

SEPTEMBER 2022

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

-He lives within you- our Sunday School line up

Adult Classes offered at Bethany this Fall-

Life Together - led by, Associate Pastor Ellen Dawson

This will be a 4 week class starting on Sunday, September 25th. The class will focus on the reading and discussions based on the book entitled *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Women's Bible Study - led by Becky Yanak

The Women's Sunday School class will begin meeting Sunday September 11 at 9:30am in Room 224 - the old choir room. We will be discussing the book, *Unveiling of Mary Magdalene*. Myths will be unveiled and discoveries will be made to reflect the Gospel truth about this beautiful woman of faith and follower of Jesus. All are welcome, even if you have not been a part of our Sunday school class in the past. Any questions feel free to e-mail Becky Yanak at beckyyanak@gmail.com.

Bible Study in the Chapel - led by Mark Rackley

Within this class, the primary study will feature the book of James. It will open with James 3, Taming the Tongue, and move on for about 6-8 weeks. Please note, the first two chapters were previously completed in the Spring. Once the book of James is completed, a group decision will determine which part of the Bible will be explored next.

New Testament Class - led by Doug Bovard and Eric Gregory

The purpose of this class is to read through the books of the New Testament. The authors, dates, genres, literary features, themes, theology, history and interpretation are just some of what we consider. A study Bible with footnotes and concordance is helpful and can be provided if needed. Presently, we are reading the book of John. We spend 4 to 8 weeks on a particular book depending on content. Weekly reading of 2 or 3 chapters is followed by class discussions, brief lectures, videos and Q&A sessions. All are welcome!

Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark - Led by Devin Underwood and Sharon Salvini

Join us as we take a journey through the Gospel of Mark, following the earthly ministry of our LORD. As we travel to the town of Nazareth, around the Sea of Galilee and into the heart of Jerusalem, we will explore Mark's portrayal of Christ as the "Suffering Servant," and learn how we can apply the lessons of Christ in our modern world.

THE
ANTICIPATION
OF
SUNDAY SCHOOL
& AUTUMN
IS HERE
ISSUE

Page 2 -
From the
Senior Pastor

Page 3 -
From the
Associate Pastor

Page 4 -
Music Notes

Page 5 -
About our
Members

Pages 6 & 7 -
WV Mission Trip
Mission News

Pages 8 & 9 -
Upcoming
Events

Page 10 -
Photos from
recent events

Page 11 -
Church Calendar

...from our Senior Pastor

For all the talk of becoming a great athlete in my younger days, there are really only two things I ever seriously considered doing with my life. One, I now do for a living, and the other has become a hobby. We are surrounded by giants, few of whom we ever meet, but they are known to us still. For those of us who study history our giants are not just the subjects of our study but the men and women who write. They have names: Fields, Donald, Schlessinger, Brands. While none of them would ever want to eclipse their subjects sometimes it happens.

One of those giants passed away this month. David McCullough, the brilliant historian, and narrator of such documentaries as Ken Burns' "Civil War," was a native of Pittsburgh and gained notoriety for his first book about the Johnstown Flood, and great fame for later works on Harry Truman and John Adams. I cannot read his books without hearing his voice. One thing I have always tried to do in my life is to tell the truth, and not just the truth as I see it, but truth that is tested by inquiry and discussion with others. McCullough taught this, which is why his books are so compelling. In a lecture he gave later in his career, he noted that too often we treat our founding fathers as gods or at least god-like. In response McCullough said,

"...nor were they gods. Indeed, to see them as gods or godlike is to do disservice to their memories. Gods, after all, don't deserve a lot of credit because they can do whatever they wish. Those we call the Founders were living men. None was perfect. Each had his human flaws and failings, his weaknesses. They made mistakes, let others down, let themselves down. Washington could be foolhardy and ill-tempered. Adams could be vain, irritable; Jefferson evasive, at times duplicitous."

McCullough demonstrated that history did not need to remain the preserve of academics. Academic historians have their place and are needed. However, history should never be reduced to mere statistics, assumptions, or narratives. History should consist mainly of the very thing that gets kids interested in history to begin with, stories. McCullough says further in the same lecture, "There should be no hesitation ever about giving anyone a book to enjoy, at any age. There should be no hesitation about teaching future teachers with books they will enjoy. No harm's done to history by making it something someone would want to read."

