

APRIL 2022

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

from our Senior Pastor

I love a late Easter. There I said it. Easter has always followed a lunar calendar (I won't get into what that means,) but I wish whoever was in charge would just choose the 3rd Sunday of April and have done with it. Don't get me wrong, I know there are many historical/theological reasons for the way things are. I just love a late Easter. There are many reasons for this, most of which have to do with my childhood. I loved a late Easter when I was younger because I loved the beauty of Springtime. I loved the warmer weather. I enjoyed wearing shorts to Grandma's for Easter dinner. As I have gotten older, I remain a fan of a later Easter, but my reasons have changed.

There is something to be said for a longer period between Christmas and Easter. There is more time to reflect on the life of Jesus, more time to spend in Scripture, looking at his miracles, his teachings, who Jesus really is. I have always believed myself to be hurried when Ash Wednesday comes in January. "It is not time yet," I think to myself. There are very real implications to Jesus being with us, Christ the Immanuel. A later Easter allows us time to come to grips with that. By walking with Jesus and seeing who he is and what he does, we create space in our lives to deepen our relationship with him and create space for healing.

I think a lot during Lent about Jesus' miracles and what they mean. I know there are miracles of a great catch of fish and miracles of more food than 5,000 people can eat. But it is the healing miracles that always amaze and perplex me. They amaze because, well, they are amazing. A paralytic man is dropped in front of Jesus, and he heals his sins and his paralysis; a blind man has mud and spit rubbed on his eyes, washed it off, and is healed; a foreign woman screams at Jesus to heal her daughter and he relents. But I always wish for more. I don't want Jesus to heal a blind person, I want Jesus to heal *blindness*! I don't want Jesus to let one person walk, I want Jesus to consign wheelchairs to the dustbin of history! The fact that this is not the case reminds me that even Jesus pointed to something beyond himself. Each healing miracle points to the day when God's kingdom will come to Earth, this Earth, and all will be healed.

Even those who were healed had to move in a broken world. The man healed of blindness could see but would have to come to grips with visible injustice that still existed. The one whose paralysis was healed would now be able to run to those in need themselves. Healing includes wonder, but also the beautiful and difficult aftermath. A later Easter creates more space for healing.

As we move towards Holy Week, I hope we are able to experience this as a Healing Week as well. We travel a road together, and that road leads to a cross, but the road is not a journey taken alone. Healing is a community event. We name what we need healing from and we come into contact with those who have been healed and need healing themselves. We walk the road to a cross; it is difficult. We experience the joy of an empty grave; It is wonderful!

In Christ, Pastor Brian

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

**3 - BIRTHDAYS AND
MEMBER NEWS**

**5 TO 9 - HOLY WEEK,
UPCOMING EVENTS
AND CALENDAR**

**6 - FACILITY NEWS
AND EASTER FLOWERS**

from our Associate Pastor

On Saturday, March 19th, I had the opportunity to teach about one of my greatest passions, Global Prayer. I started with the quote by a famous American missionary named Samuel Zwemer who said, "The history of missions is the history of answered prayer. Everything vital to the success of the world's evangelization hinges on prayer."

As a class, we walked through several of the amazing resources available to us, including books, websites, podcasts, and apps, that help us pray for different countries, churches, and people groups. We specifically looked at Operation World (OW), widely regarded as the definitive volume of prayer information about the world. Each day, OW provides a different country, region, or group of countries for which to pray – including statistics on the church, unevangelized groups, majority religions, and even things like Bible translations.

We specifically learned about the country of Brunei, which is located on the northern coast of the island of Borneo – with the South China Sea to the north, and Malaysia to the south. Many of us were surprised to hear in this country, "the constitution guarantees religious freedom, but it is illegal to evangelize and illegal for a Muslim to convert to another religion. The Christian church exists under very difficult conditions. Evangelism is illegal, importing Bibles and Christian literature is illegal, and no foreign Christian workers are permitted there."

In addition, we learned about the 10/40 Window, which is located from 10 degrees south to 40 degrees north of the equator, and includes 69 nations across northern Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. Nearly 4 billion people live here, including 90 percent of the world's poorest of the poor. It is estimated that 1.6 billion of these people have never had the chance to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ – not even once! The seat of every major non-Christian religion – Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Animism, Atheism, and Sikhism – is headquartered in the 10/40 Window.

