



BETHANY
CHURCH

BETHANY ROAD

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

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Bethany Family,

I am excited to speak to you this month about our mission as a church. A mission is something that every organization should have in order to keep focused on what is important. It should act as kind of a filter that helps guide all that we do. As a church, our mission is given ultimately by Jesus who is our head (Ephesians 1:22-23). As an expression of the local church, our specific mission reflects the broader mission Jesus has given His church. Therefore, the mission of our church should be talked about frequently. It should be in the very DNA of who we are and what we do. Every member of the church should be able to say the mission with ease. Therefore, November will be all about our mission. We are rolling out banners and other promotional materials concerning the mission, and we are going to do a mini-sermon series on our mission to help everyone understand what our mission is and why we have it.

Bethany Church is here to **Serve our Community**. Serving the community has a dual meaning. It means both serving within the church (1 Peter 4:10-11, Galatians 6:10) and within the broader Mercer community (Mark 10:45, James 1:27). Within our church, we serve as a way to share our talents and gifts with God's people. It is also a way we fellowship and grow spiritually (Matthew 18:20, Acts 2:42). As we serve together, we naturally grow closer together and sharpen our understanding of God (Proverbs 27:17). So, where are you serving in the church? Where are you using your talents to bless the people around you at church? We have a lot of opportunities to serve. We are always looking for people to help in the areas of children ministry and music. I would love to see an usher ministry come back. We have a lot of needs around welcoming people on Sunday morning. Perhaps there is a ministry you think the Lord may be calling you to start? I would love to hear about it!

When we serve outside of our church, we are being the hands and feet of Jesus. We are building relationships and caring for the poor and the outcasts around us. When we love and care for our neighbors, coworkers, and strangers, we build relational bridges to share the Gospel. As the church, we are called to serve both our Christian community and the broader Mercer community.

The second piece of our Bethany mission is that we are here to **Share the Gospel**. We share the Gospel in a relational context to everyone we meet (1 Peter 3:15). This means we should strive to share the Gospel to our friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, etc. (2 Timothy 4:5). We share the Gospel because the Gospel brings life. We love our neighbors when we share the Gospel because hearing about forgiveness and salvation is the most important gift we can give (Matthew 22:37-39). Sharing the Gospel also means that we will continue to give the Gospel regular attention on Sunday mornings through giving Gospel messages from the pulpit, singing about the Gospel, and celebrating how God is changing lives through baptism. Finally, we look to provide opportunities for the community to experience the Gospel. This happens through the work of our Outreach committee and their hard work at Pine Grove and our other focus communities. Large community events like VBS, the Fall Carnival, and Night in Bethlehem are all activities where the Gospel is shared to the broader community. How are you actively sharing the Gospel? Are you looking for opportunities to share your faith with your neighbors, co-workers, friends and families?

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The final piece of our Bethany mission is that we are here to **Make Disciples** (Matthew 28:19-20). We are called to grow spiritually and become more like Christ as believers (Romans 12:1-2). Coming together and worshipping God on Sunday mornings is an act of Discipleship. Making Disciples is much more than simply coming on Sunday mornings, however. We desire to see everyone plugged into relationships with each other through a Discipleship Group (Act 2:42). We have many Discipleship Groups available that meet at different times and study different topics. Some groups are focused around age or stage of life, while other groups are focused around specific subject matters. These groups provide opportunities to grow together, to pray together, and to fellowship together. In this way, we continue to grow and mature in our faith. There is a personal side to discipleship where we also want to empower people to pursue God through various spiritual disciplines. These disciplines include: prayer, Scripture memorization, Scripture reading, worship, and fasting, to name a few. Finally, we want to make available one-on-one discipleship to those who are new in their faith or who are going through a tough season and could really use the support. In all of these ways, we are actively making disciples of Jesus Christ. Are you currently pursuing God in your personal devotional time? Are you plugged into a Discipleship Group? Could you maybe be willing to disciple someone one-on-one? How are you growing spiritually? These are all good questions to ask yourself.

