



BETHANY ROAD

MARCH 2024



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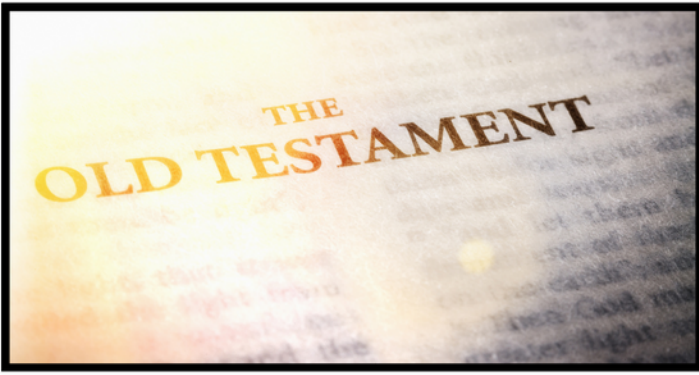


Church Family,

You may be asking, why is the Pastor doing a long series on the book of 1 Kings? Why give us all this information about these Kings of Israel and Judah? For many pastors the Old Testament can be hard to preach. Pastors tend to stick with the New Testament. I decided early on in my study and ministry that I wanted to make sure that I really understood the Old Testament. This was very intentional for me because I recognize that over 2/3 of the Bible is the Old Testament. As Christians and specifically as a Pastor, it seemed wrong to know so little and spend so little time learning and reading the Old Testament. Therefore, as I decide what to preach and when, I always consider the Old Testament. I try to have a rotation in my preaching that moves from the Old Testament to the Gospels in the New Testament to the Letters/Epistles in the New Testament. In this way, I make sure I am regularly learning from all areas of the Bible, and I encourage Bethany to do the same.

This desire to both know and regularly interact with the Old Testament comes from a high view of Scripture. All of the Bible is the Word of God. All of it is perfect and inerrant. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 applies to all Scripture: "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." Therefore, we should regularly read, study, and understand the Old Testament. Yet, I find that many believers do not have a good working concept of what happened in the years of the kings in Scripture. There are so many kings, all the names are foreign, and there are Israel and Judah to remember. The culture, politics, and economics are all radically different. This is all true, yet it is still the Word of God. There is still purpose in understanding this section of the Bible and an application we can understand for our lives.

(con't on P. 2)



(con't from P.1)

The Old Testament is the foundation for which the New Testament rests. Without the Old Testament, the New Testament would not make sense. Just speaking of Jesus dying on the cross and rising again three days later will highlight my point. Without the Old Testament sacrificial system and example of the shedding of blood as remission of sins, there would not be a foundation to understand how Jesus dying on the cross could grant us forgiveness before God (Hebrews 9:22). Without the perfect lamb sacrifice found in the Old Testament, we would not understand the words of John the Baptist. "The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!' " (John 1:29). Jesus is the perfect lamb sacrifice that was foreshadowed to Israel. There are almost 300 direct quotes found in the New Testament from the Old Testament and that is without considering summaries and paraphrased sections. The Apostles and Jesus saw immense value in the Old Testament.

I encourage everyone to consider taking a closer look at the Old Testament. Take the time to study it, understand the context and culture, and see how your faith and understanding in God comes alive. There is a mountain of depth to be found as we study. Studying the Old Testament will help us fully understand who God is, what God is about, and what God freely promised us as sons and daughters in the kingdom.

Women's Bible Study

Over 30 women from Bethany and the Mercer community are studying "The Armor of God" video series by Priscilla Shirer. The study uses Ephesians 6 to challenge women to have an action plan for putting on their armor and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory against the enemy. They are learning to suit up, stand firm, and secure victory in their lives!



EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH

9:30 A.M.

(NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)



BETHANY CHURCH ELDERS

- DAVE ALLEN, RULING ELDER
- GARY MCLEFRESH, RULING ELDER
- STEVE AMSLER, RULING ELDER
- FRANK CAROLAS, RULING ELDER
- EARL RUNCAN, RULING ELDER
- JOHN INMAN, RULING ELDER
- BRUCE WAMBOLDT, RULING ELDER
- BOB WHITE, TEACHING ELDER
- BILL WOODMAN, TEACHING ELDER

These nine people make up Session.

