

Bethel Light

Holiday 2022

the quarterly newsletter of

Bethel Presbyterian Church

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HOPE, TRUTH, ENCOURAGEMENT AND PEACE

Holiday Bethel Light

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We will be emailing the Bethel Light where possible to reduce postage costs. This document will also be posted on our website. We will only mail to those individuals who do not have access to a computer.

From Pastor Cathie

Dear Ones,

As we begin this move through the days of November, it is incredible to see that the first Sunday of Advent is coming so soon. It seems as if it was just summer - that we just had Rally Sunday and started up our fall programs. How is it possible that in just a couple of weeks the wreath will be lit, our worship spaces will be decorated for Christmas and we'll be lighting that first candle on the Advent wreath?

This year, we have chosen the theme of "Calm and Bright" for our Advent journey. It comes, of course, from the beautiful Christmas hymn, "Silent Night" - describing that night when Christ was born - when the star shone so brightly in the sky, the angels sang in all their glory - as the light of the world came to us. But as bright as that night was - literally and figuratively - it was a calm, quiet night - as God slipped into our world and our lives - as a tiny baby, snuggled into his mother's arms, in a quiet corner of a strange and set-apart place - in a moment of peace, stillness and wonder.

Calm and Bright. I think those two words capture so well that mixed bag of emotions and activity of this season. As the nights get longer and darker and fall turns to the first days of winter, there is a sense of longing for that which is simple, cozy, quiet and peaceful. But there is also this sense of joy in this season - in the gatherings with family and friends, the excitement of children, the decorations and lights, the favorite Christmas movies to watch and the songs and sounds and smells and flavors of the season all around us.

Calm and Bright. These words capture, as well, the spiritual journey this season of Advent invites us to. "Advent", you see, derives from the Latin word, *adventus*, which is a translation of the Greek word, *parousia* - which means "coming" - and specifically in scripture and in Christian tradition is used to describe Christ's coming - both his first coming as an infant which has already happened - *and* his second coming when he will come to reign forever and God's will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. Advent, then, is about this place we live between the moment when God himself came to dwell with us and the day when we will dwell with God forever. And so, traditionally, Advent begins with us looking forward with great **hope** and anticipation to that promised day of everlasting **peace** - as we prepare ourselves to be ready. And so, in the first weeks of Advent, we rightly spend more time in quiet preparation for Christ's coming - reflecting on what it means for God's will to be done on earth and in our hearts and lives and to reflect, then, on the state of our hearts and lives - asking ourselves, "If today is the day that he comes, what will he find? Am I ready?" So, Advent then, is a time of quiet reflection and prayer and confession. But it is also this time of such **joy**, knowing that the time will come, the day will arrive, when all will be well - all will be peace and **love** and joy forever - when Christ comes. And so, we wiggle with anticipation like a puppy waiting for his people to come home. Because we know he *will* come again because he has *already* come!

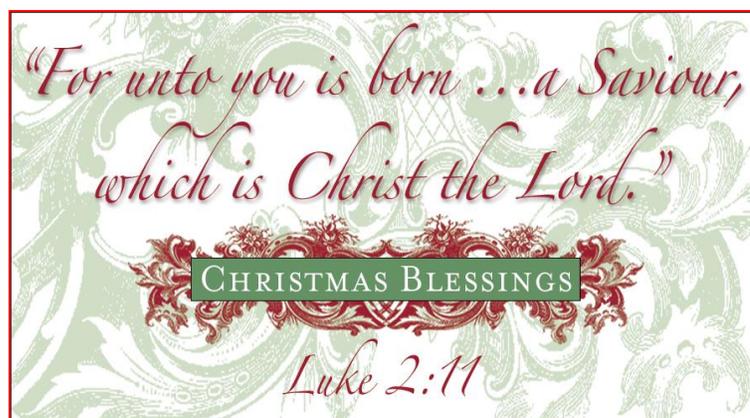
And so, as Advent moves into its last weeks, we turn to that incredible moment when Christ came. And we wonder at the joy of his birth and the love that came to us in such a surprising and special

way. And in those weeks, the preparation of our hearts turns to the preparations for a party - a grand celebration of the light and love and life that came to us on that starry night long ago. And yet, even as the shopping and cooking and celebrations and music and family arrivals start to ramp up, our hearts long to stop and take it all in - to marvel that such a God would choose to come to us, to be with us, to know us - and that such a God would go so far to do that for us - that he would become completely helpless and dependent - for us! And that very thought makes us drop to our knees - or collapse in our chair - and snuggle up in his arms - in quiet wonder and giddy joy - full of gratitude and worship.