I hope you are excited! Bethany Church is here to **Serve our Community, Share the Gospel, and Make Disciples**. Stay tuned. You will be hearing a lot more about our mission this month as we really break down what this means.

-Pastor Bob



Bethany Blessing Box



We are in need of items for the Blessing Box. In an article by Tricia Anne Meyer, she said she spoke to people getting food at a food bank and this is some of what they needed:

- Tea bags and coffee
- Sugar and flour are a treat
- Fresh produce
- Canned fruit
- Boxed milk is a treasure
- Can openers-can't eat canned veggies if they can't open the can
- Spices! Salt, pepper, oregano, etc.
- Tuna and crackers
- Cake mix and icing
- Dishwashing detergent
- Feminine hygiene products are a luxury
- Stove Top Stuffing is great
- Sandwich bread
- Cereal



LET'S REPLENISH OUR BLESSING BOX.
OUR COMMUNITY REALLY UTILIZES IT A LOT.
THANK YOU!

FALL TRAIN RIDE

As a young adult, I took many trips back and forth to Titusville, PA from Mercer to the branch campus of the University of Pittsburgh, affectionately known back in those days as "The Littlest Panther". However, this time our trip to Titusville took on a totally different and new adventure. On October 15, 2023, sixty plus (52 adults and 11 children) of my Bethany Church family and friends boarded the Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad for the 3-hour round trip ride to Oil Creek State Park, to where oil history began. The Oil Creek Valley is world-famous for its past and the people who lived it.



peak, the scenery was beautiful and a good time was had by all. Some of us saw deer, squirrels, ducks, and other small furry wildlife - and yes even a pink flamingo (if you know, you know) and if you don't, just ask me and I'll show you a picture - as we made our way along Oil Creek and the Oil Creek Valley. If you were brave enough to experience the open-air car in the back, that was a fun adventure in itself. Those of us who did, could almost see and smell the history of what made this area so special. Thank you Frank and Joyce Carolas for organizing this event, and thank you to all who participated and made this a very special event. God bless, Laurie Waugaman



We boarded the train with our bags of snacks and bottled water that Frank and Joyce Carolas kindly made up for us. We were taken back in time more than 150 years into the heart of Oil Country in vintage train cars built in 1930 where we relived history. The main station, Perry Street Station, is an early 1890's vintage freight station located at 409 S. Perry Street in Titusville, PA. We were entertained, amused, and educated by our train guides with the history and stories of the days when the oil industry was booming and the town of Titusville, Pithole City, Oil City, and Franklin were thriving due to the discovery of oil.



We also got to visit the Railway Post Office Car, the only one still in operation in the U.S.A.!

Though the fall color was not quite at its





BETHANY CHURCH FALL CARNIVAL



The first annual **Bethany Fall Festival** was held on Sunday, October 8th. Although we had all hoped for a wonderful, sunny, warm autumn day, the actual weather turned out to be somewhat of a challenge. It started out cool and cloudy, then it became windy, and best of all it rained intermittently all day. Shortly after the event began, it became evident that we needed to move inside. We thought the weather was so bad that no one would come out. But, the day turned out to be actually quite a blessing! We were surprised to find that many people came out anyway. We had over 35 families come through our doors to enjoy games, face painting, cookie decorating, popcorn, lunch and fellowship. Bethany members made a great show of support for the activity and enjoyed interacting with folks from our Mercer community.



WILLOW WOMEN'S CENTER

BANQUET 2023



Twenty-eight members of the Bethany congregation attended the Willow Banquet to celebrate and support our mission partner. Here are a few pictures of our wonderful group. The banquet was held at a new location this year - The Corinthian in downtown Sharon. The Willow staff did a wonderful job in providing a very informative and moving program to further educate us in the extreme value of the services they provide to the women and babies of our communities. Our group enjoyed a delicious meal, great fellowship, and as always...the delicious cupcakes they have become famous for! Willow is extremely appreciative of Bethany's partnership. They value our prayers, financial support, and they remember Bethany in their prayers!

