

# September 2025 Newsletter

*Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church*

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

This fall we are beginning a new sermon series called Adventures in the Bible. The pages of Scripture are filled with stories of people who dared to follow where God was leading. Abraham left home not knowing where he was going, Moses stood before Pharaoh with nothing but God's promise, and Peter stepped out of the boat onto the waves to walk toward Jesus. Each story reminds us that faith is never just standing still—it's always an adventure.

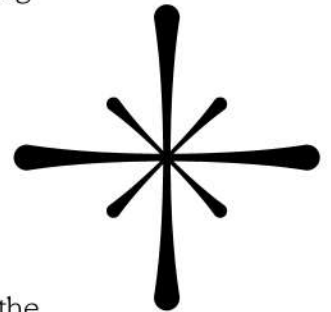
September always feels like a fresh start. Kids are heading back to school, the last long evenings of summer give way to crisp autumn air, and football games return to Friday nights and Sunday afternoons. It's a season of new routines and renewed energy, when many of us feel ready to begin something new.

Adventures require courage. They mean stepping into places we've never been before, trusting that God will meet us there. They also mean learning to stay steady when everything around us feels uncertain. And adventures are rarely easy, but they always grow us into who God is calling us to be.

That sense of adventure is something we're living together as a church right now. One of the things we are most excited about this fall is the opening of our newly updated Sunday school classrooms! These beautiful spaces are more than new paint and fresh furnishings—they are places where children will begin their own adventure of faith. Week by week, they'll be discovering God's love, God's Word, and God's call on their lives.

As we step into September, let's remember that God is leading us into new seasons as a congregation too. We may not know every twist and turn the journey will take, but we know the One who goes before us. And that makes the adventure worth taking.

We take steps in faith knowing that God goes before us, we take those steps together. Let us echo together these coming months the watch word of Psalm 133: Oh how good and pleasant it is when the family of God dwells together in unity!



In Christ,  
Pastor Brian Janssen

## **Day At The Lake**

We had a great day at the lake on Saturday! Thanks to everybody who came out to spend the day.









The Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs is sponsoring the national virtual Mutt Strutt from October 10<sup>th</sup> to October 22, 2025. You can register at their website (<https://www.medicalservicedogs.org>) to enter and either walk solo, with your dog or with a group. They suggest mile options of 1 mile, 2.2 miles or 22 miles (represents the 22 daily veteran suicides) and you can walk anywhere. Every step and dollar help to fund a service dog.

The following is a story from Craig, a recipient of a Guardian Angels Service Dog. Craig was a US Marine Veteran who faced numerous challenges after his service. He was paired with a beautiful service dog, Foxy in 2020 and because it was during Covid-19 the Guardian Angels team came to Western PA to conduct the training. Foxy has given Craig the strength and confidence to navigate daily life and returned his life to a new normal. She is his companion, his confidante and his lifeline. In 2021, Foxy was selected as the Guardian Angel's Service Dog Hero Dog of the Year. Foxy was chosen because she used her skills and training to awaken Craig one night when the building they were in caught fire. He was in a deep sleep from his medication and was awoken by Foxy as she jumped up and down on his chest and licked his face. They were both able to escape the building safely.



**Don't Forget to Sign up for Preschool at Bethany! Visit [preschool@bethanypresby.org](mailto:preschool@bethanypresby.org) and there is also a registration form available on the website!**



## BETHANY PRESCHOOL

ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN

**FOR THE 2025-2026  
SCHOOL YEAR**

*Our experienced teachers and  
engaging curriculum offer  
children the opportunity  
to learn and grow in a safe,  
nurturing environment.*





## From our Music Director Nadina Robusto

The Fall Season is always exciting in Music Ministry! Choir and Sunday School Music resumed, and so will the Hand Bells, Chime Choirs, and our brand new Ukulele Choir groups! Just as our students are back to routines and schedules at school, the Fall season gives us the opportunity to get back on track with rehearsing to give our best to glorify God. This season, we have some new exciting programs, as well as new music staff, to share with you!

Please extend a warm welcome to Caleb Auldridge! You may have seen and met Caleb at Bloom where he has been singing and sharing his gifts this Summer. This Fall, we welcome him to the Sanctuary weekly, as our new Core Choir Member. (We can insert his bio here)

Also, this month is the new offering of Ukulele Choir Classes! We will hold a few 2 week sessions to generate and survey program interest and then take the steps to organize classes more regularly. You've heard Bloom musicians share these beautiful instruments at our Pentecost service this year, where one may have imagined that the Holy Spirit was the Island Breeze with the Ukulele choir joined by the Pan Drums. Ukuleles are a fun way to get involved in music ministry for many reasons- they are portable and light; the strings are softer than most guitars; it's a member of the lute family, which the Bible references several time; playing music with fellow members is always a blast; and many of the schools offer these instruments to youth - what a great way to invite and bring some friends into church for worship!

