



BETHANY ROAD

SEPTEMBER 2025



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Bethany Church,

As we look to Fall, the kids are on their way back to school, the leaves turn, the weather cools, and the holiday season is right around the corner. With each season change, there is a natural rhythm where we consider our priorities and try to set new goals. For example, I would like to double down on teaching my eldest son Robbie how to play the piano. We have tried to teach him a few times, but I find myself too busy to prioritize it. Perhaps you have a goal or two you would like to accomplish this Fall.

We recently announced our Fall Discipleship Groups. There are five different groups that all begin in September and run through November or early December. Each one runs at a different time and tries to meet different needs that people might have. Some have childcare while others do not. Additionally, each one studies a different Biblical topic. There are Old Testament studies, Gospel studies, and even a study on the Holy Land itself.

Each group strives to accomplish three goals. First, they want to study Scripture and provide an opportunity for people to learn about God through Scripture study. We recognize that Scriptures guide us into a deeper and stronger relationship with God. "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." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Second, each group strives to provide a safe atmosphere where people can ask questions and learn from each other. Part of the

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power of Discipleship Groups is that they encourage questions and learning in a context that is unique and very different from worship on Sunday morning. "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17) When we come together and talk about God, we sharpen each other in our pursuit to become more like Jesus.

Finally, these groups foster fellowship, which is a fancy word to describe a group of people who love Jesus and share each other's burdens. They pray with each other, care for each other, and serve each other. "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." (James 5:16) When we fellowship together we are stronger and able to endure hardship in this life together.

Would you consider prioritizing a Discipleship Group this Fall? Pick one to faithfully attend remembering that your Christian faith is not meant to be walked alone. Remember what God says in Galatians: "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life." (Galatians 6:7-8) When we choose to invest in the things of God, He will bless our lives and grant us spiritual maturity as we continue to grow and learn about Him. We will gain wisdom and knowledge and have the tools to make the right decisions at the right time. It is a simple question and a challenge before you. Will you prioritize your spiritual walk and join a Discipleship Group this Fall?

-Pastor Bob

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

We're better together!

Fall 2025

SUNDAY NIGHT GATHERING
SUNDAYS 6:00PM
Begins Sept 14th
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL AGES. STUDYING THE BOOK OF JOHN WITH PASTOR BOB.

BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUNDAYS 9:15AM
Ongoing
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE! SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH & KIDS AVAILABLE TOO!

WOMEN'S AMOS STUDY
TUESDAYS 9:30AM
Begins Sept 23rd
SEE PAT AMSLER FOR DETAILS. NO CHILDCARE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

ROMANS HOME STUDY
1ST & 3RD MONDAYS 6:30PM
Begins Sept 15th
MEETS AT HAYES'S HOME SEE MARK HAYES FOR DETAILS. NO CHILDCARE AVAILABLE.

ISRAEL STUDY
THURSDAYS 10:00AM
Begins Sept 11th
SEE PASTOR BILLY FOR DETAILS. CLASS WILL LEARN ABOUT BIBLICAL EVENTS AND WHERE THEY HAPPENED. NO CHILDCARE AVAILABLE.

Things

IN COMMON

What is one thing shared by all three items in the same group?

- A. A COW, A SHOE, A BABY
- B. A DOCTOR'S OFFICE, A POST OFFICE, MUSIC
- C. A ZIPPER, A SHARK, A COMB
- D. RESTAURANT GOER, A BIRD, THE SENATE
- E. A POTATO, A HURRICANE, A TARGET
- F. A RIVER, A PERSON, A CAVE

ANSWERS: A) A TONGUE; B) A SCALE OR A KEY;
C) TEETH; D) A BILL; E) AN EYE; F) A MOUTH



A poster for the Faith Family Freedom Festival. At the top, an American flag is partially visible. Below it, the text "FREE ADMISSION!" is written in red, slanted letters. The main title "FAITH FAMILY FREEDOM FESTIVAL" is in large, bold, white capital letters. Below the title, the phrase "Fear Not... GOD is in Control" is written in a cursive font. A row of stars separates the phrase from the date "SUN, SEPT 7, 2025" and the time "1:00 - 7:00". Another row of stars is below the time. The location "IRONS MILL FARMSTEAD, 252 GREENFIELD ROAD, NEW WILMINGTON, PA 16142" is listed. The phone number "724.674.9120" is prominently displayed. At the bottom left is a QR code, and at the bottom right is the website "FaithFamilyFreedomFestival.com" and the email "FaithFamilyFreedomFestivalPA@gmail.com".

