

# October 2025 Newsletter

*Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church*

## **From our Senior Pastor** **Rev. Dr. Brian Janssen**



It is always such a wonderful thing to be able to write to all of you as we move through the year. This is especially true this month. What an October we have in store for us here at Bethany Church. Many of you got to hear our new music associate Caleb Auldridge sing in church recently and we are thankful for his presence with us. I know you will continue to make him feel welcome here at Bethany Presbyterian Church.

October will also see us hosting two wonderful events. The first will be our Stewardship Concert. This event will help us honor your generosity in giving financially to the work God is doing here at Bethany Church. We will have songs sung by choir, guest musicians, and of course the many talented people of our church. This will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:30PM-7:00PM. It is a wonderful thing to sing praises to God and thank him for his many blessings. We have a wonderful music program here at Bethany and we are looking forward to the many talents of folks being on display.

We will also be hosting our Trunk or Treat event on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00PM-8:00PM. We are looking forward to many people being dressed up and sharing a wonderful evening of giving away candy and sharing fellowship. I have not picked out my costume yet and completely open to suggestions!

Lastly, beginning October 18<sup>th</sup> I will be teaching a new class during the Sunday School hour. We will be reading and discussing Jordan Peterson's book "We Who Wrestle with God." You do not need to have the book for day one. I will be giving an overview of what we will be discussing and giving an introduction to Peterson's work. I would love you to join me, we will be meeting in the church Library.

Blessings Always,  
Pastor Brian Janssen

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### **World Communion Day on October 5th**

Bethany will be participating in World Communion Day. Christians around the world will share Communion together in unity as we honor Christ's sacrifice for us, and remembering we are one single unified body of believers all around the world.



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### **Heritage Sunday on October 12th**

October 12<sup>th</sup> will be our annual Heritage/Octogenarian Sunday! During service we will celebrate our 50 Year Members as well as those who have become Octogenarians.

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### **Stewardship Concert on October 24th**

We will host a Stewardship Concert on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> with Live Music! We want to honor our Stewardship Team and their dedication to facilitating Bethany Church well.



## MISSION TEAM -DID YOU KNOW?

### Fisher House Pittsburgh and Friends of Pittsburgh Fisher House

The Pittsburgh Fisher House, a ten hotel-style suite home situated on the VA Campus in Oakland and part of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System was established in 2012 and belongs to the Fisher House National Network of 100 comfort homes. It hosts families and caregivers from across the United States for free while their loved ones are in the hospital and provides a place of peace and respite in otherwise stressful and sometimes traumatic times. The house is professionally furnished and features a shared beautiful, full-sized kitchen, laundry, spacious dining room, living room with a library and toys for children. The guests can bring their own groceries; however the kitchen is normally fully stocked for all the guests to share and occasionally groups volunteer to cook for the guests.

Family members, loved ones or caregivers to a veteran receiving inpatient care and who reside more than 50 miles from the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System are eligible to stay at the house as long as they are self-sufficient and able to independently care for themselves. Heather Frantz, the House Manager, indicated that if the house is at capacity they don't turn anyone away and they provide housing at hotels etc.

The mission of the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House, one of Bethany's Mission Partners, is to provide a home away from home where military and veteran families can stay free of charge, while their loved one receives medical treatment in the Pittsburgh region. The Friends of Pittsburgh Fisher House has been providing support to the Pittsburgh Fisher House since 2013. They provide meals, gift cards, transportation vouchers, home furnishings and other amenities to aid in the comfort and support of the Veteran's families during their stay. One former resident stated, "The Fisher House was more than a place to stay. For me, I was blessed to make friends with people who were also enduring their own ups and downs going on the lives of their loved ones." The residents feel like they become family with other residents.

The Pittsburgh Fisher House is part of the Fisher House International Foundation which was founded in 1990 by New York Philanthropist and builder Zachary Fisher and his wife Elizabeth as they believed having family close helps patients heal faster. The first Fisher House was inaugurated in 1991 in Bethesda, Maryland (at what is now Walter Reed Military Medical Center). The Fishers continued using their personal funds to construct additional houses until Zachary passed in 1999. Kenneth Fisher, their grand-nephew, continues Zachary's legacy as the Chairman and CEO of the Fisher Foundation and they now have houses in over 30 states and the United Kingdom and Germany. Over the years the Fisher House Foundation has served more than a half a million families through 12 million days of lodging at a savings to families of \$610,000,000. The Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House estimates that the average length of stay at a VA hospital is six days and their estimate is that they are saving people approximately \$1,900 in lodging, food, transportation and incidentals.

