

November 2025 Newsletter

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

From our Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Brian Janssen



As we move into November and look forward to a season of giving thanks I could not help but think of all the people in my life who have made the month of November special. Three of my family members have birthdays in November. My sister Jennifer celebrates on November 7th, my father's would have been on November 14th, and my mom just sneaks in on November 30th.

November 14th will also mark the 14th anniversary of my kidney transplant, and as my little sister Katie gave me the gift of life. November for the Janssen's is truly a month of giving Thanks.

In our church November is a month in which we do a lot of planning for the coming year. We will approve the budget for the coming 2026 year. Budgets at church are always more than they seem because they represent a prayerfully discerned vision for what God will be doing among us in the coming year. This of course is always tempered by the reality of the God who comes to us in Jesus Christ. He is not a God who can be controlled and so we are required to be open to the surprising movements of the Holy Spirit which we are sure to experience together.

November is also a time when I give thanks for the leaders of our church, from our Session and Deacons to the staff. We are blessed with some amazing leaders in this church. All of us exercise a form of leadership in our lives. Some as parents, some as teachers, or business owners. Some of you have had the privilege of mentoring young people as they learn a new skill or job. Always remember: "Leadership is not the taking of polls and pulses in the hopes that you can learn where people are and somehow leap ahead of them and pretend like you got there first. Leadership is the selection of noble objectives and the pursuit of those objectives with such sacrifice and determination that others are drawn into the operation."

What are the noble objectives that guide your life? I hope that one of those would be a desire to be a witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God for the lives of discipleship God has blessed us with. Have a blessed November and a Happy Thanksgiving.

Blessings Always,
Pastor Brian Janssen

From our Interim Associate Pastor "Keep Your Fork!"

Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby

Dear (New) Friends in Christ,

As I write this article, I have been at Bethany for all of 1 week! Your welcome has been a blessing and I am very much looking forward to knowing you all better.

In my brief time here I'm learning a lot about how you (we) think about church. I've met folks who've been here forever and those who are relatively new but the recurring theme is that Bethany is a wonderful place to grow in faith, build great friendships that can last a lifetime and where your gifts can be shared for God's glory. One thing, Bethany sure likes to eat! My very first day was the "Golden Oldies" luncheon! What a joy to be with some of you and so many members of the Bridgeville community. If people find out coming to Bethany is that much fun the building may not be big enough.

Perhaps our motto should be, "Till we eat again!" This reminds me of a story I heard years ago and you may have already heard. I think it really applies to this new chapter in Bethany's story.

A woman knew she had only a short time left to live and she called her Pastor to make arrangements for her memorial service. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she wanted read, and what dress she wanted to be buried in. She also requested to be buried with her favorite Bible in her left hand. Everything was in order and as the pastor was preparing to leave, the woman suddenly remembered one final request that was very important to her. "Please Pastor, just one more thing", she said excitedly. "Sure, What is it?" came the pastor's reply. "This is very important to me," the woman continued ... "I want to be buried holding a fork in my right hand." The pastor gazed at the woman, with a loss for words. "That surprises you, doesn't it?" the woman asked. The pastor replied "Well, to be quite honest, I'm puzzled by the request."

The women explained. "You see, Pastor, in all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I remember that when the dishes were being cleared after the main course, someone would invariably lean over to me and say, 'Keep your fork'... it was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming, like velvety chocolate cake or deep dish apple pie---something wonderful, and with substance to end the great meal."

The pastor listened intently, and a smile came upon his face. The woman continued, "So, I just want people to see me there with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder... 'What's with the fork?'...then I want you to tell them, "Keep your Fork... the best is yet to come."

I've only been here at Bethany for a brief time and I still have so much to learn about the people and the ministry of the church, but I can't help but feel that the best days are still ahead! So be sure to **"keep your fork"** as we move forward into the future the Lord has already prepared for us.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD." Jeremiah 29:11-14

Blessings, Pastor Larry Ruby

MISSION TEAM -DID YOU KNOW?

