



BETHANY ROAD

JANUARY 2024



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Bethany Church,

With the new year we find that change is coming! I am excited to announce that we will be remodeling our nursery and 3-5 year old room. You might be asking why? That would be a good question. There are a couple of reasons why.

The first reason has to do with our vision. We talk a lot about wanting to share the Gospel and reach the next generation. We, of course, want to reach everyone and not just the next generation, but a nursery and children's space that is prioritized and sharp makes a statement. It gives the first and continual impression that we care about kids at Bethany. It will help inspire confidence that our volunteers and safety team know what they are doing and want to help children be disciplined in faith while they are here at Bethany Church.

The second reason this remodel is necessary is the space has been well used for years and needs a refresh. This refresh will not only make the space look sharp for years to come, but it will also better utilize our space for the kids' ministry. This is partially sparked by the growth we have seen in the Children's Ministry and the need to expand to a second room on Sunday mornings.

The 3-5 classroom will be getting a facelift. A drop ceiling, new LED lights, patchwork on the walls, new blinds, and a fresh paint job is planned. The nursery remodel will be more intense. We are looking at the bathroom in the nursery to update, as well. The big remodel expense will be putting in a new wall between the 3-5 classroom and the the nursery. This new wall will hopefully have electrical outlets and will definitely have built in cabinets, which will help organize things in both the nursery and the 3-5 classroom.

This remodel will make Sunday mornings a little different for awhile. Both the nursery and the 3-5 classroom will move into the large classroom on the second floor, Room 205. Nursery kids will check-in upstairs in the temporary nursery. All other kids will check-in downstairs like usual. It is our hope to have this remodel finished by Easter! The specific start date will be announced when we know what it is.

Along with this remodel, there is another change that is coming at the beginning of the year. Starting January 7th, we are bringing back children's Sunday school hour at 9:15 A.M. This is a move in order to dive into our vision of making disciples.

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We want to continue to offer opportunities for people to grow in discipleship groups. By having kids coverage, this allows parents to come to Sunday school. We encourage parents to take advantage of this time to get involved in Sunday school. This time for the kids will be a slower pace. There will be snacks, intentional lessons, and crafts that will keep the kids motivated.

As we look to 2024, we will be announcing other discipleship group opportunities for the Winter and Spring. We want Bethany to be a place people continue to grow in their relationship with God. We also look forward to how God will move next year as we look at another year with the opportunity to serve our community, share the Gospel, and make disciples.

Pastor Bob

THIS MONTH IN BETHANY YOUTH



HI EVERYONE!

WE ARE VERY EXCITED BECAUSE THIS MONTH WE ARE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHING

"BETHANY YOUTH GROUP" ! I HAVE BEEN VERY EXCITED AS THIS HAS BEEN SOMETHING HALEY & I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON VERY DILIGENTLY AND PRAYERFULLY, AND I'M EXCITED TO BE ABLE TO GET GOD'S BLESSING TO BE HERE AND WORK WITH YOUTH IN SUCH A WONDERFUL COMMUNITY. BETHANY YOUTH WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY NIGHTS FROM EITHER 6PM-8PM OR 6PM-7:30. SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE EVERY WEEK BEFORE CHURCH AT 9:15. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! WE ARE ALSO WORKING ON A FEW THINGS BEHIND THE SCENES AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SHOWING YOU ALL WHAT GOD HAS IN STORE FOR US IN 2024. LASTLY, WE STILL HAVE A FEW SPOTS OPEN FOR THE RETREAT, SO PLEASE CONTACT HALEY OR ME IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR IF YOU WISH TO SIGN UP. THE PRICE IS \$50.



Just for Laughs!

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime. She would repeat after me the lines from the prayer.

Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us from E-mail."



Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud.

Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church!"

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."



One woman was married four times. First to a millionaire, next to an actor, then to a minister, and finally to an undertaker. One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go!



Don't let your pride become inflated...You may have to swallow it someday.