Hopefully, the more we here at Bethany can learn about the needs in our world beyond what we see on the news, the more specific we can be in prayer about the global church. These prayer points include the unreached peoples and the continued need to send and support missionaries in the most remote places of the world.

Prayers and blessings abound, *Pastor Ellen*

Music Notes

BY: MUSIC DIRECTOR, JOHN HENNINGER

On the Third Day

These are familiar words from the Apostles' Creed – "On the third day He rose again." The glory of Easter is often best understood in the context of Holy Week. During Holy Week, we observe the Last Supper and watch as the Savior is tried, and condemned to death on a cross. Easter morning has more significance if we travel the way of the cross with Jesus during Holy Week. Join us in Worship as we journey our savior.

Thursday, April 14 7:00 pm. On Maundy Thursday we will observe the Last Supper and share Communion with our brothers and sisters from the First Baptist Church of Bridgeville. We plan on returning to our 'traditional' Communion elements served by Elders and Deacons. Pre-packaged Communion elements will be available for those that prefer.

Friday, April 15 7:00 pm. We will observe Good Friday with a service of 'Tenebrae' – moving from light into darkness as we observe Jesus' death.

Sunday, April 17. We celebrate the resurrection with a sunrise service at Melrose Cemetery at 6:30 pm. Services at Bethany are at 8:15 and 10:45.



April Birthdays

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 04/02 Paula Padgelek | 04/13 Ruth Underwood |
| 04/02 Nathaniel Petrow | 04/13 Charlotte Gilmore |
| 04/02 Abigail Walsh | 04/13 Heather Lucas |
| 04/02 Kyong Barnhart | 04/14 Judy Gastgeb |
| 04/03 Quinn Miller | 04/14 Ronald Knapp |
| 04/03 Tabatha Harding | 04/14 Bob Black |
| 04/03 Cole Valentine | 04/16 Joseph Ciaramella |
| 04/03 Jenna Price | 04/16 Jayne Ciaramella |
| 04/03 Caley O'Connor | 04/17 Camryn Loebig |
| 04/03 Storm Figura | 04/20 Ronald Miller |
| 04/03 Sage Figura | 04/20 Henry Brickner |
| 04/03 Timothy Anderson | 04/20 Nicholas DeRoss |
| 04/05 John London | 04/21 Sharon Matusic |
| 04/05 Guy Doyle | 04/21 Mark Romanelli |
| 04/05 Evan Veneski | 04/21 Deacon Strouse |
| 04/05 Avery Link | 04/22 Justin Jackson |
| 04/06 Colsen Miller | 04/23 Laura Miller |
| 04/07 Michael Leigh | 04/23 Dennis Farrer |
| 04/07 Bev Hook | 04/23 Cynthia O'Korn |
| 04/07 Julie Foltz | 04/23 A'maur Pitzer |
| 04/07 Victoria Gregory | 04/23 Joseph Brickner |
| 04/08 Jocelyn Morelock | 04/26 Rebecca Sabin |
| 04/08 Ronald Gastgeb | 04/26 Taylor Exacustides |
| 04/09 Ryan Jackson | 04/27 Corey De Rose |
| 04/09 Dolly Russell | 04/27 Mary Fortney |
| 04/09 Samantha Lindow | 04/27 Sierra Sienerth |
| 04/10 Gabbie Sharp | 04/27 Eliza Dempe |
| 04/10 Lena Werner | 04/28 Richard Visser |
| 04/10 Alicia Barbaryka | 04/29 Richard Lucas |
| 04/11 Barbara Boehmer | 04/29 Michelle Figura |
| 04/11 Laney Davis | 04/30 Walter Schultz |
| 04/11 Brooke Schwotzer | 04/30 Michael Foltz |
| 04/12 Esther Bearman | 04/30 Carson Colvin |
| 04/12 Mark Talerico | 04/30 Christine Costello |
| 04/13 Jack Vollmer | |

about our members....

CONDOLENCES

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to

- The Lesnett family on the death of Vivian Lesnett on March 1, 2022.
- The family of Ed Ostroskie on the death of his wife, Marlene Ostroskie, on March 15, 2022.



Congratulations to Greg and Jenna Price who were married in our Chapel on March 26, 2022

A New Member's class is being scheduled for May. Contact the membership team at membership@bethanypresby.org for more information.

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.