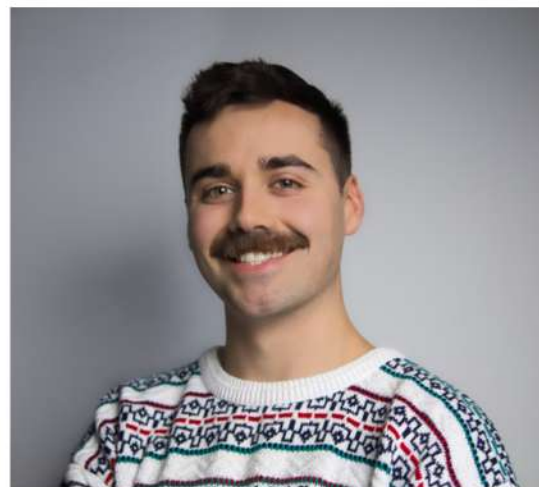
Take a look at the dates and offerings, and if you want to sign up- send me an email at [music@bethanypresby.org](mailto:music@bethanypresby.org) or scan the QR code! Happy Start Ups to all! Also Bloom is excited to share in Modern Worship this Fall and we look forward to jamming on Thursdays!



## Please Welcome...

Originally from Frederick, Maryland, **Caleb Auldridge** recently moved to Pittsburgh after graduating from Duquesne University with a bachelor's degree in sound recording last May. Caleb's musical and choral journey started in elementary school, where he first joined his school choir. Later, in middle school, he began to learn guitar and participated in the Maryland All-County and Junior All-State choruses for all three years. At his high school, the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts (BISFA), Caleb took private classical voice lessons and studied music theory. He sang in the BISFA Chamber Choir for all four years, as well as in the "Triple Threat" musical theater group. He was the understudy for Sam in the musical "Mamma Mia!" and played the lead role of Lucas in "The Addams Family."


Throughout high school, he was selected for the Maryland All-County and Senior All-State choruses each year, and he also sang in the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All-National Chorus in 2018, 2019, and 2020. Caleb continued his musical education at Duquesne University, studying sound recording technology and continuing private vocal lessons. While at Duquesne, he was a member of the Mary Pappert Voices of Spirit chamber choir under the direction of Dr. Daley, as well as the Recording Studio Ensemble, which focused on commercial genres such as funk, rock, and pop under the direction of Alexander Price.




## UKULELE CHOIR NEWS!

9/21 & 9/28- 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>- Class  
10/5 & 10/12- K-4<sup>th</sup>- Class  
(After Church)

**See the Bulletin  
or QR code for  
sign ups!**





## UKULELE CHOIR NEWS!

Adult Class Starting 9/18  
Thursdays 10 AM

**See the Bulletin or QR code  
for sign ups!**



# Sunday School Offerings for Fall 2025

Make plans to grow your faith in one of our many **9:30am Sunday School** classes!

New students are always welcome and encouraged to join ANY class!

1. Adults - A Study of Second Corinthians – led by Sharon Salvini and Devin Underwood.  
Located in the front half of fellowship hall, nearest the stairwell.
2. Adults - A Study of The New Testament – led by Doug Bovard.  
Located in the Bethany Room
3. Adults - A Study of First & Second Corinthians – led by Mark Rackley.  
Located in the Chapel.
4. Women – A Jesus Shaped Life by Lisa Harper - A Book & Video Study – led by Becky Yanak. Explores the depths of God's character, His love for us, and how our relationship with Him changes through Biblically sound theology.  
Located in room 224
5. Senior High – Are you a teen, or know a teen, that is living in a world of anxiety, fear, self-doubt, and not feeling like you are enough? Join us as we explore the book Live Fearless: A Call to Power, Passion, and Purpose by Sadie Robertson.  
Led by Pam Petrow. Located in the Youth Lounge
6. For Children: a. Bible Stories & Fun – Babies through age 2 in the Nursery  
b. Bible Stories & Fun – Ages 3-5 in room 245  
c. Bible in Life by David C Cook – Elementary & Middle School in rooms 239 and 240

A deeper dive, **after the 10:45 Service** (likely to meet twice per month, see Sharon or Doug for more details) –

1. Westminster Confession of Faith – A Book Study – led by Sharon Salvini & Doug Bovard. Located in room 224
  - a. As the author, Joseph Pipa explains, he wrote this study book to train Christians in the basic doctrines and practices of Biblical Christianity. The studies (26 total) are a series of inductive Bible studies keyed to the Westminster Standards – including the Shorter and Larger Catechisms. In addition to the WCF, there are parallel readings in the Belgic Confession, The Heidelberg Catechism, the Canons of Dort and the Presbyterian Book of Order. Plenty of scripture references and memory verses. The author estimates that each study takes about one and a half to two hours of home study.

Details Forthcoming, Sunday Evenings–

1. The Chosen – Season 5
  - a. Moderated by Pam Petrow & Edgar Schafer. Start date, time, & location to be determined soon. Look for details in an upcoming bulletin or reach out to Pam or Edgar for more information!





*from Abbie Gardner, Youth Director*



This summer has been a summer of prayer and preparation for the upcoming program year. There are so many exciting things that will be starting this year, and so many things that have already happened. On September 7th, I encourage you to take a look at all the hard work that has been put into the Sunday School Rooms. They are colorful, fun, and a perfect space for all the kids. Sunday School starts that morning at 9:30am, but we are also having a kick-off for ALL youth that evening, 5pm-7pm.



