS SUNDAY AT 6:00 PM

The next Modern Worship service will be on March 28 at 6:00PM. The regular schedule for Modern Worship will be the last Sunday of Each month unless noted.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT - MAY 21 AND 22

We are excited to bring back the Men's Retreat this year on May 21 and 22 and Oglebay Resort. Stay tuned for more information!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - JUNE 26

Join Bethany for our Annual Golf Outing on June 26 at the Fort Cherry golf course. All members and friends of Bethany are welcome to attend. Stay tuned for more information!

INPUT REQUESTED: WEST VIRGINIA MISSION TRIP

Bring God's love and blessings to the poor, elderly and victims of natural disasters. Engage in fun and fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters in West Virginia. Participants can choose to go for either the full week or half week. We are in the early planning stages and can use your help selecting a date. Please let us know what week you prefer. Share your availability: www.bethanypresby.org/mission-outreach

PARTICIPATE IN THE SPRING SESSION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is now in session! If you are still interested in joining us, it's not too late! Registration is ongoing for both the in-person and virtual classes from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. We welcome you to join us! Register Today: www.bethanypresby.org/sunday-school

News and Announcements

CHURCH DIRECTORY - IS YOUR INFORMATION CORRECT?

It's that time of year again...The new church directory will be available soon. If you have recently moved, changed phone numbers, emails, please call the church office to update our records. Also if you have an older child who has recently moved into their own home, please let us know so we can adjust your household. Please call or email Jill in the office, kolenda@bethanypresby.org or 412-221-5132 to update your information.

EASTER AND GREETING CARD COLLECTION: THANK YOU!

The Mission Team is grateful to all who provided Easter and Greeting cards for Country Meadows. The response was great and we have enough cards to provide a cheerful hello to all residents. Pastor Brian also provided an inspirational message to include with the cards. We are going to deliver them on March 28. We know they will put a smile on the residents faces until we can visit them in person again.



PERISHABLE FOOD DONATION AND FOOD BANK

The Bridgeville Community Foodbank continues to be a pillar within the community. On March 22, we have helped 117 families, including 52 children, 96 adults and 76 elderly.

The Bethany Mission Team also donated perishable food bags to each of the Food Bank families. The perishable goods included, milk, eggs, bacon and bread along with other items not usually received at the monthly food bank distribution. To learn more about the Foodbank, please visit: www.bethanypresby.org/food-bank



Bethany

from the
pastor's desk

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Each week, Pastor Brian will be sharing his thoughts and milestones from the week. Videos will be available on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and on our website at: www.bethanypresby.org/blog

Pastoral Concerns

CONDOLENCES

JoAnn Zwigart, mother of Shawn Zwigart, went home to our Lord on March 21, 2021

Please keep all of the family and friends of our recently departed members in your prayers. To be added to the prayer list, update your families information, change your address or submit a request, please call the church office 412-221-5132 or email prayers@bethanypresby.org

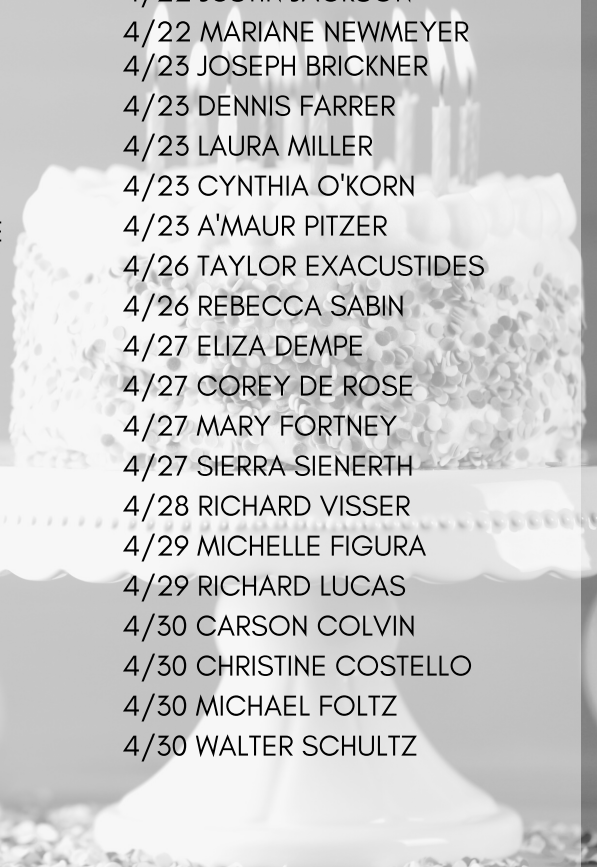


April Birthdays

4/02 KYONG BARNHART
4/02 PAULA PADGELEK
4/02 NATHANIEL PETROW
4/02 ABIGAIL WALSH
4/03 TIMOTHY ANDERSON
4/03 JENNA DELOZIER
4/03 SAGE FIGURA
4/03 STORM FIGURA
4/03 TABATHA HARDING
4/03 QUINN MILLER
4/03 CALEY O'CONNOR
4/03 COLE VALENTINE
4/05 GUY DOYLE
4/05 AVERY LINK
4/05 JOHN LONDON
4/05 EVAN VENESKI
4/06 COLSEN MILLER
4/07 JULIE FOLTZ
4/07 VICTORIA GREGORY
4/07 BEVERLY HOOK
4/07 MICHAEL LEIGH
4/08 RONALD GASTGEB
4/08 JOCELYN MORELOCK

4/09 RYAN JACKSON
4/09 SAMANTHA LINDOW
4/09 DOLLY RUSSELL
4/10 ALICIA BARBARYKA
4/10 GABRIELLE SHARP
4/10 LENA WERNER
4/11 BARBARA BOEHMER
4/11 LANEY DAVIS
4/11 BROOKE SCHWOTZER
4/12 ESTHER BIEARMAN
4/13 CHARLOTTE GILMORE
4/13 HEATHER LUCAS
4/13 KELLY TIMCO
4/13 RUTH UNDERWOOD
4/13 JACK VOLLMER
4/14 BOB BLACK
4/14 JUDY GASTGEB
4/14 RONALD KNAPP
4/16 JAYNE CIARAMELLA
4/16 JOSEPH CIARAMELLA
4/17 CAMRYN LOEBIG
4/20 HENRY BRICKNER
4/20 NICHOLAS DEROSS

4/20 RONALD MILLER
4/21 SHARON MATUSIC
4/21 MARK ROMANELLI
4/21 DEACON STROUSE
4/22 JUSTIN JACKSON
4/22 MARIANE NEWMAYER
4/23 JOSEPH BRICKNER
4/23 DENNIS FARRER
4/23 LAURA MILLER
4/23 CYNTHIA O'KORN
4/23 A'MAUR PITZER
4/26 TAYLOR EXACUSTIDES
4/26 REBECCA SABIN
4/27 ELIZA DEMPE
4/27 COREY DE ROSE
4/27 MARY FORTNEY
4/27 SIERRA SIENERTH
4/28 RICHARD VISSER
4/29 MICHELLE FIGURA
4/29 RICHARD LUCAS
4/30 CARSON COLVIN
4/30 CHRISTINE COSTELLO
4/30 MICHAEL FOLTZ
4/30 WALTER SCHULTZ



Holy Week Information

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday: 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.*

Maundy Thursday: 7:00 p.m.*

Good Friday: 7:00 p.m.*

Easter Sunday:

- 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship (Melrose Cemetery)
- 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.*



*livestream available

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