

JANUARY 2022

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

Pastor Update

BY: PASTOR BRIAN JANSSEN

Like many of you I have come into 2022 with some resolutions. Also, like many of us, they are unlikely to last long. We always hope that a new year will be amazing. But we also know that it probably will contain some wonderful things, and some difficult things, and that there will be a lot of routine in-between it all. That is the nature of life. Perhaps that is why Ephesians 4:1-6 always comes to mind when the calendar turns over. "Therefore, walk worthily of the calling to which you have been called...just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." Whatever the new year brings and whatever we may be hoping for, we know that we have been called to be Christ's witnesses. We have been called to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Of course, in the new year there are lots of things that come up, and lots to be hopeful about. Our hope is grounded in Christ Jesus who will one come and make all things new. But that is risky as well. After all, we continue to live in a world that is all about the self. We talk a lot in our culture about self-improvement and that can be a fine thing when done in healthy ways. I would suggest that the risk we take that is necessary is finding self-improvement by removing needless suffering in the world.

We would like to think that there is no risk within the life of God. After all, God is infinite in power and majesty, grace and love. What risk could God possibly have to take? But of course, he does by being with us. God with us was not something anyone could handle. The disciples don't get it, John the Baptist never really understands, people want things from Jesus (signs and evidence) when all he ever requires is faith. As Jesus goes through his ministry point always towards God's kingdom, which has come near in him, he opens pathways for all of us to be closer to God and it doesn't end well. At least that is what some would have you believe. So desperately does God want to be with us that he conquers death. That is the work of reconciliation. We all risk losing something, when we seek pathways to be at peace with others, to be at peace with outcomes of situations where we feel helpless. We may lose our sense of being right, we may lose the one thing we believe is keeping us alive even. We may lose much, riches and power and influence, but we will gain life, by being a part of the lives of others and there is no better place to be a part of others' lives than in the church.

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

2 - MUSIC NOTES

3 - NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

6 - UPCOMING EVENTS

7 - BIRTHDAYS

Music Notes

BY: JOHN HENNINGER

NEW YEAR AND NEW MINISTRY

We are entering a new year, we give thanks to God for his blessings of the past year and look forward to the good work to be done in the coming year, grateful to have the chance to bring his Good News to the world.

Take this opportunity to think about making a commitment to the Music Ministry of Bethany Presbyterian Church in 2022.

The Bethany Choir would love to add new members to our dedicated group of volunteers. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. No experience is necessary, just a desire to lift God's name in worship and to share in fellowship with one another.



Pastoral Care

Did you know that Bethany has a Pastoral Care team? The team regularly meets with shut-ins and handles a variety of concerns for the broader congregation. If you or someone you know has a concern or needs help, please let us know by calling the church office at 412-221-5132 or email prayers@bethanypresby.org.

CONDOLENCES

The sympathy of the congregation is extended

- The family of Bernie Kramer who passed away on December 11.

News and Announcements

Bulletin and Past Worship Services: www.bethanypresby.org/sermons

HELP KEEP BETHANY GERM FREE

Cold and flu season is upon us, plus new COVID-19 variants. While we are excited to have so many of you return to church, we would like to remind you to stay home if you are not feeling well. Bulletins and past worship services can be found on our website at www.bethanypresby.org/sermons

ANGELS NEEDED - VOLUNTEER BEREAVEMENT COORDINATOR

Presbyterian Women are looking for someone who has a calling to help and be of service to others as a Bereavement Coordinator or in other words "an earth angel". When a Bethany family member has a loss in their family, Bethany Church offers the facility for a bereavement meal after the funeral or memorial service. Sharing a meal in a relaxed and caring manner under these circumstances is a blessing for the family and friends. The Bereavement Coordinator will reach out to the family to discuss the meal preparations and needs. (there is a guide to help with this) In addition they will organize volunteers to set-up, serve and clean-up afterwards (there is a list of willing volunteers for this). If you feel called to this special ministry contact Tammie Suppo, PW moderator at tammie.suppo@verizon.net

GOLDEN OLDIES

Some changes will be happening with Golden Oldies in January. Once again, we will be asking everyone attending each month to become a Golden Oldies Member. This does not make you a member of our church. The \$20 membership fee collected will help to pay for the rising cost of food and programs. Anyone may still attend the meetings and have a meal for \$5.00 and go on trips. Only paid Golden Oldies Members will get the discount on future trips. Membership Dues will be collected beginning in January. Also beginning in January, all checks will be made payable to Bethany Presbyterian Church, with Golden Oldies in the memo-line.

JANUARY SPECIAL OFFERING - INITIAL OFFERING

The special offering envelope for January supports the Initial Offering. This collection helps to defray the cost of the church offering envelopes.

Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to this special offering either by selecting "Initial Offering" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for the Initial Offering on your check or a pew envelope.

Thank you for your contribution to Initial Offering!