The Friends of Pittsburgh Fisher House has currently raised over \$2.8 million toward their goal of \$3M to construct a second Fisher House Pittsburgh in O'Hara Township at the VA H. John Heinz III Campus. Groundbreaking is scheduled for 2025 and this house will contain 16 suites. Pittsburgh will be among just a few cities that support two Fisher Houses. Below is a picture of the second Fisher House Pittsburgh to be built.



## Trunk or Treat

We will be hosting a Trunk or Treat Event here at Bethany Presbyterian Church on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00PM-8:00PM. We would love for you to participate. If you would like to decorate your car and give out candy or be here to greet people in the community who bring their kids to this special event, there are numerous ways to help. You can register using the QR code, or emailing Katelyn Gilmore at [gilmorekate.013@gmail.com](mailto:gilmorekate.013@gmail.com). Katelyn is here to answer any questions you might have. It will be a great evening of fellowship.



## From Our Stewardship Team

Dear Bethany Family,

Take a deep breath, we have made it to another change in the seasons. The church is alive again with Sunday School Classes, and Upward Sports will be starting again. Steeler jerseys are back on Sundays. I love this time of year. Seasons change, Jesus stays the same. This is an affirmation of our faith that highlights the unchanging nature of Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 13:8: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

This offers us comfort and stability, assuring us that God's love, character, and promises remain constant and dependable, regardless of personal or external "seasons" of life we may be experiencing. The world we live in is uncertain most of the time. Our love for Jesus can falter when terrible things happen to us or around us and we want answers. We get angry and that's ok. Remember, God has a plan! This sign hangs in my bathroom so every morning when I don't want to get out of bed, as I force myself to get ready, I look and remember.

**Jeremiah 29:11 "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."**

God did this when He brought Jesus into the world and let Him suffer the way he did. He did this to save us all, He did it because His love for us is never ending, no matter what happens, no matter what we do or don't do, no matter how angry we get. These are our spiritual changes, our seasons of change. God never stops loving you. As we are going into our Stewardship Campaign, remember we are not just stewards of our tithes and offerings, but we are stewards for our love of Jesus. I challenge you to start each day with the mindset of "Hey, let me tell you about my Jesus." Spread your love, this is as simple as saying hello, smiling at someone, being nice and patient in the grocery line. The list goes on and on.

Every day is a brand-new day, every day our love for the Lord is in our hearts. Spread that love. Our church needs your continued support so that we can help those around us. There are many ways to give, whether in person, through our online giving portal available through the home page [www.bethanypresby.org](http://www.bethanypresby.org) or by mailing your contributions to the church. Your support of the mission of Bethany Church is appreciated. Thank you for your commitment to and support of Bethany Presbyterian Church.

In hope and blessings,  
Pam Petrow and Becky Quinn/Bethany Stewardship Team





## From our Music Director Nadina Robusto

Music ministry is off to a running start! Like a lot of sixteenth notes, eighth notes, arpeggios and grace notes? If that doesn't make any sense to you, maybe you'd consider joining us in one of our groups to learn more about music while you praise God- the BEST WAY TO LEARN!

We celebrate the fun we've had with the start ups this Fall- ukulele adult and youth choir are both filled with students and off to an incredible start- we have such fast learners in this church! Hand Chimes is ringing every Wednesday and preparing to share their music in worship, and so is the Staff Hand Bell Choir! The Sunday School Singers and Ringers are such a JOY to work with during Sunday School- We are richly blessed with musical gifts here at Bethany!

We were all blessed by Mr. Joe Oyler's talents when he shared his incredible talents with us in worship for Fall start up fun- his mountain dulcimer music brought the youth and all of us such joy! I love how Bethany's music ministry spans all generations and brings them all together to glorify God!