JOKES

I asked every one of my friends what they all thought about my social skills, and they both said could use some improvement.

The fact that Head & Shoulders doesn't have a body wash called 'Knees & Toes' disappoints me.

I love my stepladder, but I never knew my real ladder.

My teacher told me my dyslexia would mean I'd never be any good at poetry, but I've made a jug and a couple of vases so far and I think they look great.

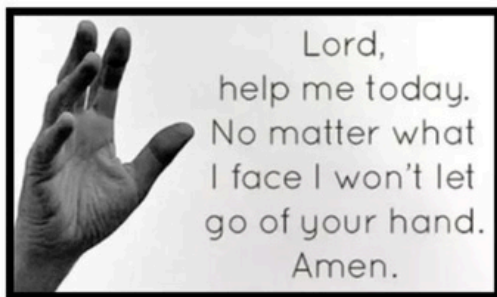
I didn't know my girlfriend had left me for a tractor salesman until I read the John Deere letter.

I bought a sweet car online that was previously owned by Neil

I lost my job as a stage designer and left without making a scene.

I read so much about the bad effects of smoking, drinking, and over-eating that I've decided to stop reading.

I have a joke about time travel, but you guys didn't like it.



MORNING PRAYERS



Lord, may nothing separate me from You today. Teach me how to choose only Your way today so each step will lead me closer to You. Help me walk by the Word and not my feelings. Help me to keep my heart pure and undivided.

Protect me from my own careless thoughts, words, and actions. And keep me from being distracted by MY wants, MY desires, MY thoughts on how things should be. Help me to embrace what comes my way as an opportunity... rather than a personal inconvenience. And finally, help me to rest in the truth of Psalm 86:13, "Great is your love toward me."

You already see the ways I will fall short and mess up. But right now, I consciously tuck Your whisper of absolute love for me into the deepest part of my heart. I recognize Your love for me is not based on my performance. You love me, warts and all. That's amazing. But what's most amazing is that the Savior of the world would desire a few minutes with me this morning. Lord, help me to remember forever what a gift it is to sit with You like this. Amen. - Lysa Terkeurst

Father, thank you for the blessing of a family. Today, please keep the enemy at bay. Increase their faith. Protect them from falling into temptation. Grant them the opportunity to shine a light in the darkness and lead others to you. Whatever is making my family anxious today, I ask that you comfort them, and that they can rest in your complete sovereignty. Amen. - Topher Haddox

Saturday September 13th, 9:00 A.M. -12 P.M.

Location : Chuck Kites property in Mercer.

(We will provide directions as we get closer to that date)

The Church will be providing the following:

12 gauge shells ,clay targets, box lunch ,water, coffee and muffins

Things needed :

- Guns will be provided, but bring your own 12 gauge shot gun if you would like.
- Please bring camp chairs for visiting around the campfire .
- Please bring a friend. We will have a youth 20 gauge shot gun available for any kids that want to give it a try.

Please contact Frank Carolas at 412-443-4355, if you have any questions.