If you would like to participate in the Willow prayer ministry, Text Willow to 724-362-6268. You will receive PRAISES and prayer requests.

The theme this year was LOVE WORKS! True Godly Love Works Miracles! It is Saving Babies Lives.....

Let us, as the hands and feet of Jesus, show our community.....LOVE WORKS!

“RETIREMENT ROOTS” BIBLE STUDY

“LET YOUR ROOTS GROW DOWN INTO HIM, AND LET YOUR LIVES BE BUILT ON HIM. THEN YOUR FAITH WILL GROW STRONG IN THE TRUTH YOU WERE TAUGHT, AND YOU WILL OVERFLOW WITH THANKFULNESS.” - COLOSSIANS 2:7

What does the Bible say about retirement? That's what we are learning in the Retirement Roots Bible Study which takes place on Thursdays at 10:30 A.M. at Bethany. We're discovering how we can view retirement not simply as the end of a work career, but the beginning of a new chapter in our service of the Lord. While we may retire from a career, we never retire from serving the Lord. By focusing on what a “God-centered” retirement looks like and not a self-centered perspective, we can discover renewed excitement for each day, adding shine to our “golden years”. If our roots are growing deeper in Christ, we can continue to produce good fruit for the Lord throughout our lives, even in retirement. Galatians 5:22-23 says that “*the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*” The question every one of us needs to ask ourselves is, “How are these fruits growing and being expressed through my life?” Growing closer to Jesus and in Christian maturity is a life-long process, and our retirement years can produce some of the greatest growth and most impactful ministry of our life, as we use our extra time to focus on living out a dynamic faith in Christ Jesus the Lord.

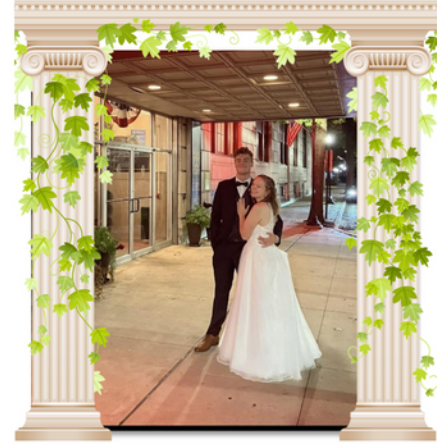


Hello, everyone! My name is Eric, and I'm the new Director of Student Ministries at Bethany Church. My wife Haley and I have recently moved into the Manse and things have been great so far. We have been very grateful of all of the help Bethany has given us on getting the Manse ready, as well as, all of the warm welcoming and hospitality we have received so far. It has been wonderful and also humbling to see God's hand in bringing us to Bethany and giving us this opportunity.

I grew up in Williamsport, PA and graduated high school in 2016. I went to the Pennsylvania College of Technology before transferring to Penn State in 2017. I graduated in 2021 with a degree in Communication Arts & Sciences. Upon graduation, I moved to Charlotte, North Carolina for a year where I worked a job in pre-sales for a technology company. I moved back one year later because I wanted to go back to the Pennsylvania College of Technology to finish my Associates Degree in Plastics and Polymer Engineering Technologies, which I finished in May of 2023.

Haley grew up outside of Pittsburgh in a town called Verona. She graduated high school in 2020. Upon graduating, Haley went to Bethany Global University (a small missions college in Bloomington, Minnesota) where she earned a certificate in Bible and Missions. She later ended up at Grove City College before taking a break to live at a young adults' ministry facility that houses college age individuals in Williamsport, PA (where I was attending school at the time). The ministry is called Cottage Ministries. They focus on building up young adult Christians. The ministry has a large heart for missions. Haley went on a trip with them this last year to Utah and Arizona to minister to the Hopi tribe who are a Polytheistic Native American Tribe located in northeastern Arizona in Coconino and Navajo Counties.