Bethany Church Diaper Bank

Bethany Church has a monthly Diaper Bank that started in March of 2019 – which puts us in our 6th year of helping those in need of diapers including Moms, Dads and even some Grandparents with a package of diapers and a package of baby wipes. Our doors are open for everyone. It all started after Barb Crawford attended a World Wide Presbyterian Women's Convention. I attended a class where the lecture was about Diaper banks and different ways they operate and help all moms in need. It touched my heart deeply (I couldn't imagine not having diapers for my baby) and so many moms cannot afford to purchase them (and they sure are expensive) thus, all the way home I thought continuously and prayed about how we could make this program happen here at our home church and well, 6 years later with Gods help, we are still going strong! We try to keep our packages between 30 and 40 diapers. This is done on a monthly basis on the 4th Saturday of each month – 12 months a year – from 9:00AM until Noon. There are two of us at the back door. Lynne Suchoza is a regular along with Barb Crawford and Heather Lucas has been our substitute helper, and even Jack Crawford and Mike Suchoza have helped us out!! We pass out anywhere between 15 packages at the lowest to almost 50 packages at the highest monthly. (My heart says even one package during that time period for a little one would make our day)!! Tim Anderson also passes out diapers and wipes for those in need coming to the Food Bank on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Whenever we started, we required a WIC card, name and address and recipients were required to come into the church and up to the Welcome Center to fill out their paper work. Whenever COVID hit, we decided to eliminate any requirements and moved down to the doors at the back of the church. We now have a sign on the brick wall letting participants just drive up and we go outside – ask what size they need, get their diapers and wipes and take them back outside to them. Occasionally there is an uplifting note for moms and also a book for the little one put in their bags. Word of mouth sends families to us and several times we have sent letters to Churches in our area and posted signs at the Bridgeville and South Fayette Libraries. We are supported by Bethany's Mission Team and also from donations of all sizes of Diapers, Pull-ups and baby wipes from our Church Family, along with monetary help. For several years now the Upward Basketball families have brought diaper and wipe donations to our diaper bank. Please always be sure to let those in need know we are here if Diapers and Wipes are ever needed!

Blessings for this Ministry at Bethany Presbyterian Church!!!

Bethany Presbyterian Church Supplemental Diaper and Baby Wipes Bank

412-221-5132

4th Saturday of each Month 2026

9:00AM until Noon

Saturday January 24
 Saturday February 28
 Saturday March 28
 Saturday April 25
 Saturday May 23
 Saturday June 27

Saturday July 25
 Saturday August 22
 Saturday September 26
 Saturday October 24
 Saturday November 28
 Saturday December 12
 *2nd Saturday this Month *



Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat made a come back this October, led by Kate Gilmore and the Deacon Team. While spooky vibes and costumes may not be the first thing you think of when thinking 'Presbyterians', we all know that community outreach, fellowship, sweet treats, and laughter are some of our trademarks. A special evening was had by many little friends, and as always, our wonderful Bethany community showed up, bundled up to make it happen.





From our Music Director Nadina Robusto

It's been a beautifully busy season in Music Ministry! And as we move into November, we all focus on our gratitude and thankfulness with celebrations of Friendsgiving and Thanksgiving up-coming. I'm so thankful for all of you here at Bethany- All of our groups are up and running and we've been blessed to hear their beautiful music in worship! Shout out to our wonderful Bethany Choir, our Sunday School Singers/Ringers, the Staff Handbell Choir, the Bethany Chime Choir, our Bloom Musicians, and the brand new Adult/Youth Ukulele Choirs that will have their debut feature in worship in November! It's a blessing to work with all of you that are called to share your enthusiasm and love of music in worship- Praise God!

We were all blessed by the generosity of the Stewardship Team in a lovely reception with delicious bites to eat and a wonderful concert filled with music stretching all genres. It's a gift to celebrate God's creation and glorify Him with the breath He gives to us, and it was certainly a joy to celebrate the generosity of our Bethany community. Thank you, all, for making these events possible with your generous hearts!