THE BRIDGE FORWARD

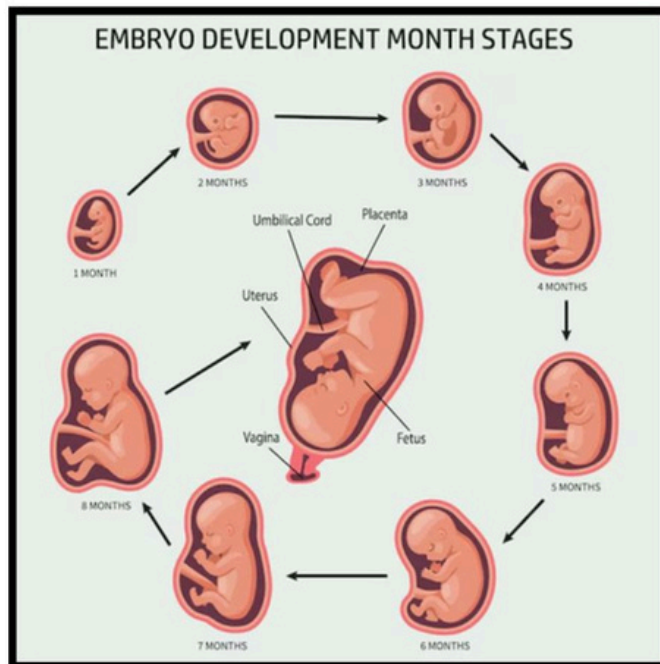
Please come and join us Wednesday, September 17th or Thursday, September 18th to Cross the Bridge in helping move Willow Women's Center forward in guiding and helping women and couples experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and make a decision for life for their unborn child.

The 11th Annual Fundraising Banquet is being held at The Corinthian located at 47 Vine Ave. Sharon, PA. Doors open at 5:30 P.M. The dinner and the program begin at 6:00 P.M. There is a convenient parking garage across from The Corinthian. There is also an elevator at the venue for ease of access.

We would love to see tables filled with smiling faces of those interested in hearing more about Willow and willing to offer their prayers and financial support.

There is a sign up sheet at the Bethany Welcome Center. Please prayerfully consider attending. We can organize a carpool or provide transportation, if needed. If you are a business owner or know of a business that may be willing to be a sponsor of the banquet and Willow, please see Pam Muehlman for a sponsorship form. This type of support is greatly appreciated and enables all donations from the banquet to go towards saving babies lives!

The Willow Banquet is always very informative and really helps all those in attendance to get a heartfelt under-



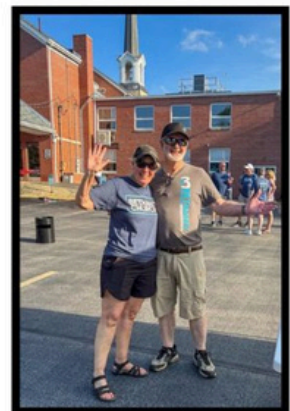
standing of this most important ministry. We enjoy a delicious meal, meet the Willow staff in person, and experience great fellowship! We are also given an opportunity to support some of the most vulnerable of our society by prayer and financial support.

The issue of abortion affects men and women! So gentlemen, PLEASE don't think this is just for women. Willow needs your presence and your support more than ever!! My husband Mark, thought this was a "women's issue" until he attended his first banquet. He has been ALL IN ever since and has made a deep commitment to protecting the unborn!

PLEASE MAKE A DECISION TO ATTEND THE BANQUET TODAY!
BE THE BRIDGE THAT HELPS WILLOW MOVE FORWARD SAVING BABIES!

If you have any questions, special dietary needs or transportation issues, please contact Pam Muehlman (724-699-2589).

BETHANY COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY



First

COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

On July 27 th from 5:00pm until 7:00pm Bethany's Outreach Team hosted the first of what we hope and pray will be many more annual Community Block Party's. If you missed it, you missed an awesome opportunity to share some great food and fun with our Mercer neighbors.

But don't take our word for it. Here are some of the comments from Bethany members as well as our neighbors who came to enjoy the evening:

"Very well attended."

"Face painting was a huge success!"

"Rita and I had fun learning to twist the cotton candy."

"Many hands made light work for all."

"I loved helping."

"Our kids had fun."

"I liked chatting with people."

"Our kids loved the face painting."

"Everyone was very helpful and kind."

"A really great day!"

"Appreciated every effort to pull together."

"We made a splash at our first Block Party."

"I appreciated being asked to serve."