Financial Report

INCOME	\$466,323
EXPENSES	\$411,823
DIFFERENCE	\$ 54,500

12 Days of Christmas- Bethany Version



- On the first day of Christmas my Pastor gave to me a Parsonage next to Bethany.
- On the second day of Christmas my Pastor gave to me, two Christmas services, and a Parsonage next to Bethany.
- On the third day of Christmas my Pastor gave to me, three prayers to pray, two Christmas services, and a Parsonage next to Bethany.
- On the fourth day of Christmas my Pastor gave to me, four hymns to sing, three prayers to pray, two Christmas services, and a Parsonage next to Bethany.
- On the fifth day of Christmas my Pastor gave to me, Five Advent Candles, four hymns to sing, three prayers to pray, two Christmas services, and a Parsonage next to Bethany.
- On the sixth day of Christmas my Pastor gave to me, six ladies quilting, Five Advent Candles, four hymns to sing, three prayers to pray, two Christmas services, and a Parsonage next to Bethany.
- On the seventh day of Christmas my Pastor gave to me, seven ushers ushering, six ladies quilting, Five Advent Candles, four hymns to sing, three prayers to pray, two Christmas services, and a Parsonage next to Bethany.
- On the eighth day of Christmas my Pastor gave to me, eight musicians playing, seven ushers ushering, six ladies quilting, Five Advent Candles, four hymns to sing, three prayers to pray, two Christmas services, and a Parsonage next to Bethany.
- On the ninth day of Christmas my Pastor gave to me, nine singers singing, eight musicians playing, seven ushers ushering, six ladies quilting, Five Advent Candles, four hymns to sing, three prayers to pray, two Christmas services, and a Parsonage next to Bethany.
- On the tenth day of Christmas my Pastor gave to me, ten children listening, nine singers singing, eight musicians playing, seven ushers ushering, six ladies quilting, Five Advent Candles, four hymns to sing, three prayers to pray, two Christmas services, and a Parsonage next to Bethany.
- On the eleventh day of Christmas my Pastor gave to me, eleven social gatherings, ten children listening, nine singers singing, eight musicians playing, seven ushers ushering, six ladies quilting, Five Advent Candles, four hymns to sing, three prayers to pray, two Christmas services, and a Parsonage next to Bethany.
- On the twelfth day of Christmas my Pastor gave to me, twelve months of sermons, eleven social gatherings, ten children listening, nine singers singing, eight musicians playing, seven ushers ushering, six ladies quilting, Five Advent Candles, four hymns to sing, three prayers to pray, two Christmas services, and a Parsonage next to Bethany!



Night in Bethlehem was a wonderful outreach opportunity for the Mercer Community. We had seven stations that gave a look at what Bethlehem would have looked like at the time Jesus was born. Each kid had a hands-on experience in bread making, wood working, pottery and much more. Kids met Mary and Joseph, heard the Christmas story, and the Gospel through the lens of the birth narrative. We had wonderful volunteers who did a great job bringing this event to life. Thank you everyone for all of your hard work!



UPDATES TO KAPPA CHI ROOM AND THE CHOIR ROOM

Throughout 2023, we have been updating the lighting and converting many of our lights to LED. This not only saves money on electricity, but it also is better lighting. Starting soon, we will be working in the Kappa Chi Room to update the lights, replace the ceiling tiles, install new fans, and paint the walls. The Choir Room will be getting new lights, a new fan, and ceiling repairs.

Happy New Year



The Bible can be a great source of guidance and encouragement during the holiday season or any new beginning that you might be facing. Whether you're looking for inspirational Bible verses to help you stick to your New Year's resolutions or Bible verses about hope, these scriptures for the New Year will touch your heart.



- Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

- "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

- Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always. Remember the wonders He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He pronounced.

1 Chronicles 16:11-12

- Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17

- In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.

Proverbs 16:9

- Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary. Isaiah 40:31

- No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.

Philippians 3:13-14

- Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

- Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:10-11

- So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" Hebrews 13:6

- Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.