Ever since I made, with God's help, the move from historian to pastor and preacher, I have tried to tell stories. I am blessed that *the* story I get to tell is the greatest one ever told, the story of Jesus. This is our story, and we tell it by how we live. It is one thing to tell others that "Jesus saves," and quite another to demonstrate this in the story of our lives, and the story of our church. Fall is a wonderful time for storytelling. Kids run home from school with stories to tell. Parents sit at dinner tables and ask the family how their days were and will not allow responses of "fine" to suffice. Do not keep your stories to yourself, they are too precious, and too little told. Tell a loved one, a relative, a stranger. Your story matters for it is, in some small way, the story of God. You are created in His image, and God's story, your story, is a page turner.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

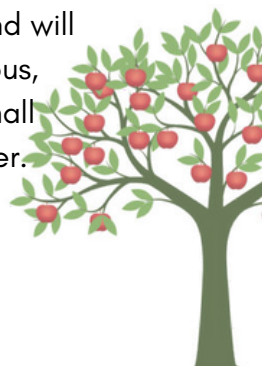




Photo of a Malawi tapestry that Carl Suppo gave Ellen that hangs within her office.

...from our Associate Pastor

Moni pingo onse! This is a greeting to a church congregation in Chichewa, the official language of Malawi. Malawi, known as “the warm heart of Africa,” has had a place in the heart of Bethany Church for 15 years. A partnership between Pittsburgh Presbytery and the Synod of Blantyre of the Church of Central Africa (CCAP) has allowed our congregation to encourage, support and learn from our brothers and sisters, specifically those at the Chiradzulu CCAP congregation in Southern Malawi.

Since the partnership was formed, over 500 people from Presbyterian churches in the Pittsburgh region have traveled to Malawi—and an equal number of Malawians have been hosted here in our city. The visits have involved relationship building, medical mission work, outreach programs, and educational events such as the New Wilmington Mission Conference.

The main purpose of the visits and the partnership as a whole is to encourage each other in life and in faith as an extension of God’s love and grace through Jesus Christ. We do this through learning, praying, worshiping, and growing together as the Body of Christ.

The Pittsburgh Presbytery is thrilled to be offering an opportunity to travel to Malawi, and Bethany Church would love to have a few members on that team. The trip leader, Rev. Ted Martin of Hampton Presbyterian Church shared, “The real reason we are going is so that we can see firsthand how our international partners are doing ministry and how we can support them better.”

The Malawi Team will spend time at a Mission Conference Center in Blantyre. Groups will go for visits to their sister churches, including experiencing hospitality in people’s homes. A few days of rest and recreation will be included in the itinerary with plans for a visit to Lake Malawi and possibly go on a safari.

Is God calling you to be a part of this wonderful opportunity? If you are interested in learning any more of the details, please contact myself, Carl Suppo, or the trip leader, Rev. Ted Martin. I’ve heard nothing but amazing stories of joy-filled worship, warm hospitality, breathtaking sunsets, and the movement of the Holy Spirit from people I know who have visited our brothers and sisters there.

Also, please note: you may not be called to actually travel there in March, but if you’d like to be on a prayer/support team for any Bethany members who feel the call to go, let me know. I’d love to help you discern and surround these team members with encouragement.

The Mission Team is ready to offer financial support to cover some of the trip costs, too.

Here are the final details about the Malawi Mission Trip.

Dates: March 9-22, 2023

Cost: Approximately \$2,500-\$2,800 which includes transportation, flight, visa, and meals.

Team Leader: Rev. Ted Martin (thmhamp@consolidated.net)

Mlungu akudalitseni (God bless you all),

Pastor Ellen

Music Notes

Dear members and friends of Bethany Church:

I wanted to convey my profound gratitude for all of the kind words, gestures, gifts and acts of kindness shown to me since announcing my retirement in the middle of July.

You are truly the people of God, sharing His love with one another, and I have been so fortunate to be a part of that for 21 years.

The reception and video presentation were so very meaningful and touching.