The Grace of God BY: DOUG BOVARD

Faith is a living, unshakeable confidence in God's grace; it is so certain, that someone would die a thousand times for it. This kind of trust in the knowledge of God's grace makes a person joyful, confident, and happy with regard to God and all creatures. – Martin Luther

Scripture Readings: I Cor. 15:10; Titus 3:4-7; Rom. 11:6; Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:8,9; 2 Tim. 1:9; Ex. 33:19; 1 Tim. 2:5, Rom. 5:15; and 2 Cor. 3:18.

Asked to summarize the law Jesus said we should love God and neighbor. God's grace should help us keep this commandment. As we learn about God's grace toward us, it should flood our hearts with gratitude and love for Him. This grace should provide a model for how we treat our neighbors.

God's grace and goodness are part of His glory. Our God delights in pouring out abundant grace upon us. He freely shows unmerited favor and free grace to the lost, to those ruined in sin and to those who seem so undeserving. No one affects us more than God. It should excite our hearts to witness and be the recipient of this abundant grace. We should hunger to know more about a God so full of goodness and grace. This undeserved grace should compel us to be very thankful and move us to a deeper and more sincere worship of Him. In this month's article I will try to explain God's incomparable grace.

God's grace is free. What does God's free gift of grace mean? Please read Romans 3:23,24 and 11:6; Eph. 2:8,9; 1 Cor. 15:10; Titus 3:4-7 and Romans 11:6. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a gift that God gives. God's free grace means that you can't earn it, it is undeserved, unmerited, and it can't be bought or sold. It must be received by faith. As Romans 3:24 states, we are justified before the judgement seat of God based solely on the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ. It is a substitutionary atonement and with our spiritual rebirth we are declared the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ who accounts to us, recons to us, imputes to us, His perfect righteousness. It is received by grace on God's terms, not ours. Our justification before God is not a reward for the righteous, but a free gift for the guilty. God does not give us what we deserve, He freely gives us what we don't deserve. Those who claim to be righteous will never have it, and only those who declare their own guilt may receive it by faith. Jesus has not come for those who are well, but for those who are sick. Like oil and water, grace and works can't be mixed. Truth is, we are all sick and need God's grace and Christ's righteousness.

God's grace is eternal. Please read Romans 8:28-30 and Eph. 1. Before time began, God planned to give His grace to His elect. The elect were not chosen on the basis of what they would do, but were chosen according to God's own purpose and grace.

God's grace is sovereign. God is under no obligation to choose and be gracious to anyone. No one has a claim on the grace of God because it's given by God according to His will and to those who are undeserving (Ex. 33:19).

God's grace is far reaching. It is extended to the lives of people all around the globe (Titus 2:11). This includes men and women, Jews and Gentiles, slave and free, educated and uneducated, rich and poor, and people from all languages and cultures.

God's grace is mediated. God's grace is mediated through the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 2:5). There is no salvation outside of Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:15). Christ is fully God and fully man, and Christ alone can represent man to God and God to man. To have Christ is to have everything; not having Christ is to have nothing.

God's grace is saving grace. God's grace saves believers from God Himself. Apart from His grace, mankind can only expect God's judgement and wrath. We are saved by God, for God, from God.

God's saving grace is super-abounding. There is no amount of sin that God's grace cannot overcome (Rom. 5:20).

God's grace is transformative. By it, He transforms believers into the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18).

How should a consideration of God's free and sovereign grace influence Christian worship? How should it affect Christian relationships? Reflect on the first time you became aware that salvation is purely a gift of God's grace, apart from any works. How did you respond to God? Did you ask 'why me Lord'?



Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 10th

- Lenten Breakfast hosted by Men's Ministries
- Learn how to make crosses out of palms
- Confirmation class is being confirmed
- Prayer Walk at 1pm
 - There will be 3 routes to choose from, each will take 30-60 mins. Everyone will start in the church together and is encouraged to go at their own pace.

Maundy Thursday, April 14th

- Maundy Thursday Worship Service with First Baptist Church at 7PM

Good Friday, April 15th

- Good Friday Worship Service at 7PM

Saturday, April 16th

- Easter Bunny Breakfast (9:30am to 11:30am) - Register on our website.

Easter Sunday, April 17th

- Sunrise service at Melrose Cemetery - 6:30am (Don't forget to bring a chair)
- Easter service in the sanctuary - 8:15 am & 10:45 am



Upcoming Events

MEANS OF GRACE: Learning Spiritual Disciplines, April 2 and April 9 from 10:00am-11:15am

A class about a variety of Spiritual Disciplines to enrich your faith! The Bethany Discipleship Team invites you to come and learn about the many different ways we can practice our faith. Each week, get an introduction to two disciplines, then choose which one you'd like to learn about more in depth. Registration requested, on-line or contact the church office.