Psalms 37:7

- Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary. Isaiah 40:31



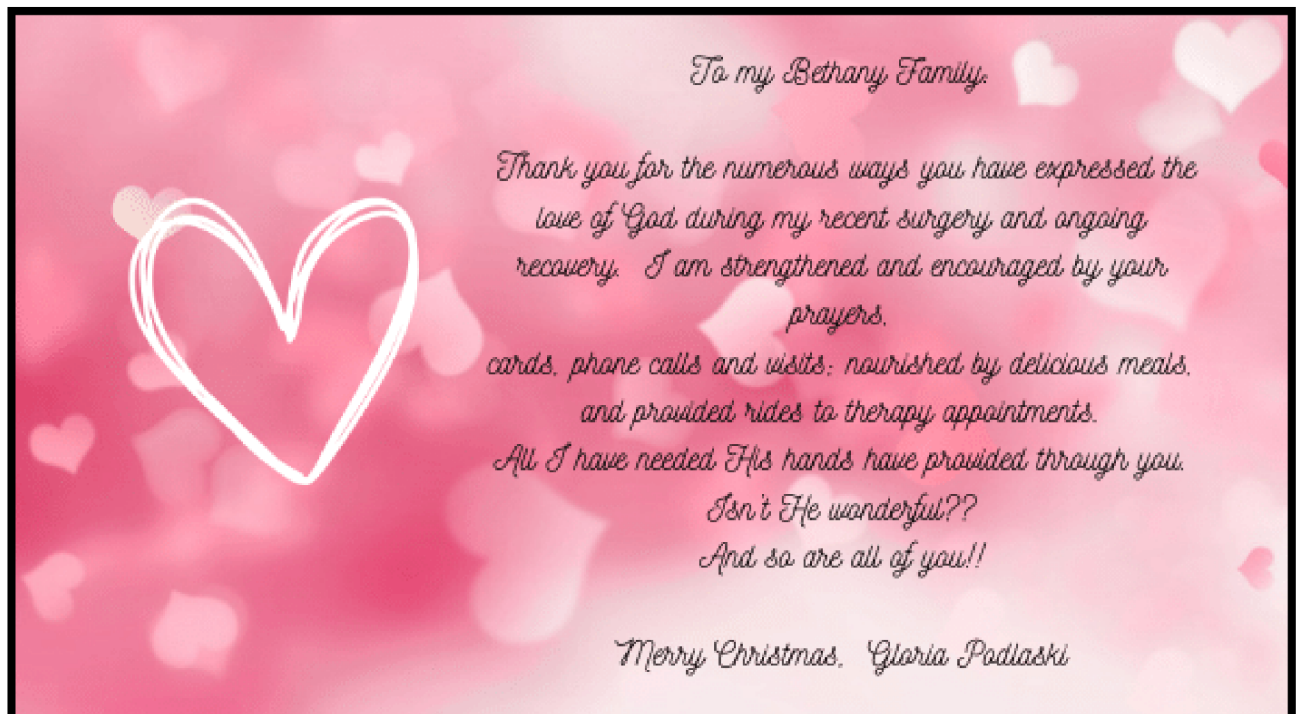
2024



SOCK DRIVE



THE MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP IS HAVING GREAT SUCCESS COLLECTING MEN'S SOCKS FOR JOSHUA'S HAVEN. THEY WILL DELIVER THEM TO THE MEN AT JOSHUA'S HAVEN WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED!





Poinsettias and Cyclamen Adorn the Sanctuary

Beautiful Christmas flowers adorned the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Families purchased the flowers either in memory of their loved ones, to honor someone, or to celebrate Jesus's birth.

In Loving Memory of:

Janet Perrine
Janet Perrine
George & Maxine Gorscheff
Ralph & Louise Watson
Bobby Huff
Bobby Huff
Frank & Lauretta Lindey
Cecil & Joan Griffin
Greyson Lindey
Doug White
Oma and Opa
Eva Lindsey
James & AEdna (Pearson) Bennington

Harry Palmer
Don Thompson
Olga & Harry Guarnieri
Dallas & Merle Thompson
Salli Burchfield
Paul & Penny Fedorchak
John Podlaski