Know that you will remain in my prayers and in my thoughts even if I am not on the organ bench each Sunday.

Together in Christ,

John Henninger

I THANK MY GOD EVERY TIME I REMEMBER YOU. IN ALL MY PRAYERS FOR ALL OF YOU, I ALWAYS PRAY WITH JOY BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL FROM THE FIRST DAY UNTIL NOW, BEING CONFIDENT OF THIS, THAT HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL CARRY IT ON TO COMPLETION UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS.

(PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6)

Introducing Bethany's Interim organist - Gretchen Franz

Dr. Gretchen Franz, served as Director of Music at the Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church for 39 years until her recent retirement. She is a native of Pittsburgh, encouraged as a young church musician in her home church, Beulah Presbyterian. A fun fact about Gretchen, her family was the millionth family to join the national church and featured on the cover of Presbyterian Life many years ago.

Dr. Franz has served churches in New York and California, and locally at the Sunset Hills Presbyterian Church (7 years) and Temple Emmanuel synagogue (19 years). Her degrees are from Penn State, Union Seminary's School of Sacred Music and West Virginia University. Gretchen is grateful for her life as a church musician and now is also enjoying reading, cycling and gardening as she continues to serve as a substitute organist for churches.



about our members....

September Birthdays

9/01 Thomas Patterson	9/09 Bethany Edwards	9/19 Christopher Foltz
9/02 Ava Fulton	9/10 Kevin Cox	9/19 Tammy Suppo
9/02 Debbie Abel	9/11 RJ Frye	9/20 Alexis Byers
9/03 Ryan Black	9/11 Michael Suchoza	9/21 Blake Vollmer
9/03 Deborah Perkins	9/11 Collin Wilhelm	9/22 Kenneth Cook
9/03 Samuel Naples	9/12 Amanda Schwotzer	9/22 Nancy Yenchik
9/03 Janeen Lacher	9/12 Owen Veneski	9/23 Kevin Shildt
9/04 Paul Eichler	9/12 Katherine Joesbury	9/24 Joey Verduci
9/04 Kathy Brown	9/13 Jamie Baldrige	9/24 Dean Karns
9/05 Aidan Krieg	9/13 Jamie Martinelli	9/24 Heather Beattie
9/05 Joseph Oyler	9/13 Peggy Wolstoncroft	9/25 Laura Werner
9/05 Paula Naples	9/14 Michele Zwigart	9/25 Michael Segeleon
9/05 Linda McCaskey	9/14 Thomas Lesnett Sr.	9/25 Louis Schinosi Jr.
9/05 Jessie Deemer	9/14 Darla Lower	9/28 Gavin Orosz
9/06 Paul Figura	9/15 Jennifer Smith	9/28 Elizabeth Murray
9/06 Gretchen DeRoss	9/16 Patrick Rush	9/28 Reilly O'Connor
9/06 Michael Unghajer	9/16 Judy Gardner	9/29 Maxine Berton
9/06 Jacqueline Witwicki	9/16 Vivian Robinson	9/29 Marlene Haley
9/07 Zander Nowak	9/17 Layla Powell	9/30 Tyler Deramo
9/07 Kevin Dady	9/18 Susan Puel	
9/07 Joshua Smith	9/18 Kevin Strouse	
9/07 Clyde Davis	9/18 Arianna Lower	
9/09 Leo Vighetti		
9/09 Sandra Ficker		

Summer Weddings to celebrate

Stacey Zwigart and William Kurek on July 16, 2022

and

Erica Restich and Aaron Johnson on August 13, 2022

West Virginia Mission Trip

Two weeks ago, I was half way through an email of regret that the WV Adult Mission trip would have to be cancelled due to low turnout. And then, I heard a quiet inward voice speak to me.

I decided to call Joan Stewart, our WV Mission contact and actually talk to her. She asked me to give it a little more time and see what happens... Eric Gregory and I did just that.

By the middle of the week Tim Nagy and Dave Colton committed to the mission trip.