"Everything went very well, a lot of people were there, and they all seemed to be having fun, especially the children."

"Thanks for the time and effort to make it happen."

Pastor Bob White also weighed in with his comments: "I thought it was fabulous, and we should certainly do it again next year!"

There were people from VBS, the West Virginia mission trip, The Haven, Summer Playdates, and of course our own people too. This was a major community connection point.

A HUGE SHOUT OUT to the 35 Bethany volunteers who gave of their time and talents to make Bethany's first Block Party an amazing success! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

According to our best estimates, approximately 185-235 people of all ages, Bethany members and Mercer neighbors, joined the party.

The Outreach Team has already met to review the comments and suggestions we've received to help us consider adjustments and improvements for making next year's Block Party an even greater success.

To God be the glory for the GREAT things He has done, is doing, and will continue to do through Bethany Church in the Mercer community!

The Outreach Team: Gloria Podlaski, Sue Allen, Linda Wishart, Katie Allen, Earl Runcan



We hope to inspire and encourage you as you read the life-transforming stories of our EduNations students and teachers and learn more about our educational programs igniting hope in Sierra Leone.

Educate children. Ignite hope. Transform lives.

Our mission is to ignite hope in under-resourced communities by comprehensively educating rising generations and to honor Christ in all we do.

We believe that education is the key that can unlock the door of poverty. When boys and girls learn, the lives of their families, community, and nation are transformed.

Begin transforming a child's life today!

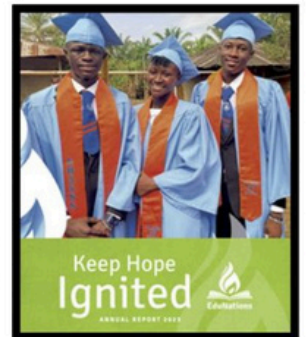


Welcome to the Village!



Morlai's Story

EduNations has impacted my education and personal life so much, which I am very pleased and happy to testify. Throughout my time at EduNations primary, junior and ongoing senior secondary school here in Rokassa, I have been impacted with free quality education and psychosocial support which keeps me going stronger and helps me to persevere in my academic pursuit.



Thank you for all of our active church partners who faithfully give to the work and ministry of EduNations! Because of God's provision and your generosity, we have witnessed countless lives transformed—not only through free, high-quality education, but through the life-giving message of the gospel. Thousands of students have walked through our classroom doors, and today we celebrate 325 graduates over the past 3 years with 101 of them currently enrolled in universities across Sierra Leone.

Your support has played a vital role in this story of hope, growth, and impact. As we look ahead, our desire is to deepen our communication with you so that you are informed, encouraged, and inspired by what God is doing now and what's on the horizon.

Praising the Lord for His Provision

God has been providing in miraculous ways!

284 Senior Secondary Students profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior

105 Students Graduated on July 5th

We recently received 2 - 40ft. shipping containers filled with food packets from Rise Against Hunger for our Senior Secondary Feeding Program

A medical mission team served 5 of our communities in partnership with our schools and churches

The Sierra Leone Collective (collaborative project with World Hope International and Jericho Road Community Health Center) has brought solar electricity, Starlink internet, and sanitation improvements to Rokassa

We recently received the funds to complete the Gbenekoro Teacher Housing Project! Now we will be able to finish the construction and provide safe housing for our teachers at the start of the school year in September.

We praise the Lord for His goodness and faithfulness. And we thank you for allowing God to use your church to expand His Kingdom by meeting these needs.

Gbenekoro Teacher Housing – FULLY FUNDED!

Prayerfully Consider Supporting Hope-filled Initiatives

As we prepare for the 2025–2026 school year, beginning on September 8, we have some immediate needs where your support can truly be the difference. Would you take a moment to read through the opportunities below and prayerfully consider how your church can respond?

School Supplies for Students

Every August, EduNations purchases school supplies for thousands of students across our schools. While many are covered through student sponsorships, over 3,000 students remain unsponsored, leaving a significant gap of \$31,500 for school supplies. We've received a \$5,000 grant, and \$8,500 in sponsorship funds will cover a portion—but we still have a significant need to meet our \$45,000 budget to ensure every child has what they need on day one.