BETHANY CHURCH DEACONS

- TAMI IMAN
- SANDRA HOSTETLER
- RITA THOMPSON
- KIM WATSON
- LINDA WISHART
- MADELIN HUFF
- LYNDY MCQUOWN
- EDWARD PEARS
- DOUG LINDEY
- BETSY RUST
- LIZ HODGKINSON





MEMBERSHIP CLASS



MARCH
3RD & 10TH
AFTER
LENTEN
LUNCHES

TWO WEEKS
2 HOURS
A SESSION

SIGN UP
IN LOBBY
OR
CALL THE
OFFICE



BLESSING BOX

Food Drive

*Please bring non-perishable
food donations to the Lenten Lunches
or drop them in the box by the entrance.*

"BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING"

LET'S GO BOWLING!










The Faith, Fun and Fellowship Committee invite you to a fun night of bowling at 10 Pin Bowling Alley, 3825 E State St, Hermitage, on Friday, March 22nd at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$10/person. Please sign up at the Welcome Center by March 17th. This event is for all ages and skill levels; we will have lanes reserved so we can all bowl together.

BETHANY YOUTH

THIS MONTH IN BETHANY YOUTH WE ARE STILL GOING STRONG IN SUNDAY SCHOOL WHERE WE ARE GOING OVER THE SERMON TEXTS FOR PASTOR BOB'S KINGS' SERIES. WE'RE ALSO GOING TO BE STARTING THE STORY OF JOSEPH IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS, GOING OVER HIS BIRTH, HIS FAMILY, WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM, AND HOW GOD USES THAT FOR HIS GLORY. WE ARE ALSO PLANNING A MOVIE NIGHT WHERE WE WILL WATCH "THE SHIFT" AND HOPEFULLY WE WILL GET TO HAVE SOME FUN FELLOWSHIPPING WITH OTHER YOUTH GROUPS!

LENT and Letting Go

-  Let go of bitterness.
Embrace forgiveness.
-  Let go of jealousy.
Embrace gratitude.
-  Let go of anger & hate.
Embrace charity.
-  Let go of pride.
Embrace humility.
-  Let go of lust.
Embrace purity.
-  Let go of sins.
Embrace GOD.



THE HOPE of Easter



Who We Are Willow Women's Center does not profit financially from the decision you make regarding your unexpected pregnancy. Each service and resource we offer is available at no-cost to equip you with the information you need to make the best decision possible. To receive no-cost and confidential medical and support services, schedule an appointment with us today.


Our Goal Willow Women's Center is a non-profit organization that offers quality medical services and resources to women who are or might be unexpectedly pregnant at no-cost. We do this to help women receive the medical care they need, and to be informed on each option so they can make healthy choices for themselves.

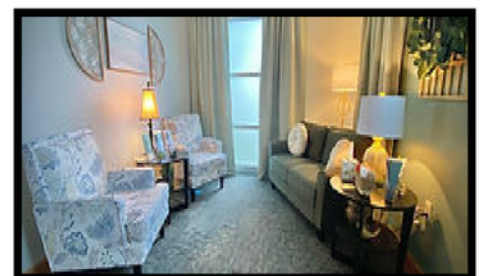
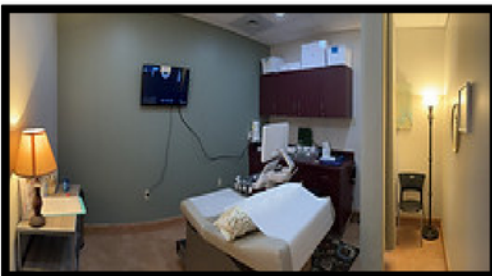
Willow's Promise to You...

Our medical staff and volunteers will:

- *Provide a safe and caring environment, regardless of age, race, religion, or ethnicity.*
- *Provide you with no-cost and confidential services and treat you with respect, courtesy, kindness, and compassion.*
- *Store and keep all the information you provided in the strictest *confidence.*
- *Provide up-to-date information regarding abortion, pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and related topics.*
- *Respect the right you have to refuse information you do not want to receive.*
- *Answer your questions openly and honestly.*
- *Offer referrals to additional services on an as-needed basis.*

**EXCEPT IN THE CASE THAT STATE LAW MANDATES US TO REPORT IT.*

 *We look forward to meeting you!*



SCAVENGER HUNT

How many Easter eggs are found in this newsletter?

Drop off your answer with your name to the church office and the person who guesses the closest by March 15 will receive a little gift!



FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME	\$48,732
EXPENSES	\$35,799
DIFFERENCE	\$12,933



WEST VIRGINIA MISSION TRIP

The WV Mission Trip will be taking place from June 15th to 22nd this summer! Are you interested in participating in a local mission trip? We have room for YOU and would love to have you participate with us! Your gifts and talents will be used to help us spread God's love to our friends in Circleville, WV.