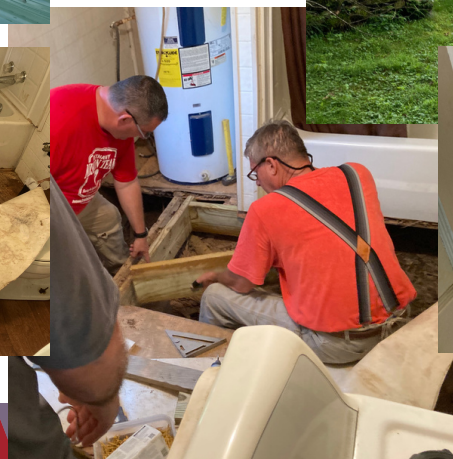
As we say at the men's Bible study huddle "Thank you, Jesus!"

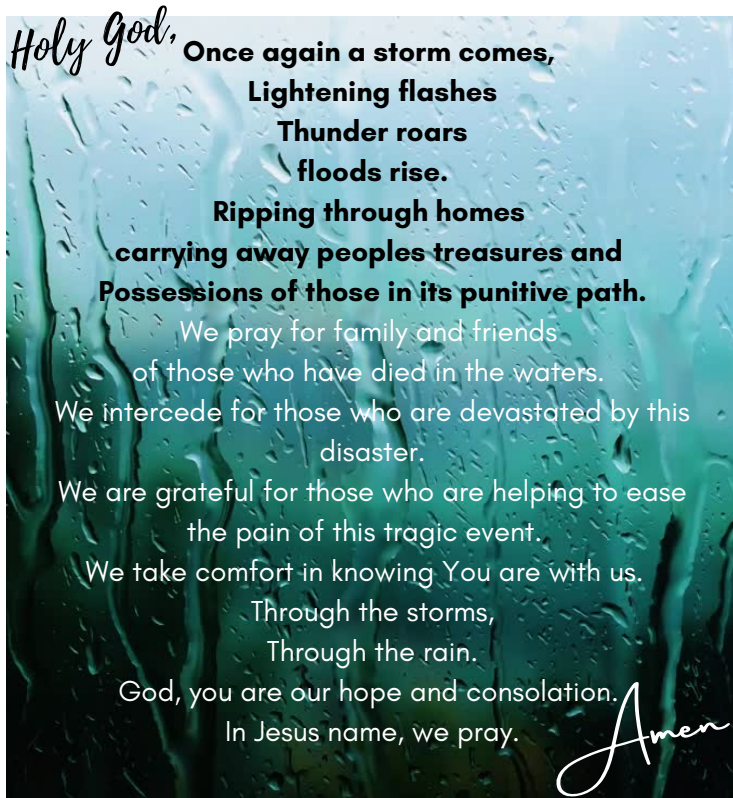
If troubles were to come our way, I am pleased to say we were bound to overcome them. When I arrived at the job site Tuesday morning, I stirred up some ground bees and as I walked toward Dave he hollered, "Doug, get out of here; you're covered with bees!" I ran, swatted bees and Eric tossed me some bee spray.

By God's grace, bee stings hurt me but have little after-effect. We were relieved! "Thank you, Jesus!"

For all of us, even me, the mission trip could not have been better. It was the first time Tim Nagy and Russ Bedner experienced the WV Mission Trip. And they thoroughly enjoyed it. They loved the fellowship, brotherhood, team-work and the manual labor of flooring and roof repairs for 80-year-old Mavis Taylor! She was a delightful lady to help and we were blessed to be a blessing to her! Tim Stewart had planned the perfect project for our small but capable group. We all pitched-in for some gourmet meals. Thank you, Dave, for the sea bass and walleye! "Sign me up for next year!" was Tim Nagy's reflection.

In retrospect, the mission trip was a microcosm of the fallen world we live in. As Christians, ours is a world of problems, pain, anger, and surprises tempered by love of neighbor, prayer and compassion. They are all mysteriously part of God's plan. I am drawn to the great words in Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. All the things that happened on this trip were in accordance with God's perfect plan!





Mission News

MISSION TEAM SARRIS CANDY SALES FOR SEPTEMBER –

The devastating flooding in eastern Kentucky that took the lives of at least 37 people is part of a series of flooding events that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is offering support and prayers for. Presbyterians and other concerned individuals can assist communities impacted by flooding by making donations to PDA.