A NEW BEGINNING



CONGRATULATIONS

MR. AND MRS. BUDNOVITCH

As you may know, Haley and I met at the beginning of last summer when we were both working in summer camp ministry as camp counselors at Pine Springs Camp near Johnstown, PA. We started dating shortly after meeting one another. Everything fell into place through God's hand in our relationship and now our marriage. This past summer, Haley and I went back to Pine Springs as an engaged couple where Haley spent another summer as a counselor, and I served as the Men's Director where my job was to disciple the male staff. After finishing up at Pine Springs, Haley and I were married on September 30th before moving to Mercer.

We are both really excited for this new opportunity in ministry and to serve God in both challenging and rewarding ways. We cannot wait to get to know Bethany Church and the Mercer community, and you will be seeing more of us in the future!





RUNNING AFTER KIDS!

Fall is such an exciting time in ministry for Penn West Young Life!

All of our ministries in Penn West Young Life across Mercer County are up and running! Leaders are running after kids, meeting them where they are, going to sporting events and hanging out with them. Each of our 10 ministries in Penn West Young Life are running consistent events each week. (Club and Campaigners). Praise the Lord for His faithfulness and goodness!

A BRIEF RECAP OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR...

First Year Fellowship Training - Each Fall semester, we host a training for Grove City College students who are thinking about becoming Young Life leaders. In the beginning of September, we hosted a "Welcome Week" and had many students show interest in Young Life! Since that week, we have been doing trainings on Sunday nights and have had about 30 college students regularly attending!

Capernaum Ministry - Our Grove City Capernaum ministry (students with disabilities) hosted a pool party for their students as a kick-off for Capernaum Club this year!

WyldLife Ministry - Our Grove City and Hermitage WyldLife (middle school) clubs have been off to an incredible start! Both ministries have had over 40 middle schoolers come to their first events of the semester! These leaders have created a fun, safe space where middle school students get to hear about Jesus Christ who loves them like crazy!

Young Life Ministry - Our Young Life ministries were able to kick-off the year with a Neon All Area Club! Each of the schools in Mercer County brought kids. We had about 60 kids at this event!

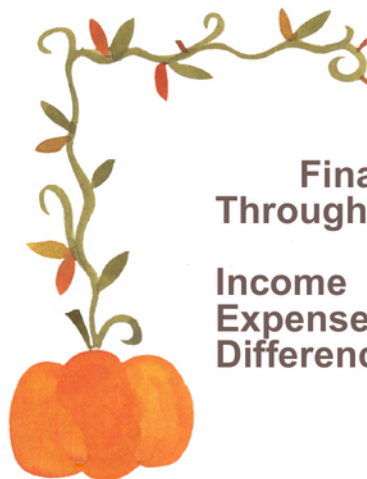
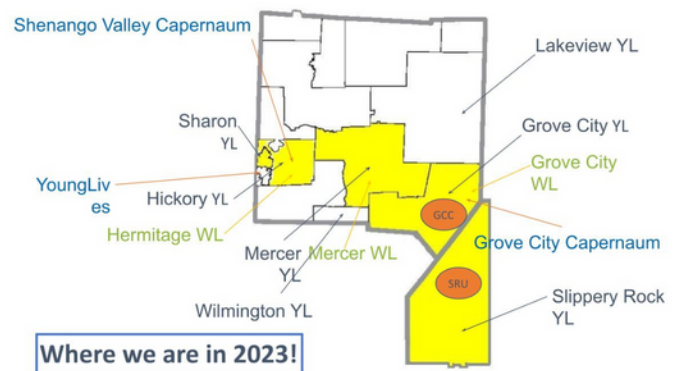
Penn West Young Life 50th Reunion - During Grove City College Homecoming weekend, Penn West Young Life celebrated 50 years in the Mercer County area. Praise God for consistency in this ministry! The map shows the schools that Penn West has WyldLife, Young Life, and Capernaum ministries. Please pray for the leaders in Mercer and beyond would have the strength, time, and resources to serve the students in their communities.