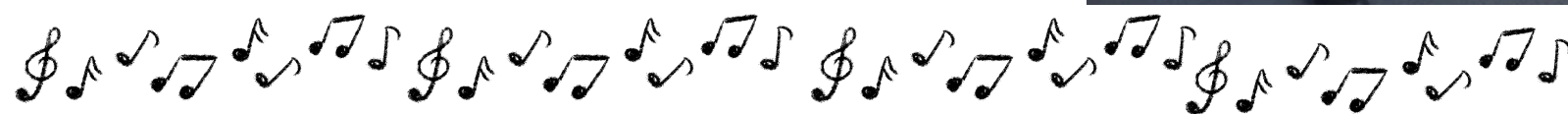
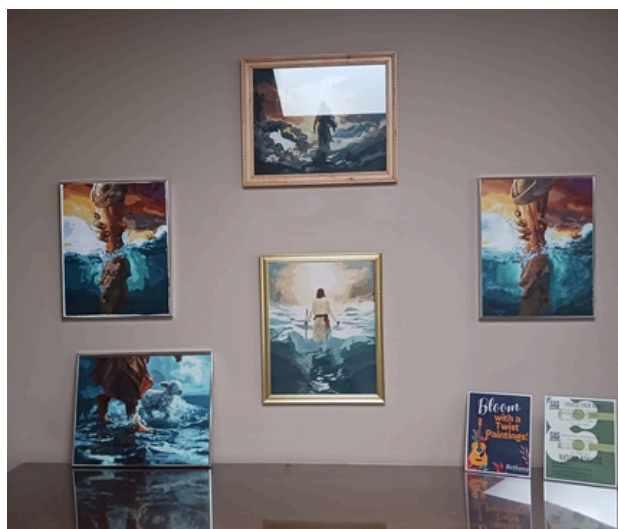
The Bloom with a Twist art was placed in the Welcome Center to decorate our walls with Sacred Art made by our very own members- a huge shout out to the artists- Hope Trotta, Abbie Gardner, Maxine Berton, Marlene Haley, and Deb Perkins - WHAT INCREDIBLE TALENT! Special thanks extended to Tim and Darlene Anderson for their help and donation to frame these paintings, and to Joe Kuchta for displaying them. We hope to have some more Bloom with a Twist events and will keep you posted!

We welcomed Caleb Auldridge to our staff as a Music Associate last month- he will now be serving as a core choir member, Bloom musician, co-lead of Ukulele Choir, support us with audio tech upgrades, as well as share his musical gifts with other ministries here. We are so blessed by his talent and all are enjoying getting to know him! Be sure to welcome him and introduce yourself!

The Bethany Choir is growing and glowing- don't they sound so wonderful? It's been a blessing to work with this choir that is like a family! Would you like to join us for the Cantata?

### Cantata Call!

We are very excited to share our Cantata on Dec 14, 2025. Everything is coming together with the guest musicians and all of the music has arrived- it is time to prepare! (Brand new Cantata to us this year)! Cantata Choir practice will start on Oct 8, 2025, 7- 7:30ish, and each Wednesday following (exception the week of Thanksgiving). Any instrumentalists that would like to share their gifts are welcome- please see Nadina or email [music@bethanypresby.org](mailto:music@bethanypresby.org) for more details.





## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD COLLECTION

The Bethany Mission Team will again participate in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Collection for children ages 2 to 14 around the world. Boxes are available on the table in the Welcome Center and must be returned by Sunday November 2nd. Boxes can be filled for girls and boys ages 2 to 4, 5 to 9 or 10 to 14 and information and gift suggestions are attached to each box. Last year we collected 83 boxes and with your help, we hope to top that number this year. Returned boxes should be closed with a rubber band and include a \$10 check to Bethany Presbyterian Church to aid with the shipping costs.



## Back to School Bash

The Back to School Bash was a huge success! New and familiar faces shared in the joy and games together in a great time of community and fellowship. And the new Children's Wing was on full display!



## Check out the New Children's Wing!

The New Children's Wing is up and Running! Families got a grand tour at the Back to School Bash and the wing is now being used by Sunday School. It is a fun, safe and fresh environment for children to learn about the Word of God, experience the Lord and grow in friendships. The fresh design is beautiful and we are so happy that it is ready for students!







from Abbie Gardner, Youth Director



Hello Church Family!

Bethany Youth Group had an awesome start to our 2025-26 year by going to an Escape Room! We had two teams, Boys and Girls - NEITHER team escaped their room in time, but we had so much fun working together with our teams to solve many puzzles. These rooms were DIFFICULT, but the youth did an awesome job! **October 5th** we have a Group Night 5:00pm - 6:30pm that will be our last in the "Into the Wild," Bible Study Series. Fit with a game that includes plungers, boats, and scooters. Confused? Come to BYG on the 5th to find out what this game will be. Saturday **October 11th** will be our outing for this month! We will meet at the church at 2:30pm and return around 5:30pm! We will be going to Half Crown Hill Orchard in McDonald, and then heading down the road to North Star Restaurant's Halloween Pop-Up event. Cost is dependent on how many apples your child wants to bring and food. We recommend \$25 to cover the cost for apples and dinner at North Star. **October 19th** we will have a Group Night 5:00pm - 6:30pm that will be focused on "Strange Stories from Scripture," to get you into the season of Halloween (while also getting the hope of Jesus!). No Halloween youth group would be fit without playing a game of Sardines in the dark. Saturday October 25th from 6pm - 8pm we will be participating in the Trunk of Treat! Families are welcome and encouraged to set up their own cars for this event, but if not, we will have a few "BYG" cars for youth to hang out at!