The Missions Team here at Bethany are going to do just that with the Sarris Candy Sales throughout the month of September.

Resources are needed now but will be needed in the weeks, months and years to come. Making a donation will enable the denomination to be in a position to support the long-term recovery.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MOBILEPACK –

Saturday September 10th, three time slots available

Gather your church family & join us for 2 hours for a FUN and fulfilling experience. Children ages 5 & up can help to pack meals, and there are jobs for all ability levels (including sitting at a table & applying labels to bags). A brief training is provided. Upbeat music, people working together, and it is all done in the name of the Lord! Volunteers are invited to pray over the meals at the end of each session. Sign up sheets are located in the welcome center. Contact Celina Farabaugh with any questions. Call or text: 724-554-6370



Presbyterian Women Mission Collection for August benefiting The Education Project

We collected over 200 Gallon Size Zip Lock Bags!

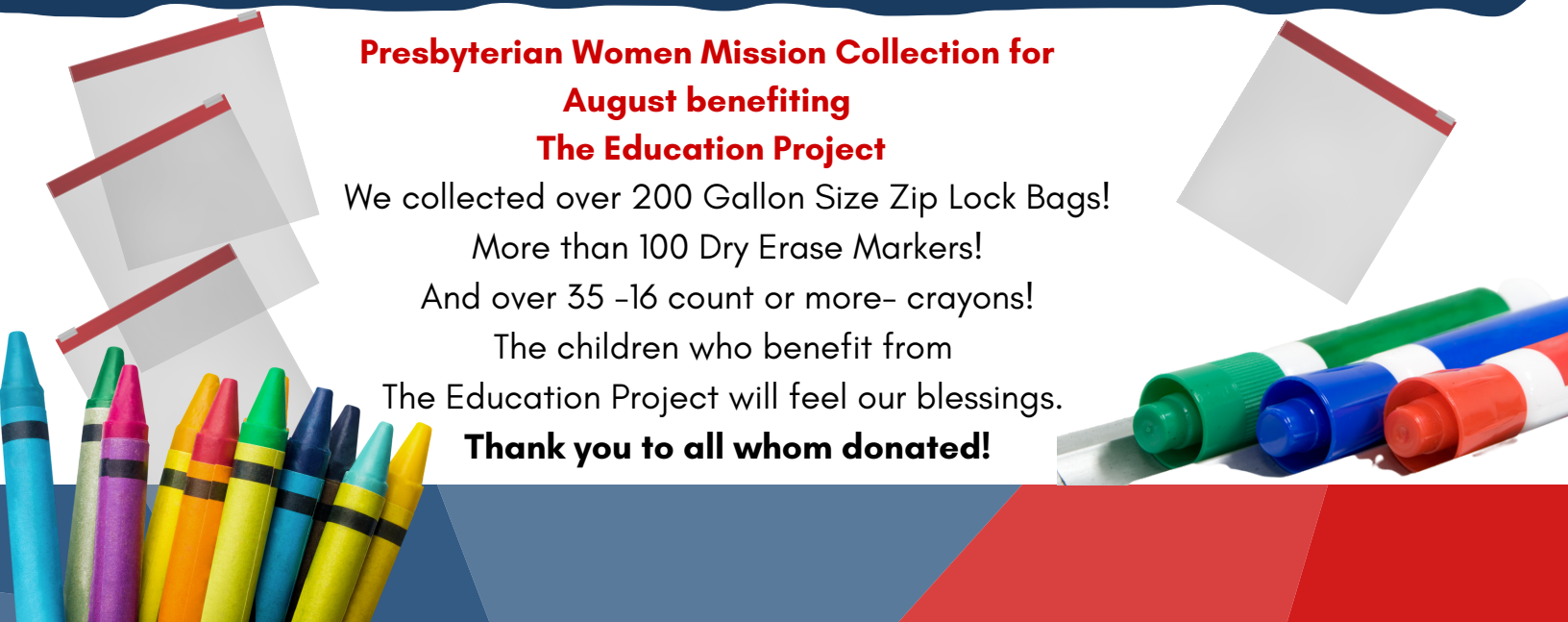
More than 100 Dry Erase Markers!