BETHANY YOUTH



Hello Bethany Church Family,

It has been an exciting and uber fun month for us in the Youth Group! We have had a couple of fun events for us to just have fun, spend time with each other, and build our connections together!

To start out the month, we did a Bake-Off, where the teens were split into two groups. I gave each group a certain amount of money they could spend on making their desserts, and they had to use a boxed cereal. Ashlynn, Kayleigh, Jess and JJ made up team one. Bryce, Adrianna, Kameron, and Daphne made up the other team. The judges were Micah, Andrew, Nancy Heckathorn, and (sadly not pictured) Nancy and Denny were our tie-breaker judges who casted the deciding vote on who our winner was! (See all of our wonderful pictures!)

The following week, we had a bonfire night at the Fedorchak/Fox household. We sadly also did not get pictures of this night, but I think it was because we were too busy spending time together and having fun!!!

To end the month, we had a lock-in overnighter at the church to cap an amazing summer and to start the school year off right!

It has truly been a great summer, and we have been so so blessed by God by all we have and got to do, and I know He had a lot in store for this summer!

Please keep our teens in your prayers as they go into the battlegrounds of public school. Pray that they will be champions for Christ, living for Him, and shining His light through every one of them and their interactions! Pray not only for this, but for their physical, mental, and spiritual health because they will get busy, stretched thin between academics, work, sports, and clubs. Pray that they stay plugged in to God, the Word, and each other.

Thank you for all the prayers and support!

Micah Wojnowski

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 5 PM Christian Ed 6:30 PM Missions 6:30 PM Safety Team 7 PM Property Team	3 3 PM Women's Tea Setup 6 PM Women's Tea 6 PM Worship Band 6:30 PM Outreach	4 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 9 AM Prayer 6:30 PM Garden Club	5	6
7 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Deacons 6 PM Youth Group	8 6:30 PM Personnel	9	10 4:30 PM Cub Scouts 6 PM Worship Band 6:30 PM Military Prayer 7 PM Worship & Mem. Committee	11 9 AM Prayer	12	13
14 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 6 PM Youth Group	15	16 6 PM Cub Committee 7 PM Book Club	17 3 PM Cub Scouts & Girl Scouts Set Up 4:30 PM Cub Scouts 6 PM Worship Band	18 9 AM Prayer 7 PM Finance Committee	19	20
21 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 6 PM Youth Group	22	23 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study	24 6 PM Worship Band	25 9 AM Prayer 7 PM Session	26	27 10 AM The Haven
28 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 6 PM Youth Group	29	30 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study				

Bethany Presbyterian Church

100 W. Venango Street

Mercer, PA 16137

Regular Office Hours Mon.-Fri. 8:00 A.M. –

12:00 P.M. (724) 662-4340 Fax: 724-662-

1080 Prayer Chain:

bethanyprays@yahoo.com

Web: www.bethany-presbyterian.org



Non-Profit Organization

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Elders and Deacons



Elders:

Dave Allen, Steve Amsler, John Inman,
Gary McElfresh, Earl Runcan, Valerian
Moeller, Bruce Wamboldt, Bob White, Bill
Woodman

Deacons:

Samantha Faloney, Amy Hayes, Liz
Hodgkinson, Sandra Hostetler, Madalin
Huff, Tami Iman, Alex Lindey, Lynda
McQuown, Betsy Rust, Rita Thompson,
Kim Watson, Linda Wishart

Bethany Staff



Pastor

Dr. Bob White

Visitation Pastor

Pastor Bill Woodman

Church Administrator

Steve Amsler

Administrative Assistant

Beverly Crawford

Director of Student

Ministries

Micah Wojnowski

Director of Children's

Ministries

Evelyn Dickinson

Treasurer

Kathleen Daley

Financial Secretary

Kim Watson

Music Director

Andrew Kraus

Pianist

Jane Deitrick

Organist

Denny Horkey