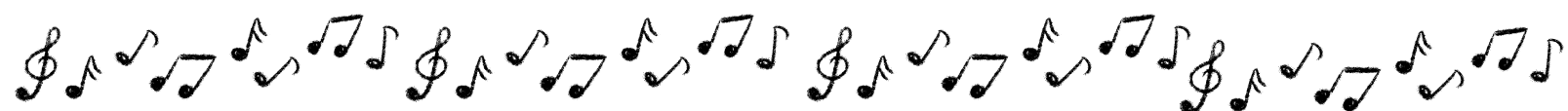
We are excited for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season, and our Bethany Choir is now well into rehearsing for the Cantata. As described by our supplier, JWPepper, "***This work recalls the dark days of anguish for ancient Israel, only to give way to the dawning of a new day of light and love when Christ is born.***" As we prepare for the start of Advent at the end of November, it is a blessing to work on this music that stirs and moves us to revisit the waiting and the longing for the celebration of the birth of Christ the King that we celebrate at Christmas! It will be a glorious morning and we hope you will join us on Dec 14th to hear it and celebrate! Don't forget to stop by the delicious Men's Advent Breakfast, which is served right between services that day.

Ushers Needed!

Looking for a way to get more involved at Bethany? Already attending worship on Sundays? Then maybe the role of Usher is perfect for you! We are recruiting Ushers to help at both services, no experience necessary, and someone will show you what you need to do if you've never ushered before. Please contact Dale Anderson at dalea591@gmail.com for more details!

Confirmation Class Coming Soon!

Confirmation Class is BACK starting in January 2026 for current 8th and 9th grade students. More information is coming soon!



Stewardship Concert

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate the generosity of God at our Stewardship Concert. We heard from members of our congregation and experienced music with our Bloom Musicians, Bethany Choir, and guest musicians. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible.





from Abbie Gardner, Youth Director



The Bethany Youth Group has had an eventful and active fall so far this year! We have had a few outings and lots of games have been played at the church (as well as some awesome discussions, and Bible Studies). When I say we “play games” at youth group I swear it’s all very intentional! This month, our theme was Exodus so we learned about Moses, and the struggles he and the Israelites had gone through. So of course, I had to make sure the youth “struggled” a bit as well. Over the month we had them complete some challenges like being blindfolded and having to navigate the entire 2nd floor of the church just by following my voice, and only a few of them ran into walls. (Property Team, I promise there was no damage to any walls). We also had Pharaoh’s army chase after the Israelites (but on scooters.... and only being able to use plungers as their oars). And lastly, we had them work as a team to use “gutters” to get a golf ball from the youth lounge, upstairs into the Sacristy (game supplies courtesy of Mrs. Pam Petrow). These challenges, while extremely frustrating to the youth, did make our discussions more practical.



In November we will have some more exciting challenges (maybe less frustrating this time) on the 2nd, 9th, and 16th. Thanks GIVING week on November 23rd we will be baking for our friends over in Bridgeville Towers! We will meet after church in the kitchen, bake until about 3pm and then deliver over there around 3:30pm!

December is full of awesome events like Laurelville Mud Weekend, a Family Move Night, and our annual Progressive Dinner! More information can be found on the ministry table in the Welcome Center.



Group Nights in November are the 2nd, 9th, and 16th all 5:00pm - 6:30pm

We will be Baking for the Residents of Bridgeville Towers on Sunday November 23rd. We will meet in the kitchen after church and head over to Bridgeville Towers around 3:30pm, spending about an hour over there, and returning to the church around 4:30pm. We will NOT meet on November 30th (enjoy your Thanksgiving break)! December is a very full month for us with

Laurelville Mud Weekend on December 5th-7th.

We will be hosting a Family Movie Night on Saturday December 13th, and our new annual tradition of a Progressive Dinner on Sunday December 21st! More information to come soon for these events!



During the October 18th Food Bank distribution, 100 families were assisted which included 40 children, 71 adults and 76 elderly.