And over 35 -16 count or more- crayons!

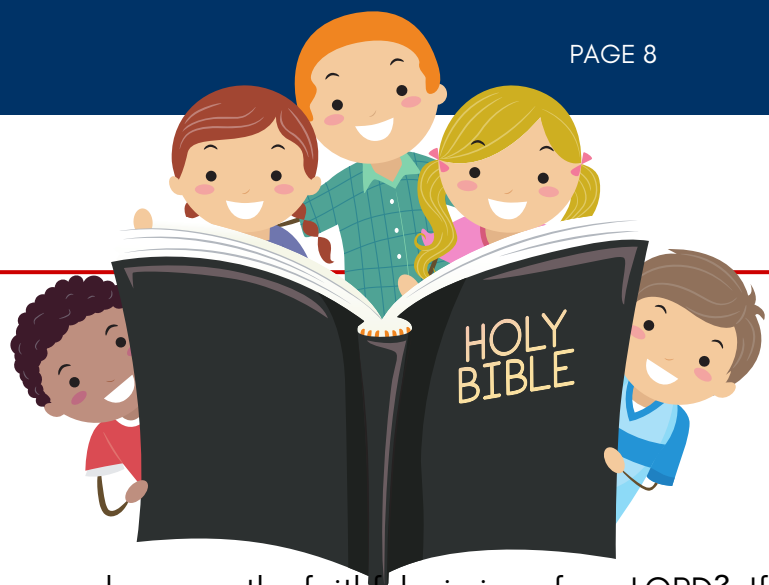
The children who benefit from

The Education Project will feel our blessings.

Thank you to all whom donated!



Upcoming Events



September 11

Sunday School Starts

At 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages starts!
We invite you and your family to COME AND SEE
all our fun! No registration needed!

Do you feel a tug on your heart to make a difference and pass on the faithful mission of our LORD? If
yes, Bethany is seeking Sunday School Teachers. We'd love to welcome you into our discipleship.
Please contact Celina Farabaugh for more information at: cfarabaugh19@gmail.com



MOPS and MOMSNEXT - REGISTRATION IS OPEN

This journey of Motherhood is best traveled with others! MOPS and MOMSNEXT
provides it's participants with a tribe of supportive women -fellow mothers-
throughout all phases of motherhood, faith, and life together.
Their 1st meetings will be on Thursday, September 8th.
For more information on how to join in on one of these FUN and
encouraging groups contact:
bethanymops01@gmail.com for morning meetings or
bethanymops31@gmail.com for evening meeting information.



September 15

Golden Oldies



Get ready to Rock and Roll with "Johnny Cash" during this lively luncheon.
Pastor Richard Robert will be singing his heart out as the featured
Johnny Cash impersonator.

October 1

Upwards Basketball Registration - opens online

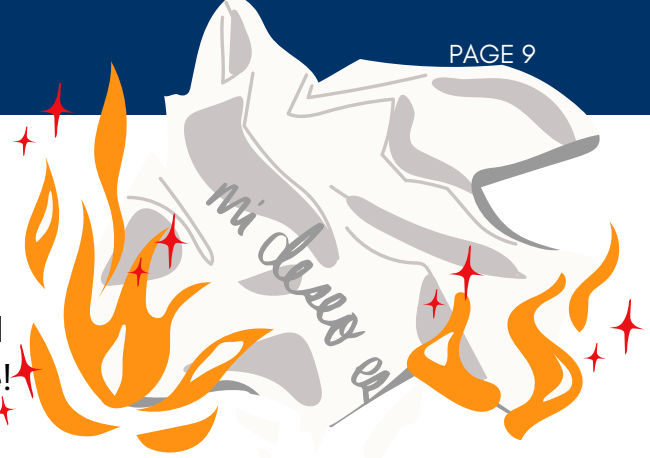
Enrollment for Kindergarteners to 2nd grade boys and girls opens!
Evaluations for registered players will be hosted on November 5th and 6th.
Let them learn and play the game with purpose!