**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!



## The 40/40 Challenge

In July, Bethany Presbyterian Church members took part in the Forty-Forty Challenge—a 40-day journey combining scripture, encouragement, and optional faith-building activities designed to strengthen their walk with Christ. Each day, participants committed to walking or running one mile, or doing another physical activity, while reading through the Book of John. This unique challenge nurtured spiritual growth and renewed faith in mind, body, and spirit. As a celebration of their dedication, each participant received an official Forty-Forty Challenge t-shirt and a Finisher Award Medal. After a church service in August, they met to discuss the journey and reflect on the impact. They were grateful for this time of growth together and give thanks for the ways God is moving among us.

-Denise Leigh



**During the September 20<sup>th</sup> Food Bank distribution, 111 families were assisted which included 36 children, 69 adults and 87 elderly.**



# UPWARD™

Registration for the 2026 Season of UPWARD Basketball and Cheerleading is open on the church website. The program fills quickly, so register early!

## CONDOLENCES

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Ruth Underwood on the passing of her beloved husband, Stanley Underwood, who passed away on September 4, 2025.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			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		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
World Communion Sunday at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School 5PM - BYG	6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	7PM – ALANON	11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM – Scouts 7PM- Choir	9AM – Quilters 9AM – Morning MomCo 12PM - Rotary 6:30PM – Bloom 7PM – Dart Ball 7PM – Evening MomCo 7:30PM – AA		11AM – Knitters
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
HERITAGE SUNDAY Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School 5PM - BYG	6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	6:45PM -Session Teams 7PM – ALANON	11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM – Scouts 7PM- Choir	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Golden Oldies 12PM – Rotary 6:30PM – Bloom 7PM – Dart Ball 7:30PM – AA		FOOD BANK
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School 5PM – BYG	6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle 7PM – Deacons Meeting	7PM – ALANON	11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM – Scouts 7PM- Choir	9AM – Quilters 9AM – Morning MomCo 12PM - Rotary 6:30PM – Bloom 7PM – Dart Ball 7:30PM – AA		DIAPER BANK 11AM – Knitters
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Congregational Dinner for Stewardship Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM -Sunday School 5PM – BYG Halloween Party	6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men’s Huddle	7PM – ALANON 7PM – Session	11:30AM – Knitters 6:30PM – Scouts 7PM- Choir	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 6:30PM – Bloom 7PM – Dart Ball 7:30PM – AA	Halloween	

## October Birthdays



10/01 Wanda Chilleo  
 10/01 Laurie Edwards  
 10/01 Eleanor McCausland  
 10/01 James Mours  
 10/02 Audrieanna Lambert  
 10/02 Cathy Schulz  
 10/03 Hayden Zissis  
 10/04 Donna Miller  
 10/04 Alan DePaoli  
 10/05 Beckham Valentine  
 10/06 Alex Conley  
 10/06 Dolly Rastetter  
 10/06 Lois Kirsopp  
 10/08 Elizabeth Just  
 10/08 Dawn Manzini  
 10/08 Virginia Platt  
 10/08 Isabella Sysak  
 10/09 Nancy Krek  
 10/09 Logan North  
 10/10 Matthew Bizzack  
 10/11 Henry Young  
 10/11 Layla Edney  
 10/12 Chelsea Schultz  
 10/12 Amy Rush  
 10/13 Tammy Underwood  
 10/13 Koda Miller

10/14 Heather Hunter  
 10/14 Robert Lytle  
 10/15 William Gray  
 10/15 Caleb Schwotzer  
 10/16 Gary Phillips  
 10/17 Gerrie Turnbull  
 10/17 Caroline Poiche  
 10/18 Ronald Coulter  
 10/18 Becky Cook  
 10/18 Rachel Dunlap  
 10/19 Hannah Farabaugh  
 10/19 Frank Katrin  
 10/19 Karen Verduci  
 10/19 Kathryn Teller  
 10/20 Ashley Strouse  
 10/20 Paul Gastgeb  
 10/22 Mallory Goerd  
 10/22 JoAnn Alexy  
 10/24 Jessica Dempe  
 10/24 Brayden Underwood  
 10/25 Lindsey Myers  
 10/25 Rebecca Quinn  
 10/25 Edward Silassy  
 10/25 Kellie Stewart  
 10/26 Lacey Schwotzer  
 10/26 Alan Witwicki  
 10/27 Virginia Silassy

10/28 Eva Lacher  
 10/28 Noah Edney  
 10/29 Patricia Swanson  
 10/30 Marge Jablonski  
 10/30 Bruce Barnhart  
 10/30 Janet Jones  
 10/30 Tenley Muraco  
 10/31 John Turnbull  
 10/31 Zachary Beattie



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