From: Jim Perrine
From: Madalin Huff
From: Kim, Bob, & Brittany Warson
From: Kim, Bob, & Brittany Watson
From: His children & grandchildren
From: Madalyn Huff
From: The Edward Lindey III Family
From: The Edward Lindey III Family
From: The Edward Lindey III Family
From: The Edward Lindey III Family
From: Elsea and Efraim
From: The Lindsey Family
From: Jim & Karen (Sewell) Bennington, Bill & Sara Jane
(Bennington) Bromlett & Donna Bennington
From: Delores and the Palmer Family
From: Rita Thompson
From: Rita Thompson
From: Rita Thompson
From: The Fedorchak & Fox Family
From: The Fedorchak & Fox Family
From: Gloria Podlaski

To Celebrate Jesus's Birth:

In Honor of:

Our Military
Nancy Ollinger Thiess
Wes & Linda Burchfield, Dominic, Daphne,
JJ, and John

From: The McQuown Family
From: Steve and Pat Amsler

From: Steve and Pat Amsler
From: Anonymous – for her outreach to the women of Bethany
From: The Fedorchak & Fox Family





Kirk of the Pines Mission Focus in January 2024

Living in Pennsylvania, we take for granted the fair weather with which we are blessed. Sure, we might have a thunderstorm, or a snow storm, but we don't worry about hurricanes, droughts, or floods. In 2019, hurricane Dorian made landfall at 4:40 PM on September 1 on the Great Abaco Island in the Bahamas. With winds of 185 mph, the island sustained damage greater than 5.1 billion dollars. This was the costliest in Bahamian history, and then less than a year later the Covid pandemic hit the world. Much of the island is still showing signs of destruction from 2019.

Barrett Hendrickson and his wife Carrie are serving in Marsh Harbour in Abaco, Bahamas. Barrett is the pastor at Kirk of the Pines, and he has asked Bethany to pray that Bahamian leaders are raised up to continue the ministry on the islands of the Bahamas and on Abaco.

Another prayer request is that groups continue to arrive on Abaco to do the good work of cleaning up and building of homes that were destroyed and helping with the day camps to better serve the community. Groups come to do a week-long mission project, and this is both exciting for the Hendrickson, but also exhausting. Please pray for energy, good health, and wisdom while working with each group that comes to the island.

The Hendricksons came to visit us this past summer with their family when they returned to their hometown of Pittsburgh for a short visit. Their adult daughter is living and working in Pittsburgh while they live and work in the Bahamas with their other three children. Please pray for their family as they are separated by a significant distance. Kirk of the Pines is a "light on a hill" as it persevered through the hurricane while most of the buildings around it were destroyed. Keep Kirk of the Pines in your prayers this January as we focus on this ministry. You can check out the bulletin board in the Welcome Center to learn more about our January focus ministry.

JANUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)	2 6:30 PM Missions 6:30 PM Safety 7:00 PM Property	3 8:00 AM Bethany Quilters 4:00 PM Girl Scouts 6 PM Worship Band	4 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Prayer	5	6
7 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Deacons	8 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM Personnel	9	10 8:00 AM Bethany Quilters 4:30 PM Girl Scouts 6 PM Worship Band 6:30 PM Military Prayer	11 9:00 AM Prayer 6:30 PM Garden Club	12	13
14 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	15 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	16 7:00 PM Cub Committee	17 8:00 AM Bethany Quilters 4:30 PM Girl Scouts 6 PM Worship Band 6:30 PM Outreach	18 9:00 AM Prayer 2:00 PM Homeschool Group 7:00 PM Finance	19	20
21 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	22 10:30 AM My Ladies & Friends 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	23	24 8:00 AM Bethany Quilters 6 PM Worship Band	25 9:00 AM Prayer 2:00 PM Homeschool Group 7:00 PM Session	26	27
28 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	29 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	30	31 8:00 AM Bethany Quilters 6 PM Worship Band			

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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Mercer, PA 16137

Regular Office Hours

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Ed Lindey, Valerian Moeller, Earl Runcan,
Bruce Wamboldt

Deacons:

Madalin Huff, Tami Iman, Doug Lindey,
Lynda McQuown, Ed Pears, Betsy Rust,
Rita Thompson, Kim Watson, Linda
Wishart

Bethany Staff

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Pastor Robert White

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