October 9

Mortgage Burning Celebration

In 2005 Bethany Church took out a mortgage to finance renovations to our overall beloved church. We are beyond excited to announce that we have paid off that mortgage! To celebrate, we will be hosting past and present pastors with a pot luck luncheon. Registration is encouraged for all whom want to partake in our our fortunate celebration.



October 20

Golden Oldies

Love will be in the air at this gathering! Be sure to bring your sweetheart as you travel back in time.... Pat Heiserman will be playing love songs from the 50's on her guitar.



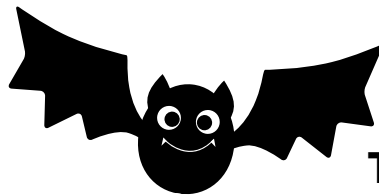
October 23

Presbyterian Women's Luncheon with the ladies: Soup for our Souls

Join in on the discussion with the ladies of Bethany! Starting at 12:00PM, PW will be hosting a soup luncheon with all the delicious toppings, bread bowls and flavors. Do you have a favorite soup you and your family love? Send us your recipe, we'll be creating a delicious soup cookbook while we dine.

At 2:00PM it will be time to *reveal* our **SECRET SISTERS!**

Be sure to put it on your calendar and continue to uplift your secret sister.



October 29

Trunk or Treat

The parking lot here at Bethany will be transformed this evening as witches and warlocks, superhero's, princesses, monsters and enthusiasts come together and enjoy all the ticks and treats of Halloween! To ensure we have enough treats for all participations, registration is encouraged.



Photos from our recent events



Annual Church Picnic

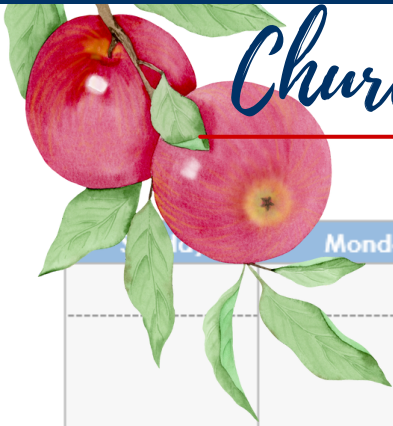
This year's Summer Splash theme was embraced by God. On Sunday, August 21st He gave us a very damp and humid day. So much so that the annual picnic was relocated to Fellowship Hall. All of the delicious food, fellowship fun and games prevailed. A BIG Thank you goes out to the Fellowship Team of The Deacons. They put together a wonderful and very memorable picnic.



Kid's Night Out - Ab-Ra-Ca-Dab-Ra!



Church Calendar for September



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3
			9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA		
4	5	6	7	8	10
Worship at 8:15AM & 10:00AM	LABOR DAY Church Office closed	9AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	9:30AM - Preschool Orientation 10AM – Fellowship of Prayer 7PM – Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA	11:30AM – Knitters
11	12	13	14	15	17
COMMUNION Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM – First day of Sunday School	6:45PM – Session Teams 7PM – Deacon Meeting 6PM – PW Seated Workout 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	6:30PM – Coed Dartball 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	7PM – Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Golden Oldies 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 8PM – AA	FOOD BANK
18	19	20	21	22	24
Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM – Sunday School	6PM – PW Seated Workout 7PM – Session Meeting 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	6:30PM – Coed Dartball 6:30PM – PW CT Meeting 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	7PM – Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 7PM - Dartball 8PM – AA	DIAPER BANK 11:30AM – Knitters
25	26	27	28	29	1
Worship at 8:15AM & 10:45AM 9:30AM – Sunday School	6PM – PW Seated Workout 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	6:30PM – Men's Huddle	7PM – Boy Scouts	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 7PM - Dartball 8PM – AA	

Ministry News



Golden Oldies

TRIP TO LANCASTER TO SEE "DAVID" UPDATE

Payment needs to be paid in full by **Thursday, September 15th** to reserve you spot in this amazing trip!

Bethany's Fellowship of Prayer

Would like to update their list of active military and veterans.

Please fill out this form on Bethany's webpage:

<https://bethanypresby.churchcenter.com/people/forms/253033>

or contact the church office to ensure that your family member is on the list.



We thank you for your service.
May GOD Bless You.

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