

FEBRUARY 2022

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

Pastor Update

"Winter is fun!" That was probably said once by someone who did not live in Western PA. I used to think the opposite was true but recently learned otherwise. It was about 7 years ago now that I first learned to snow ski. I had avoided learning for some time though I had been invited before. It was my friend Nikola who finally convinced me. One day in 2015 we headed out to Seven Springs, and I got a lesson. I was overdressed, I was over heated, and I fell down a whole bunch. To any outsider, I probably looked miserable and at a couple of points I certainly felt so. However, I was hooked. I now look forward to winter! I look forward to the snow. When the days are short, I feel bright inside. It's opened pathways for me to spend more time with friends, and especially family (My sister's family are all great skiers).

Now please don't mistake me; I am not suggesting that all of you go and learn how to ski tomorrow, though if you are interested, I can point you in the right direction. What I am saying is that winter can be a wonderful time to try new things, to discover hidden talents, and to learn more about who God desires you to be. Christmas is long gone, but winter is here. But church life continues, and there are so many great things happening here at Bethany. Upward Basketball and Cheerleading is getting started as I write this. We have Bible studies and Spiritual development opportunities everywhere. Don't be shy about jumping in and joining up.

We are also celebrating the beginning of our new Associate Pastor, Ellen Dawson. Ellen will be doing a lot of ministries here at Bethany. She will be doing Pastoral Care, working with our Board of Deacons, our Mission Team, and our Discipleship team. Ellen comes to us with over ten years' experience and has led mission trips to Guatemala, Haiti, and Nepal, among others. She is a wonderful colleague to have on our team.

We are also welcoming our new custodian, Joe Kuchta (pronounced Cook-Ta). Joe is wonderful to work with and has likewise been a great addition to our staff. Joe and his wife Michelle live in South Fayette, and we are looking forward to getting to know them both well. If you stop by the church this month during the week, please say hello to Joe!

Blessings to You and Yours, Pastor Brian Janssen

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

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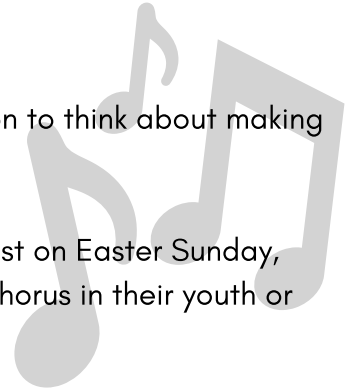
Music Notes

BY: JOHN HENNINGER

Easter Sunday is late this year, it falls on April 17. But it's never too soon to think about making a joyful noise unto the Lord.

If you would like to join voices with the Bethany Choir during Lent or just on Easter Sunday, we'd love to have you. Many people have sung Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus in their youth or adult years - and we'd love for you to join us on Easter Sunday!

If interested, speak with me, or plan on attending a few Wednesday evening rehearsals at the end of March - we practice in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm.



Spring Sunday School Information

CHILD CLASSES

www.bethanypresby.org/sunday-school

Age	Location
2 & 3 Years	Room 239 (Toy Room)
4 & 5 Years	Room 240
Grade 1 - 2	Room 224
Grade 3 - 5	Room 225
Grade 6 - 8	234 (Old Stage)
Grade 9 - 12	Youth Room

ADULT CLASSES

www.bethanypresby.org/adult-classes

- Book of Acts - In the Chapel, led by Mark and Kitty Rackley
- "The Girls' Still Got It", A Study of Ruth, in Room 224, led by Becky Yanak
- New Testament - in the Library, led by Doug Bovard
- Gospel of Mark, in Room 231, led by Sharon Salvini and Devin Underwood

ADULT WEEKDAY CLASSES

www.bethanypresby.org/adult-classes

- Men's Huddle - Study of 1 Corinthians. Tuesdays at 6:30 in the Welcome Center led by Eric Gregory
- Beth Moore Bible Study - "Chasing Vines". Thursdays at 7pm in Room 224, led by Sharon Salvini

News and Announcements

Preschool registration is open for currently enrolled families and church members. Registration will open for the public on February 14, 2022. Learn more: www.bethanypresby.org/preschool

FEBRUARY SPECIAL OFFERING - PER CAPITA

The special offering envelope for February supports the 2022 Per Capita balance. This collection helps to defray the Per Capita cost that Bethany is required to remit to the Presbytery. The 2022 Per Capita amount for each member is \$34.79.