The Back To School Bash will be for all youth preschool - 12th grade (and their families) to enjoy a meal together, compete in some games, and complete a scavenger hunt to tour the new children's space (and the rest of the church). Following the September 7th kick-off, the Bethany Youth Group will continue their weekly gatherings. On the 14th 5:00pm - 6:30pm, the youth group will meet for a Group Night to start their theme of "Into the Wild," with games, small groups, and lots of snacks. We will have another Group Night on Sunday September 28th and Sunday October 5th. On September 21st, the youth group will head off to Breakout Games on McKnight Road to compete against the clock, and the other groups, to escape their room. Youth should RSVP by Sunday September 14th. SAVE THE DATE for Laurelville Mud Weekend on December 5th - 7th for all junior high and senior high students!! I am looking forward to such an awesome year with the youth group, and cannot wait to get this year started!!



**During the August 16<sup>th</sup> Food Bank distribution, 106 families were assisted which included 39 children, 84 adults and 78 elderly.**



*Golden Oldies  
Trip - Sept 10  
and 11*

The Golden Oldies will be going to see "Noah" at the Sight and Sound Theater on September 10th and 11th. The trip also includes "The Buddy Holly Story" at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater. Call Carole Aspinall at 412-833-8114 if you have any questions.



## CONDOLENCES

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Celina Farabaugh and family on the passing of Celina's Grandfather, Richard Celani who passed away on August 3, 2025; and to the family of Roland Drugmand, who passed away on August 8, 2025; and to the family Nancy Yenchek, on the passing of Nancy's brother, Larry Palak, who passed away on August 12, 2025.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	7PM – ALANON	10AM – Fellowship of Prayer 11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Choir Practice	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 6:30PM – Bloom 7PM - Dartball 7:30PM – AA		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION at 8:15AM & 10:45AM	6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	7PM – ALANON 6:45PM – Session Team Meetings	11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Choir Practice	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 6PM - Evening MOMCo 6:30PM – Bloom 7PM - Dartball 7:30PM – AA		11:00AM - Knitters
			Golden Oldies Trip 10 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup>			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
WORSHIP AT 8:15AM & 10:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30AM	6:30PM –Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM - Deacons Meeting	7PM – ALANON	11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Choir Practice	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Golden Oldies 6:30PM – Bloom 7PM - Dartball 7:30PM – AA		FOOD BANK
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
WORSHIP AT 8:15AM & 10:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30AM	6:30PM– Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	9AM – Chartiers Center 7PM – ALANON 7PM – Session Meeting	11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Choir Practice	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 6:30PM – Bloom 7PM - Dartball 7:30PM – AA		DIAPER BANK 11:00AM - Knitters
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
WORSHIP AT 8:15AM & 10:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30AM	6:30PM – Body Carpenter Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle	7PM – ALANON	10AM – Fellowship of Prayer 11:30AM – Knitters 7PM – Choir Practice	9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary 6:30PM – Bloom 7PM - Dartball 7:30PM – AA		



# September Birthdays



09/01	Thomas Patterson	09/12	Amanda Schwotzer	09/25	Laura Werner
09/03	Janeen Lacher	09/12	Katherine Joesbury	09/25	Michael Segeleon
09/03	Deborah Perkins	09/12	Owen Veneski	09/25	Louis Schinosi Jr.
09/03	Samuel Naples	09/13	Jamie Baldrige	09/27	Liam Carman
09/03	Ryan Black	09/13	Jamie Martinelli	09/28	Reilly O'Connor
09/04	Kathy Brown	09/14	Thomas Lesnett Sr.	09/28	Gavin Orosz
09/04	Paul Eichler	09/14	Michele Zwigart	09/29	Marlene Haley
09/05	Jessie Turner	09/14	Darla Lower	09/29	Maxine Berton
09/05	Joseph Oyler	09/15	Jennifer Smith	09/30	Tyler Deramo
09/05	Aidan Krieg	09/16	Patrick Rush		
09/05	Linda McCaskey	09/16	Judy Gardner		
09/05	Laura Edwards	09/16	Vivian Robinson		
09/05	Paula Naples	09/18	Susan Puel		
09/06	Michael Unghajer	09/18	Kevin Strouse		
09/06	Gretchen DeRoss	09/18	Arianna Lower		
09/06	Jacqueline Witwicki	09/19	Christopher Foltz		
09/06	Paul Figura	09/20	Alexis Byers		
09/07	Clyde Davis Jr	09/21	Blake Vollmer		
09/07	Joshua Smith	09/21	Robert Eichler		
09/07	Zander Nowak	09/22	Nancy Yenchik		
09/07	Kevin Dady	09/22	Kenneth Cook		
09/09	Bethany Edwards	09/22	Ryleigh Gricar		
09/09	Sandra Fricker	09/23	Kevin Schildt		
09/09	Leo Vighetti	09/24	Dean Karns		
09/10	Kevin Cox	09/24	Heather Beattie		
09/11	Michael Suchoza	09/24	Joey Verduci		
09/11	RJ Frye				
09/11	Collin Wilhelm				



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