Calm and Bright. As fall makes its turn toward winter, as the nights get darker, as decorations begin to appear, as the sights and sounds of the season increase and as we light that first candle on our Advent wreaths - we are invited to a journey - to deeper faith - to greater awe - to hope and peace and joy and love - to read more, to pray more, to contemplate and reflect and confess and prepare - to wait with anticipation and to celebrate with amazement - to snuggle in, even as we wiggle with joy.

May your Advent and Christmas be calm and bright and blessed.

***You are loved,
Pastor Cathie***



Congregational Life Committee

The Congregational Life Committee (comprised of Fellowship and Membership Committees) is committed to making Bethel Presbyterian Church a warm and welcoming church home for all people. We focus on welcoming visitors and new members, as well as promoting and creating opportunities for fellowship within the congregation. We strive to create and implement events that are meaningful and enjoyable for people of all ages to help them build relationships and become involved in the life of the church.

We have spent a lot of time reviewing the member roles. We will be reaching out to members we haven't seen in a while to let them know what's been happening at BPC.

Both the committee and staff have also spent some time enhancing our publicity and communication plan. Watch for church activities being promoted in a variety of places and if you have Facebook - don't forget to share them with your friends.



An “**Informational Gathering**” is scheduled for November 20th and we will be having new members join BPC on December 11th. Please join us in welcoming them.

SAVE THE DATE: Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 1, 2023.**



We hope you are enjoying the weekly fellowship. It is a great time to meet new folks, as well as reconnect with old friends. We are doing the alphabet teams again by last name (A-C, D-E, F-J, K-L, M-N, O-R and S-Z). When hosting, we need help setting up/cleaning up and serving and, of course, bringing something to share (example: cookies, fruit, cheese).

If you know of anyone looking for more information about BPC, please make sure you tell them to stop by our “Informational Center” in the Narthex during morning worship or in the lobby during our Revive Service. For those who stop by and leave contact information, they receive a small gift. We also have an “Informational Center” at our Revive Service.

If you would like to be part of this exciting Committee, please contact Kristen Kiesling or Jack Miller.

Elders: Chair of Membership, Kristen Kiesling and Chair of Fellowship, Jack Miller

Deacon Member: Pat Brown

Staff Support: Barb Clark, Nick Barilla, (Cathie Smith)

At Large Members: Cindy Fair, Diane Miller and Suzanne Gamble



Fellowship Dates for Family Alphabet Teams 2023-2024

A - C Families	D - E Families	F - J Families	K - L Families	M - N Families	O - R Families	S - Z Families	No Fellowship on Dates Below
Year 2023							
			Jan. 8, 2023	Jan. 15, 2023	Jan. 22, 2023	Jan. 29, 2023	
Feb. 5, 2023	Feb. 12, 2023	Feb. 19, 2023	Feb. 26, 2023	March 5, 2023	March 12, 2023	March 19, 2023	No Jan. 1, 2023 New Year's Day
March 26, 2023	April 2, 2023	April 16, 2023	April 23, 2023	April 30, 2023	May 7, 2023	May 21, 2023	No April 9, 2023 Easter
May 28, 2023	June 4, 2023	June 11, 2023	June 25, 2023	July 2, 2023	July 9, 2023	July 16, 2023	No May 14, 2023 Mother's Day
July 23, 2023	July 30, 2023	Aug. 6, 2023	Aug. 13, 2023	Aug. 20, 2023	Aug. 27, 2023	Sept. 3, 2023	No June 18, 2023 Father's Day
Sept. 10, 2023	Sept. 17, 2023	Sept. 24, 2023	Oct. 1, 2023	Oct. 8, 2023	Oct. 15, 2023	Oct. 22, 2023	No Nov. 26, 2023 Thanksgiving
Oct. 29, 2023	Nov. 5, 2023	Nov. 12, 2023	Nov. 19, 2023	Dec. 3, 2023	Dec. 10, 2023	Dec. 17, 2023	No Dec. 24, 2023 Christmas
Year 2024							
Jan. 7, 2024	Jan. 14, 2024	Jan. 21, 2024	Jan. 28, 2024	Feb. 4, 2024	Feb. 11, 2024	Feb. 18, 2024	No Fellowship on Dates Below
Feb. 25, 2024	Mar. 3, 2024	Mar. 10, 2024	Mar. 17, 2024	Mar. 24, 2024	April 7, 2024	April 14, 2024	No March 31 Easter
April 21, 2024	April 28, 2024	May 5, 2024	May 19, 2024	May 26, 2024	June 2, 2024	June 9, 2024	No May 12 Mother's Day
June 23, 2024	June 30, 2024	July 7, 2024	July 14, 2024	July 28, 2024	Aug. 4, 2024	Aug. 11, 2024	No June 16 Father's Day
Aug. 18, 2024	Aug. 25, 2024	Sept. 1, 2024	Sept. 8, 2024	Sept. 15, 2024	Sept. 22, 2024	Sept. 29, 2024	No Dec. 1 Thanksgiving
Oct. 6, 2024	Oct. 13, 2024	Oct. 20, 2024	Oct. 27, 2024	Nov. 3, 2024	Nov. 10, 2024	Nov. 17, 2024	No Dec. 22 Christmas
Nov. 24, 2024	Dec. 8, 2024	Dec. 15, 2024	Dec. 22, 2024				No Dec. 29 New Year's Eve