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

Thank you for your contribution to the Per Capita Offering

Give Online: www.bethanypresby.org/giving

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 to

- The family of Kevin and Lora Schildt and family on the passing of Kevin's sister, Jayme Ann Schildt on January 17, 2022.
- The family of longtime member, Betty Durocher, who passed away on January 19, 2022.
- The family of Loraine Cellone, on the death of her husband, Jay, who passed away on January 24, 2022

Welcome Pastor Ellen

Rev. Ellen R. Dawson is a pastor and missions mobilizer with a passion for equipping leaders, transformative worship, and frontier mission. Most recently, Ellen served as the Associate Pastor for Membership and Missions at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. Her previous work includes Campus Ministry at Marshall University and at The University of Arizona.

In the summer of 2013, Ellen led a team of 6 college students to Nepal for six weeks, in conjunction with the New Wilmington Mission Conference Summer Service program. In her capacity as a pastor, she has led mission trips to Peru, Las Vegas, Miami, Costa Rica, West Virginia, Maryland, Guatemala, and Haiti; she has also been on mission teams to Jamaica, Vietnam, and Mexico.

Ellen served as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in the town of Tiquisate, Guatemala from 2004-2005. That year was one of the many steps that led her to finally giving in to the call to full-time ministry. She graduated with an M.Div. from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2009. She also has a degree in Communication and Public Relations from Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio.

Ellen is an Accredited Practitioner for Integrative Enneagram Solutions, coaching individuals and teams on the benefits of the Enneagram personality typing system. She also teaches for the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement class in Western PA, and she enjoys writing, hiking, trying new recipes, and volunteering at Light of Life Rescue Mission on the North Side of Pittsburgh. Ellen lives in the borough of Oakmont.

What was the last book you read?

"My Grandfather's Son," the 2007 Clarence Thomas memoir.

Where is your favorite place to volunteer?

In the kitchen at Light of Life Rescue Mission in the North Side.

What are you most looking forward to about Bethany?

Walking alongside and ministering to the Deacons, and also getting to know more about how Bethany serves the Bridgeville community.

Do you make New Year's resolutions?

No, but I started the practice of having a "star word" for the year - a nod to Epiphany and how the wise men looked to the star. My word for 2022 is Embrace.

Since you live in Oakmont, what is your favorite thing at the Oakmont Bakery?

Peanut Butter Fudge Dolce

The Wisdom of God

BY: DOUG BOVARD

We must suffer God to be wiser than ourselves, and acknowledge that there is something sovereign in his ways not to be measured by the feeble reed of our weak understandings.- Stephen Charnock

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 11:33-34; 1 Cor. 1:18-27; Ps. 111:10; Prov. 9:10; Ps. 19:1-6; and Acts 17:24-28. All wisdom literature including Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon.

It should be no surprise in today's world that those who do not share our Christian faith find our God's laws, grace, holiness, truth and means of salvation (the cross) to be unbelievable, unnecessary and, at worst, foolish! They have no problem 'overruling' God when man's wisdom is better - so they think. But make no mistake, our God will obliterate their so-called wisdom. In this article, I hope to define wisdom and motivate you to seek God's wisdom in the Bible. Wisdom is the pursuit of the highest purpose and the greatest good in any situation. God, who is all-wise, will always choose the highest end and best means to that end. For man, wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord (Ps. 111:10, Prov. 9:10). This fear (respect), should motivate us to study the Bible so we can know His perfect wisdom.

We daily see God's wisdom through His creative acts. Psalm 19 says the sky and the heavens proclaim God's glory through their majesty and splendor. John Calvin described the earth as a theater where God's wisdom and power are always on display. God's means of bringing the universe into existence demonstrates His wisdom, power and glory. His creation is perfect in its design and order. The angle and rotation of the earth and its distance from the sun was perfectly engineered to promote the flourishing of living things on this planet. With His glory in mind, God orchestrates human circumstances. God sovereignly and wisely arranges the specific details of each person's life (Acts 17:24-28). Scripture tells us that God works through all circumstances, even those we don't understand, to achieve His purpose in us. In His wisdom, He uses difficulties to draw us to Him and make us more like Jesus.

Often dark and hopeless circumstances later reveal God's intended wisdom at work. Consider Joseph's ordeal (Gen. 50:20) with his brother's evil intent and actions against him which eventually brought about good. The greatest evil ever committed was the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, but God predetermined that Christ's death would bring about His perfect plan of salvation for many. In all situations, God wisely carries out His master plan for His glory and the good of His people. God's wisdom in His plan of salvation is both simple enough for a child to understand and yet intricate enough to intrigue brilliant minds and the best theologians. Through Christ's law-keeping, our law-breaking is pardoned. Because God's wrath and curse fell on the innocent (Christ), the guilty (us), experience God's favor and blessings. We receive Christ's righteousness in place of our filthy rags. Through Christ's apparent defeat by sin and death, we discover His resurrection has won a decisive victory over sin and death. God's love and wisdom is on full display. As mentioned above, God's redemptive plan appears to be folly to those who have earthly wisdom. However, God "Chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise." To conclude, please read 1 Cor. 1:18-27 - a favorite passage of mine!