Saturday, April 2nd

Practice of Ignatian Prayer taught by Pastor
Ginger Thomas

We are thrilled to welcome Pastor Ginger Thomas to teach about Ignatius of Loyola, the 16th Century founder of the Jesuits, who taught a way of praying the scripture with our imaginations. Try out this method of paying attention to God through using an imaginative approach to prayer.

Practice of Inductive Bible Study taught by
Pastor Ellen Dawson & Sharon Salvini

Inductive Bible study is an approach to God's Word focusing on three steps: What does it say? What does it mean? What does it mean for my life/the life of the church? The Holy Spirit opens the Scriptures to us through this method, allowing us to glean new things from the words we read.

Saturday, April 9th

Practice of Memorizing Scripture taught by
Pastor Ellen Dawson

Dr. John Burgess (Pittsburgh Theological Seminary) writes, "Through memorization, Scripture dwells in our hearts, not just on the pages of a book. It can speak to us anytime, anywhere." We will look at why this practice is vital for our Christian walk, as well as a few memorization methods to help us rediscover this spiritual discipline.

Practice of Prayer Walking taught by Pastor
Linda Ruby, Whitehall PC

Prayer Walking has often been described as "praying on site with insight." As you walk, the Holy Spirit will help you use your eyes to physically see the things around you and to spiritually see the things for which to pray. Pastor Linda Ruby, a long-time teacher for Presbyterian-Reformed Ministries International, is well versed in this practice. We especially encourage you to attend if you'd like to participate in the Palm Sunday Prayer Walk (though your attendance at this class is not a requirement).

GOLDEN OLDIES

April 21st -

Joe DiVittorio will be speaking on Personal Safety.

upcoming events continued...



6TH ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT

This year, we will be gathering at the beautiful Oglebay Resort on May 20-21 and invite you to join us for men's fellowship group. All attendees are welcome to join for one or both days and don't have to golf to participate.

This event is open to all men (not just Bethany members) and includes:

- Overnight Accommodations for one night in Wilson Lodge (FRI check in by 4pm & SAT check out by 11am)
- One Breakfast Buffet at the Ihlenfeld Dining Room Saturday morning (opens at 6:30 AM)
- Men's Retreat Session - Friday evening at the Wilson Lodge (room & agenda TBD)
- Golf - FRI 10:00am tee time - Palmer Course
- Golf - SAT 10:18am tee time - Jones Course

The deadline is quickly approaching, please let us know your preference by Thursday, April 28:

- \$ 250 per person, double occupancy, (2 rounds of golf) (pay by check \$ 243)
- \$ 177 per person, double occupancy, (1 round of golf) (pay by check \$ 172)
- \$ 104 per person, double occupancy (No golf) (pay by check \$ 101)

Other available resort activities: Walking & Hiking Trails, Aerial Challenge Course, Tennis Center, Horseback riding, Schenk Lake, pedal boats, aqua cycles, kayak rental, Swimming - outdoor and indoor pools

If you are interested in a single room that can be arranged. Please let us know if you are interested in attending by April 28th and you can easily register/pay online or submit a check to made payable to Bethany Church with Men's Retreat in the memo.

Register on line or pick up a registration form in the Welcome Center.

Questions? Please call Ed Stewart 412 818-7895, Bill Paviol 412 722-3102 or Bill Just 412 417-0089

upcoming events continued...

**VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL**

Get Ready...

JUNE 13 - JUNE 17



For a Howlin' Good Time!

Register online on our website

Sunday, May 1st is Youth Sunday

Bethany welcomes Michael Swanson as our guest preacher on Youth Sunday, which is coming up on May 1st. Michael grew up coming to Bethany Youth Group (BYG), after he was invited to come over to the church parking lot by a friend to skateboard. "Turns out, it was youth group," says Michael. "I met some nice people and decided to come back the next week." Michael currently works as the Assistant Director of Training for Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO). He and his wife, Mikala, recently teamed up with friends to launch a new business, Idou Coffee Co., offering small-batch, locally-roasted Fair Trade coffee in the State College area. In addition, Michael is pursuing a Masters of Arts and Religion degree at the Trinity School for Ministry. Michael's work with CCO is supported by Bethany Missions funds. We are happy to welcome him back to Bethany.