CONDOLENCES

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Karen Harkins and family, on the passing of Karen's beloved husband, Louis Nowasielski, who passed away on October 4, 2025; and to Rev. Dr. John G. Hamilton and family, on the passing of Pastor John's beloved wife, Rev. Melany Hamilton, who passed away on October 10, 2025; and to Jana Grimm and family, on the passing of Jana's mother, Bernice Phillis, who passed away on October 26, 2025.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME Commitment Sunday Worship with Communion at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 8:00AM- Blood Drive 9:30AM -Sunday School 5PM – BYG Group Night	6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	7PM – ALANON	10AM – Fellowship of Prayer 11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM – Scouts 7PM – Choir	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 6:30PM – BLOOM 7PM – Dart Ball 7:30PM – AA		11AM – Knitters
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Nametag Sunday Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 12:00PM- Friendsgiving 1:00PM- Upward Evaluations 9:30AM -Sunday School 5PM – BYG Group Night	6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	6:45PM – Session Team Meetings 7PM – ALANON	11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM - Scouts 7PM – Choir	BUDGET MEETING 9AM – Quilters 9AM – Morning MomCo 12PM – Rotary 6PM – BLOOM and Café Bethany 7PM – Dart Ball 7PM – Evening MomCo 7:30PM – AA		FOOD BANK 9AM – New Members Class 2PM- Pancake Breakfast setup
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Pancake Breakfast Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School 5PM – BYG Group Night	6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle 7PM- Deacons Meeting	7PM – ALANON 7PM – Session Meeting	11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM - Scouts 7PM – Choir	9AM – Quilters 12PM - Rotary 12PM – Golden Oldies 6:30PM – BLOOM 7PM – Dart Ball 7:30PM – AA		DIAPER BANK 11AM – Knitters
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School 11:45AM- Congregational Meeting 12PM – BYG Baking for Bridgeville Towers	6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	7PM – ALANON	11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Choir	THANKSGIVING DAY Office Closed	Office Closed	
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School	6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	7PM – ALANON	10AM – Fellowship of Prayer 11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM – Scouts 7PM – Choir	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 6:30PM – BLOOM 7PM – Dart Ball 7:30PM – AA		



November Birthdays



11/01 Tanner Zissis
 11/01 Willa Maggs
 11/03 JaCoby Davis
 11/03 Brandon Dempe
 11/04 Sammi Berton
 11/04 Sharon Salvini
 11/05 Raymond Browner
 11/05 Phillip Carman
 11/05 Sean Carman
 11/05 Austin Gossic
 11/06 Garnet Mikush
 11/06 Jeanine Rainone
 11/07 Amanda Doty
 11/08 Katie Regan
 11/09 Logan Leigh
 11/09 Haley Nicholson
 11/10 Robert Matusic
 11/11 Bonnie Hendershot
 11/12 Ava Orosz

11/13 Steven Lower
 11/13 Andrew Shrewsbury
 11/13 Enzo Franchi
 11/15 Amy Miklavic
 11/15 Erica Anderson
 11/15 Sydney Niecgorski
 11/16 Aiden Harding
 11/17 Bill Gray
 11/18 Brandon Davis
 11/18 Judy Davidson
 11/19 Malia Padula
 11/19 Alice Montagna
 11/21 Taryn Briggs
 11/21 Katelyn Gilmore
 11/22 Maxwell Hanich
 11/22 Tawyna Shrewsbury
 11/22 Carole Aspinall
 11/23 Leo Vighetti
 11/23 Landon Gossic

11/24 Olivia Goerd
 11/24 Grace Schneider
 11/25 Michal Barbaryka
 11/25 Jean Roemer
 11/25 Heather Dempster
 11/26 Brady Kane
 11/26 Becky Yanak
 11/26 Roman Franchi
 11/27 Shelly Gastgeb
 11/28 Antonio DePaoli
 11/28 Joseph Underwood
 11/29 Linda Karns
 11/30 Jacob Nelson



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