Praise the Lord for all He has done this Fall already! We look forward to how the Lord will move the rest of this school year.

Thank you for praying with us and for us. We could not do this ministry without your continued support!

Alex Eckard & Jen Wamboldt

COLLEGE LEADERS' TRAINING EVENT AUGUST 2023



Financial Report Through September 2023

Income	\$ 331,010
Expenses	\$ 337,670
Difference	\$ -6,660

November



2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9:15 A.M. Spiritual Discipline Class</p> <p>9:15 A.M. Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 A.M. Worship Service</p> <p>11:45 A.M. Deacons' Mtg.</p> <p>11:45 A.M. Choir Practice</p>	<p>9:30 A.M. Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Cub Scouts</p> <p>6:30 P.M. Christian Ed. Committee</p>	<p>6:30 P.M. Mission's</p> <p>6:30 P.M. Safety Comm.</p> <p>7:00 P.M. Property Committee</p>	<p>8:00 A.M. Bethany Quilters</p> <p>4:00 P.M. Girl Scouts</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Worship Band</p> <p>6:30 P.M. Outreach</p>	<p>7:30 A.M. Men's Breakfast</p> <p>9:00 A.M. Prayer</p> <p>10:30 A.M. "Retirement Roots"</p> <p>1:00 P.M. Homeschool Group</p>	<p>9:00 A.M. 48th Presbytery Meeting</p>	
<p>9:15 A.M. Spiritual Discipline Class</p> <p>9:15 A.M. Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 A.M. Worship Service</p> <p>11:45 A.M. Choir Practice</p>	<p>9:30 A.M. Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Cub Scouts</p> <p>6:30 P.M. Personnel Committee</p>	<p>7:00 P.M. Worship Committee</p>	<p>8:00 A.M. Bethany Quilters</p> <p>4:30 P.M. Girl Scout Scrapbooking</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Worship Band</p> <p>6:30 P.M. Military Prayer</p>	<p>7:30 A.M. Men's Disc. Group</p> <p>9:00 A.M. Prayer</p> <p>10:30 A.M. "Retirement Roots"</p> <p>1:00 P.M. Homeschool Group</p> <p>6:30 P.M. Garden Club</p>		
<p>9:15 A.M. Spiritual Discipline Class</p> <p>9:15 A.M. Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 A.M. Worship Service</p> <p>11:45 A.M. Choir Practice</p>	<p>9:30 A.M. Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Cub Scouts</p> <p>6:30 P.M. Personnel Committee</p>	<p>7:00 P.M. Worship Committee</p>	<p>8:00 A.M. Bethany Quilters</p> <p>4:00 P.M. Girl Scouts</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Worship Band</p>	<p>7:30 A.M. Men's Disc. Group</p> <p>9:00 A.M. Prayer</p> <p>10:30 A.M. "Retirement Roots"</p> <p>7:00 P.M. Session</p> <p>7:00 P.M. Finance</p>		
<p>9:15 A.M. Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 A.M. Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 A.M. Shoebox Dedication</p> <p>11:45 A.M. Choir Practice</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Worship Night</p>	<p>9:30 A.M. Women's Disc. Group</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Cub Scouts</p>	<p>6:30 P.M. Cub Committee Meeting</p>	<p>8:00 A.M. Bethany Quilters</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Worship Band</p>	<p><i>Thankful</i></p>		
<p>9:15 A.M. Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 A.M. Worship Service</p> <p>11:45 A.M. Choir Practice</p>	<p>10:30 A.M. My Ladies and Friends Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Cub Scouts</p>		<p>8:00 P.M. Bethany Quilters</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Worship Band</p>	<p>9:00 A.M. Prayer</p> <p>10:30 A.M. "Retirement Roots"</p> <p>1:00 P.M. Homeschool Group</p>		