**Bulletins and Past Worship Services can be found on our website at
www.bethanypresby.org/sermons**

| April 2022 | | Palm Sunday- April 10, Confirmation Sunday – April 10, Lenten Breakfast – April 10 Maundy Thursday- April 14 Good Friday- April 15 Easter Sunday- April 17 | | | | |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 10AM – Means of Grace Lenten Classes |
| 3 Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School & Confirmation Class 4PM - BYG | 4 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout 7PM – Deacon meeting 7PM – Confirmation Class Statements of Faith | 5 10AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – Coed Dart ball | 6 7PM – Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts | 7 9AM – Quilters 11AM – Rotary Luncheon 12PM – Knitters 6:30PM – MOPS 7PM – Beth Moore Class 7PM – Dart ball 8PM – AA | 8 | 9 10AM – Means of Grace Lenten Classes 11:30AM - Knitters |
| 10 PALM SUNDAY CONFIRMATION SUNDAY LENTEN BREAKFAST Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School 1PM – Prayer Walk | 11 7pm – Session Teams 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout | 12 10AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle | 13 7PM- Boy Scouts | 14 MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP AT 7PM 9AM – Quilters 9:15AM – MOPS 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters | 15 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT 7PM | 16 FOOD BANK 9:30AM - Bunny Breakfast |
| 17 EASTER Sunrise Service at 6:30am Worship in the Sanctuary at 8:15am & 10:45am | 18 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout | 19 10AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 6:30PM – PW CT Mtg | 20 7PM – Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts | 21 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Golden Oldies 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 6:30PM – MOPS 8PM – AA | 22 | 23 DIAPER BANK 11:30AM - Knitters |
| 24 Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School 4PM - BYG | 25 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout 7PM - Session | 26 10AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle | 27 7PM - Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts | 28 9AM – Quilters 9:15AM - MOPS 12PM – Knitters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 8PM – AA | 29 10AM – MOPS Steering Committee | 30 |

Bethany Missions and Outreaches



MISSION TEAM SARRIS CANDY SALES FOR APRIL

Proceeds from the sale of Sarris Candy for the month of April will benefit Sojourner House and Urban Impact. Stop by the Welcome Center on Sundays to get your chocolate and learn more about these ministries.

Mission is happy to report that Sarris Candy proceeds for February, \$312.75, went to Washington City Veteran's Place and \$312.75 went to Angel's Place. For March, the proceeds amount of \$486.00 went to Avis Arbor and \$486.00 went to Camp Crestfield.

We can't thank the congregation enough for their continued support.

APRIL SPECIAL OFFERING-

Bethany Education Fund and Camp Fund

The special offering envelopes for April support the Bethany Education Fund (blue envelope) and Camp Fund (yellow envelope). The Bethany Education Fund provides scholarships to Bethany high school seniors pursuing post-secondary education or training, and the Camp Fund provides scholarships to youth attending Christian summer camp programs as approved by the Discipleship team.

Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to these special offerings either by selecting "Bethany Education Fund" or "Camp Fund" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for the Bethany Education Fund or Camp Fund on your check or a pew envelope.

Thank you for your contribution to these valuable scholarship programs for the youth of Bethany!

Camps and Mission Trips

- The Mission Trip to Summerville WV is tentatively scheduled for August 14 - 20.
- SUMMER CAMP! - Well it is that time of year to start thinking about camp. Bethany Church offers a \$100 scholarship for each child who goes to a summer Christian camp. Please check the table in the Welcome Center. It has information about many of the eligible camps. The scholarship applications are also on the table. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Lynne Suchoza.

News about our facility

- *The roof above our sanctuary will be replaced this summer, with the work beginning in June.
The cost of the project is \$62,115.
- *Fellowship Hall has been repainted.
- *A handicap access device has been installed on the far right door on our main entrance in the back.



Easter Flowers

Lilies and Tulips to decorate our Sanctuary on Easter Morning are available for purchase through Sunday April 10th.

You may take them home after the service on Easter Sunday, or leave them for the church to be planted in our gardens.

Cost is \$6.50 each.

Order forms will be available as bulletin inserts on Sunday, April 2, and Sunday April 10. Or you can contact the church office to place an order.

A Special Collection was
taken on Sunday,
March 27th, to support
Ukraine via Presbyterian
Disaster Assistance
(PDA).



\$7095 was
collected and
Session had
authorized to match
the funds with
Session Mission
Funds, so our
support total was
\$14,190.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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