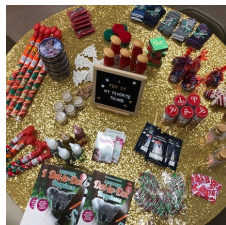
Give Online: www.bethanypresby.org/giving



Friendsgiving & Advent Wreath Event



Presbyterian Women Christmas Gathering



God is Truthful

BY: DOUG BOVARD

The truth of God is a great pillar for our faith. Were not He a God of truth, how could we believe in him? Our faith is fancy; but he is truth itself, and not a word which he has spoken shall fall to the ground. -

Thomas Watson

Scripture Readings: John 14:6; 17-19; John 15:26; 16:13; James 1:22; and Rom. 10:13-17

The God of the Bible, whose truth is absolute and objective, stands in stark contrast to today's view of relative and subjective truth. In today's world, God's Word as truth is a countercultural. It is far better to treat claims of truth skeptically and see truth as relative, dictated by one's background and circumstances. Not so with our God! He is the source of truth and His revealed truth stands the wisdom of the world on its head. In this article, I hope to explain the richness of God's truth and instill trust in the truthfulness of his Word. This article will in effect contrast Christian and secular views of truth. All truth has its origin in God. We have access to truth only through God's revelation. God speaks the truth and is the truth. While God appoints human teachers for His people, ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit instructs them in the truth of God (John 15:26; 16:13).

God's truth is absolute and makes exclusive claims about reality. Truth establishes boundaries between right and wrong, between factual and fabricated. God's truth makes specific claims and propositions and is true in detail and applicable to any matter. God's truth does not depend on human understanding and feelings. God's truth does not compete or contradict itself. It stands as a single body. God never says one thing to one group and something else to another. There are not different paths of salvation for different people. God's unified message applies to all people, places and times.

No part of Scripture will ever be annulled, removed or cancelled. God does not change and His truth does not change. Truth will not change to accommodate one's worldview, surroundings, culture or social norms. Truth transcends societies, cultures, time and geography. All people, for all ages, need to hear and obey God's truth. Psalm 119:105 teaches that God's truth enables us to understand the world around us and perceive things as they actually are. Apart from God's Word and truth, we are in darkness and in a state of spiritual blindness. Standing in antithesis to God's Word, of course, is Satan.

People who live according to God's truth have based their lives on a firm foundation. As the source of truth, God asserts claims and makes demands upon human beings. Truth is more than a collection of facts and information. Truth requires a human response of obedience. God's people are to "be doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22). Truth is essential to our salvation and involves hearing and responding to it, accordingly (Rom. 10:13-17). If someone were to tell you that they respect your religious beliefs but that those beliefs are not true for them, how would you respond?

Upcoming Events

**All events subject to change. Please look on the Bethany website (www.bethanypresby.org/events) for the most up to date calendar of events.*

CHURCH LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

- Monday, January 10: Deacon and Session Team Meetings
- Monday, January 24: Session Meeting

BETHANY BLOOD DRIVE - JANUARY 16

Bethany is partnering with Vitalant to host a “double donation” blood drive campaign, Save Lives - Feed Families. When you sign-up to donate blood, a donation will also be made to the Bridgeville Community Food Bank. Each contribution will feed as many as 25 families experiencing food insecurity. As an added bonus, Vitalant will also be testing successfully completed blood donations for COVID-19 antibodies. Sessions will be available from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 16. Sign-Up Today: www.bethanypresby.org/event/blood-drive

BYG EVENT: SUPER BOWLING - FEBRUARY 13

Let's have some fun at the lanes before the Big Game. The BYG will be having a bowling party on February 13. Following the second service, the group will gather for lunch before heading to Sports Haven to bowl.

END OF YEAR NOTICE

The Check Is In the Mail...Please keep in mind that all contributions for 2021 must be received by the church no later than December 31, 2021. IRS general rules state that a check placed in the church offering plate in January 2022 cannot be recorded as a 2021 contribution, even if the check has been dated 2021. The only exception to this rule would be for contributions that are mailed and postmarked in 2021. These contributions would be deductible in 2021 even though the contributions were not received until 2022. If you have any questions please contact Kim McCann at 412-221-5132 or finance@bethanypresby.org.



January Birthdays

01/04 Martha Del Conte	01/16 Timothy Nagy	01/25 Cynthia Richards
01/04 Matthew Colton	01/16 Emily Pyrdek	01/26 Roland Drugmand
01/04 Steve Snyder	01/17 Judi Wolstoncroft	01/26 Eric Gregory
01/05 Richard Radzik	01/18 Gunnar DeRoss	01/26 Matthew Powell
01/06 Tammy Dady	01/19 Barbara Mours	01/27 Lori Rastetter
01/07 William Woods	01/19 Karin Nass	01/27 Shalyn Muraco
01/07 Jane Venum	01/20 Carol Visser	01/28 Richelle Sommerfield
01/07 Scott Miller	01/21 Abby Byers	01/28 Peggy Daube
01/08 Richard Tessmer	01/21 Patricia Chilton	01/28 Cathy Smith
01/08 Lee Restich	01/22 Pamela Postler	01/28 Lisa Schultz
01/10 Randall Wilkerson	01/22 Debby Hayes	01/30 Lisa Jo Colwell
01/10 Patty Nowak	01/22 Jason Smith	01/30 Robert Dal Bon
01/11 Shanan Goerd	01/23 Lorrie Just	01/30 Philip Gossic
01/11 Eda Woodward	01/23 Daniel Gillis	
01/12 Gladys Kennell	01/23 Jerri Davis	
01/13 Diane Dal Bon	01/24 Joe Findley	
01/14 Michael Ruehle	01/24 Terry Kohlmyer	
01/15 Joan Kerlin	01/25 Joseph Verduci	
01/15 Marilyn Richards	01/25 Jenna Valentine	



BYG Gingerbread House Contest



BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
740 Washington Avenue
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Phone: 412-221-5132
Fax: 412-220-9107
office@bethanypresby.org
www.bethanypresby.org

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BRIDGEVILLE,
PA 15017
PERMIT #38