A group of adults, families, and teens will be traveling from Bethany to the hills and hollers of WV. We will be working with the community of Circleville to host a Vacation Bible School for the children and teens of WV. This is a great opportunity to witness to this rural community, to grow in your own personal relationship with God, and to become closer with your Bethany Church family! No matter whether you are young or "not so young", outgoing or more reserved, an outdoor lover or prefer modern amenities, we have a spot for you! You are needed and welcomed!



Our "typical" daily schedule:

- Yummy breakfast and devotions
- Pick up the WV kids in vans for Vacation Bible School
- Lead VBS and eat lunch with our new friends.
- Take children home on vans
- Afternoon team activities could include playing in the creek, sight-seeing, or a project.
- Hot (delicious!) dinner
- Campfire, worship music, and a devotion



Last year, we had over eighty children attend VBS each day! On Thursday night, we held our annual Family Night. The church was completely filled with children, parents, grandparents, and community members. The children sang VBS songs they had learned, a message was given, a testimony shared, and eight children accepted Jesus as their personal Savior!

Please let one of the planning team members know that you are considering going, or maybe you have a question or two that they can answer! Plans are being made and the opportunities to use your gifts and talents are abundant.

Registration forms and more trip info can be found in the Welcome Center. Feel free to contact Nancy Thompson (724-977-1610) or Dan Cameron (724-854-3052) for more info or with questions! Or feel free to talk to Andy Heckathorn, Sam Smith, Mark & Pam Muehlman, Haley Budnovitch, or Amy Cameron. We'd love to share more about the WV Mission Trip!



God's VISION for Bethany Church:

SERVE our community => SHARE the gospel => MAKE disciples

By now you may have heard the amazing news! With Session's approval, the Outreach Team applied to become an agency member of the Mercer County Food Bank. On January 18, 2024, Bethany was approved as Mercer's first brick and mortar food pantry since Loaves and Fishes moved their pantry to Coolspring Township years ago, and then closed two years ago.

While plans and procedures are being developed by the Outreach Team in preparation for opening day, our faithful and talented Property Committee will be upgrading and preparing the 3-bay garage to store food products in two of the three bays.

The following is a **List of Townships/Borough** in the Mercer School District that will be eligible for **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)** at Bethany Church:

- Coolspring Township
- East Lackawannock Township
- Findley Township
- Jefferson Township
- Mercer Borough

The Bethany Food Pantry plans to open on June 22, and will begin serving all eligible TEFAP individuals and families on the fourth Saturday of each month from 1-3pm.

At every Outreach Team meeting we pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance to discern the answer to one very important question: How does God want to reveal and express Himself through Bethany Church in the Mercer community at this time?

What we know:

All three aspects of Bethany's Vision Statement will be met through our endeavor to provide a Mercer community food pantry.

- **SERVE our community:** Revealing and expressing the love of Christ to our economically challenged neighbors by meeting needs for food, and other relevant workshops and services the Outreach Team plans to offer for helping individuals and families find ways to help themselves move from where they currently are to where they would like to be physically, financially, and spiritually.
- **SHARE the Gospel:** It is God's mandate and Bethany's primary purpose for existing. We have the freedom to hang posters, hand out flyers, to share the love and good news of Jesus to all who come, to pray with them, invite them to our worship services, and encourage them to take part in our ministries and church events.
- **MAKE Disciples:** Bethany endeavors to be faithful to Christ's Great Commission. It is our hope and prayers that many will eventually come to our events with the primary hope that some will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior and be discipled at Bethany.

Scripture tells us "The poor you will always have with you..." (Matt 26:11). However, Scripture does not tell us the poor we serve all have to be the same faces month after month. If our services and efforts can move some people to a place where they are no longer dependent on government handouts, where they have clearly heard the gospel message, and God willing, where some have received Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, and have become regular attenders being discipled at Bethany, then we will be successfully living out God's vision for Bethany Church utilizing the food pantry as an entry point to potential opportunities for life transformation. Finally, there will be many volunteer opportunities once the food pantry opens. If the Holy Spirit is burdening your heart and giving you a passion to serve families who are currently experiencing food insecurity, as well as other life challenges, please call the church office, provide your contact information, and someone will be in touch with you to provide more information on how and where your gifts and talents can best be utilized in this worthy and exciting adventure God has placed before us.