How should your everyday decisions be affected by God's wisdom? If a person who is not a believer expresses marvel when viewing nature, how can you use this opportunity to point them to the God whose wisdom created the natural world they admire?

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, February 7 - Deacon Meeting
- Monday, February 14 - Session Team Meetings (as this is Valentine's Day, please confirm with your team about any possible changes to the meeting date.)
- Monday, February 28 - Session Meeting

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.

GOLDEN OLDIES - FEBRUARY 17

Golden Oldies will be meeting again on Thursday, February 17th. The speaker will be Catalina Driscoll from the Better Business Bureau who will talk about scams and identifying a good company.

If you haven't already joined as a member, you can still do so. The \$20 membership fee is to help 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 trips. and speaking of trips.....

BOXCAR ESCAPADES

Join the Golden Oldies on a Boxcar Escapade -
A trip to Johnstown/Altoona
on **Wednesday, April 6, 2022.**

Package includes: Transportation by deluxe motor coach, a ride on the Amtrak Horseshoe Curve, Boyer Candy Company, Benzel's Pretzel Outlet, The Casino Restaurant, Railroaders Memorial Museum and the Oak Spring Winery.

Cost is \$155 per person. Golden Oldie members may pay \$150 per person if the trip is paid in full by the Feb 17th meeting. All trip money must be paid in full by Feb 25th.

Registration forms are available at the reception desk at the church.

Checks should be made payable to Bethany Presbyterian Church, with "Oldies Trip" in the memo line.

Bethany Missions - a few highlights from 2021

Bethany Mission helps in many ways and we will do our best to keep you updated on these. We are looking forward to 2022 and how we continue to be a blessing to others.

- *Angel's Place received a large donation of cleaning supplies.
- *Sojourner House Welcome Home Baskets, for persons just starting over and getting ready to start a new life.
- *Fidget Blanket Mission Project- led by Barb Crawford and Laura Dugan has been very successful and we are almost ready to deliver the blankets and muffs.
- *Washington City Mission received donations from Bethany for their outreach programs.
- *West Virginia Summersville mission project was a huge success as we were able to help two families this year, Phyllis Young and Rena Currence and her sons Dallas and Noah.
- *Bethany Church and Crossroads Church Thanksgiving: Approximately 1,500 meals were delivered this year.
- *The JOY OFFERING was split equally between Washington City Mission and Light of Life Ministry. Both of these organizations continue to do great things for the communities.
- *The Neighborhood Academy - "Great news here! Our 26 seniors have been accepted to 45+ colleges and universities including CMU, Yale and University of Pennsylvania! We are elated and proud! Our seniors defied COVID, overcame challenges and are flourishing!"
- *Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh was another great event that members from Bethany helped with, and we can't wait to do it again in 2022.



Bethany Missions continued ... Letters from Chiradzulu

"Hi brother Carl (Suppo),

How are you doing and the entire Bethany Presbyterian Church? Chiradzulu CCAP is doing well.

A lot has happened achimwene these past couple of days. School started on 4th January, 2022.

The good news is that our Community Secondary School had started too on the same date. They sent us teachers, 7 of them. The school has commenced with form one (9th grade) only as initially planned.

We have toilets for both boys and girls, though not adequate. Some will be added in due course. Today, the 10th January, 2022, the school had its first meeting with parents.

See the picture:

The lady seated on plastic chair is the headmistress of this school.

We have used form Two class (10th grade) as teachers room and one of the stores room as Headteacher's office.

Regards,

Abusa Joster Sambini"



and

"Hi brother Carl and the entire Bethany Presbyterian Church,

With much pleasure, let me report that the second block of Chiradzulu Community Secondary School is now finished. We are very thankful to the entire Bethany Presbyterian Church. May our Good Lord continue blessing you brothers and sisters. In about two weeks, we are going to buy roofing materials for our second finished block."