Respectfully submitted,

The Bethany Outreach Team

Bethany Church is "blessed to be a blessing" to the Mercer Community



Easter Bible Trivia

1. What miraculous event is celebrated on Easter Sunday?
A. Jesus's resurrection B. Jesus's birth C. Lent
2. Who betrayed Jesus for money?
A. Peter B. John C. Judas Iscariot
3. What day of the Holy Week did Jesus enter Jerusalem?
A. Maundy Thursday B. Good Friday C. Palm Sunday
4. Which disciple doubted Jesus's Resurrection?
A. James B. Thomas C. Andrew
5. In which garden did Jesus pray in agony before His arrest?
A. Gethsemane B. Babylonian Garden C. Eden
6. Who helped Jesus carry the cross on the way to Golgotha?
A. Joseph of Arimathea B. Mary Magdalene C. Simon of Cyrene
7. What did the soldiers place on Jesus's head as a mock crown?
A. Crown of Thorns B. Gold Crown C. Laurel Wreath
8. Which disciple denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed?
A. John B. James C. Peter
9. During the Last Supper, what did Jesus use to symbolize His body?
A. Wine B. Bread C. Fish
10. What did Thomas say when he saw Jesus's wounds and believed?
A. "My Lord and my God." B. "You are truly the Messiah." C. "I can't believe my eyes."

answer key: 1.) A 2.) C 3.) C 4.) B 5.) A 6.) C 7.) A 8.) C 9.) B 10.) A

UPCOMING REMINDERS



SUNDAYS- LENTEN LUNCHES
3/24/24 - FAMILY SERVICE
3/29/24 - TENEBRAE

PACK 83 PINWOOD DERBY

The Cub Scouts and leaders of Pack 83 had a great time on Sunday Feb. 11th at the annual Pinewood Derby.





SPRING DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

GOSPEL OF
MARK SUNDAY
SCHOOL

SUNDAYS
9:15AM

CHILDCARE PROVIDED

BEGINS FEBRUARY 5TH
ARMOR OF
GOD WOMEN'S
STUDY

MONDAYS
9:30AM

CHILDCARE PROVIDED

BEGINS FEBRUARY 5TH
GALATIANS
HOME STUDY

1ST &
3RD
MONDAYS
6:30PM

BEGINNING IN APRIL
SENIORS
BIBLE STUDY

TBA

LENTEN LUNCHES

- LENTEN LUNCHES WILL BE HELD AFTER THE SERVICE ON FEBRUARY 18, 25, MARCH 3, 10, 17, & 24.
- COOKS & SERVERS ARE NEEDED. SEE BETSY RUST OR THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP WITH THE LUNCHES.



BACKPACK PROGRAM

February & March are Bethany's designated months to prepare the backpacks for the Backpack Program. Packing will be done on Mondays at 9:30 A.M. See Betsy Rust or Ed & Lori Pears if you can help out and for more information.

Women's Bible Study

MONDAY MORNINGS 9:30-11:00 A.M.

FEBRUARY 5 - MARCH 18

Sign up at the Welcome Center
or for more information contact
Pat Amsler or Sallie Riddle



MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 9:15 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Children's Church 11:45 A.M. Deacons' Mtg. 1:00 P.M. Membership Class	4 9:30 A.M. Women's Bible Study 6:00 P.M. Cub Scouts	5 6:30 P.M. WV Trip Mtg. 6:30 P.M. Safety Team Meeting 7:00 P.M. Property Team Meeting	6 8:00 A.M. Bethany Quilters 4:00 P.M. Girl Scouts 6:00 P.M. Worship Band	7 7:30 A.M. Men's Breakfast 9:00 A.M. Morning Prayer 2:00 P.M. Homeschool Group	1	2
10 9:15 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Children's Church 1:00 P.M. Membership Class	11 9:30 A.M. Women's Bible Study 6:00 P.M. Cub Scouts 6:30 P.M. Personnel	12 7:00 P.M. Worship Committee Meeting	13 8:00 A.M. Bethany Quilters 4:00 P.M. Girl Scouts 6:00 P.M. Worship Band 6:30 Military Prayer 6:30 Outreach Committee	14	15	16
17 9:15 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Children's Church	18 9:30 A.M. Women's Bible Study 6:00 P.M. Cub Scouts	19	20 8:00 A.M. Bethany Quilters 4:00 P.M. Girl Scouts 6:00 P.M. Worship Band	21 9:00 A.M. Morning Prayer 2:00 P.M. Homeschool Group 7:00 P.M. Finance	22 6:30 P.M. Bowling	23 4:00 - 6:00 P.M. Spaghetti Dinner
24 9:15 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Children's Church 31 EASTER 9:30 A.M. Easter Brunch 10:30 A.M. Worship	25 9:30 A.M. Women's Bible Study 6:00 P.M. Cub Scouts	26	27 8:00 A.M. Bethany Quilters 6:00 P.M. Worship Band	28 9:00 Morning Prayer 2:00 P.M. Homeschool Group 7:00 P.M. Session	29 GOOD FRIDAY Tenebrae Service 7:00 P.M.	30