Belated January Birthdays

- 01/01 Payton Jackson
- 01/01 Jaden Cercosimo
- 01/06 Huck Julius
- 01/06 Ray Gilmore
- 01/08 Oliver Jones
- 01/11 Nolan Walsh
- 01/17 Owen Morse
- 01/22 Tyler Evans
- 01/22 Lucy Joesbury
- 01/26 Collin Galbraith
- 01/30 Hudson Venum



February Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 02/01 Emily Smith | 02/09 Sharon DePaoli | 02/16 Ruth Doyle | 02/20 Lori Haviland |
| 02/02 Chase Lambert | 02/09 Kelsie Sabin | 02/16 Lora Shildt | 02/21 Thomas Aspinall |
| 02/03 Tony Poiche | 02/10 Tish Liggins | 02/17 Caden Harbison | 02/21 David Werner |
| 02/04 Marcia Demnyan | 02/10 Mia DeRoss | 02/17 Ian Sharp | 02/22 Gary McMillen |
| 02/04 Michelle Zombek | 02/11 David (DJ)Krieger | 02/17 Julie Jackson | 02/22 Azjia Gardner |
| 02/04 Luke Dunlap | 02/11 Zachary North | 02/17 Steve Orosz | 02/22 Rachel Vighetti |
| 02/04 Talia Pyrdek | 02/12 Emalyn Harding | 02/17 Roberta Tumulty | 02/23 John Brown |
| 02/05 Lynn Fulton | 02/12 Cynthia Gastgeb | 02/17 Erin Colvin | 02/24 Michael Gullo |
| 02/05 Jay Squires | 02/12 Beverly Bowman | 02/18 Caitlin Gibson | 02/24 Amelia Sunderlin |
| 02/06 Stacey Zwigart | 02/12 Kathryn Nagy | 02/18 Bonnie Kopach | 02/25 Jeremy Hall |
| 02/06 Jackie Farrer | 02/12 Emily Brady | 02/18 Kimberly Duda | 02/25 Robert McAuley |
| 02/07 Peggy Unghajer | 02/14 Lori Wilkerson | 02/19 Sage Sienerth | 02/26 Thomas Morse |
| 02/07 Sadie Sunderlin | 02/15 Jessica Franchi | 02/19 Megan Shildt | 02/26 Sandra North |
| 02/07 Hope Bedner | 02/15 Clark Julius | 02/19 Todd Mendenhall | 02/27 Delores Kantorzyk |
| 02/08 Lorna Werner | 02/15 Jackson Trimmer | 02/19 Sharon Sharp | 02/27 Anthony Cersosimo |
| 02/08 Patricia Pulice | | | |



February 2022

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	1	2	3	4	5
Service of Remembrance Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School 3PM-Confirmation Class	7PM – Body Carpenter Workout 7PM – Deacon meeting	10AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle 7PM – Coed Dart ball	10AM – Fellowship of Prayer 7PM - Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 9:15AM – MOPS 12PM – Knitters 7PM – Beth Moore Class 8PM – AA	9AM – Quilters 10AM -MOPS Steering Committee	Upward Game Day	Upward Game Day
Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School 12:30PM – BYG – Super Bowling Event 3PM-Confirmation Class	7pm – Session Teams 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	10AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle 6:30PM – PW CT Mtg 7PM – Coed Dart ball	7PM – Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Golden Oldies 12PM – Knitters 6:30PM – MOPS 7PM – Beth Moore Class 8PM – AA	FOOD BANK Upward Game Day		
Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School 3PM-Confirmation Class 4PM - BYG	7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	10AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle 7PM – Coed Dart ball	7PM – Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 9:15AM – MOPS 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 7PM – Beth Moore Class 8PM – AA	DIAPER BANK Upward Game Day		
Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School 3PM-Confirmation Class 4PM - BYG	7PM – Body Carpenter Workout 7PM - Session	10AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle 7PM – Coed Dart ball	ASH WEDNESDAY 10AM – Fellowship of Prayer 7PM - Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Knitters 6:30PM – MOPS 7PM – Beth Moore Class 8PM – AA	Upward Game Day		

Support and Volunteer Opportunities

Diaper Bank

The Bethany Diaper Bank continues to provide free diapers and wipes to our community. Distribution is on the 4th Saturday of every month, from 9am to noon. No pre-registration is required. If you would like to learn more about how to support this ministry, or know of a family who could benefit, please contact Barb Crawford, or the church office.

The Upward Basketball and Cheerleading program is up and going. We are blessed to once again have almost 300 children participating this year. It's a huge undertaking and requires a lot of volunteer help, and we are in need of referees this year. Please consider giving us an hour or two of your time on a Saturday as a referee. Contact the church office if you can help or for more information.

UPWARD

Sarris Candy is being sold again by our Mission Team.

Each month, two beneficiaries - missions that we are supporting - will get the proceeds from the sales.

Make sure to stop by the Welcome Center on Sundays to learn more about our missions, and show your support with a purchase of chocolate!



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

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