Contemporary Worship News

Quite possibly the biggest task I was faced with when I began serving at BPC was starting a new contemporary service from scratch. Through months of planning, discussion and action, Bethel Presbyterian Church has a Contemporary Worship Service that meets weekly! (Woo Hoo!!!)

We started holding service once per month so that we could gain some traction and go through trial and error. With the help of numerous volunteers, we have established a great system for a church that can meet each week. While we are still growing in numbers, we have a committed group of volunteers who help each week to make things happen that I could not be prouder of. We have even started seeing some new faces at our services!

Musically, we have grown a worship team of five members who lead us in a monthly rotation. A commitment from these great musicians shows me just how important this service is to them and how excited they are about how it will help this church grow in the future.

As we move forward to the end of the year, please be reminded that Revive will not be held on November 27th. Instead, we invite you to join us for the Carol Sing and Lighting at 6:30 p.m. when the church will be fully lit and decorated for the Christmas Season.

Additionally, there will only be three Revive Services in the month of December: 4th, 11th and 18th. The Revive Worship Team will join our wonderful choir, organist and music ensemble in a blended service on Christmas Eve at 9:00 p.m. Be on the lookout for a performance of the YOKE, when inventor Frank Jackson joins us in the festivities on Christmas Eve this year!

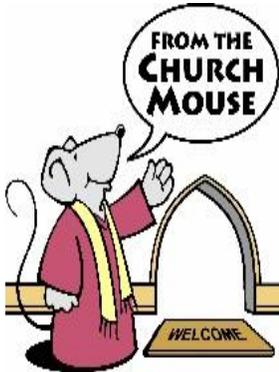
Lastly, I wish you all a safe and joyous Holiday Season and to be constantly reminded of the reason for the season: Christ Jesus!

Nick Barilla



Deacons

Our Mission: To serve the Lord by ministering to the needs of the church, the faithful and the community.



Fall is in the air! Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner. If you happened to be in the church on October 12th, the wonderful aroma of baking pumpkin bread spread over the hallways. A big “Thank You” to the Deacons who baked and wrapped beautiful loaves of pumpkin bread, then delivered these bread gifts to our shut-ins.

Our Deacons joined in the fun on October 23rd, giving out candy at the Trunk or Treat Event. It was a real success. It was a beautiful afternoon, with really lovely weather. There were Spidermen, Princesses, Ghosts, Skeletons, Angels and the list goes on. Everyone had so much fun.

The Deacons and Vitalant have scheduled two blood drives this year at Bethel Presbyterian Church. The July Blood Drive was very well attended, with twenty-three donors. We are hoping to have another successful event on November 27th, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Auditorium. There will be additional information in the Almanac, church flyers and in the Bulletin.

The Deacons will be taking gift boxes of homemade Christmas cookies to our shut-ins. Thank you, Cindy, for making all the delicious cookies.

The Deacons will be offering Advent Booklets to shut-ins and seniors.

Last, but not least, please remember that prayer shawls are available. If you know of someone who would like a beautiful prayer shawl, contact Cindy Fair.

Dear Lord Jesus,

You are the source of all goodness. Thank you for all the people who help us to grow in goodness and become the best that we can be. Amen.



— GIVE — **BLOOD** & GIVE BACK



Bethel Presbyterian Church Give Blood & Give Back Blood Drive



This Give Blood & Give Back blood drive, hosted by **Bethel Presbyterian Church**, will benefit **South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM)**. For each blood donor who registers, a financial contribution will be made in their honor to South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM). Give Blood & Give Back is made possible with support from the Vitalant Foundation and select contributors, including the **Jefferson Regional Foundation**.

Jefferson
Regional
Foundation

 **GIVE BLOOD TODAY | vitalant.org**
For more info call 412.209.7000

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27
8 A.M. TO 1 P.M.**

**Auditorium
2999 Bethel Church Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102**

To schedule your lifesaving appointment, go to <https://donateblood.centralbloodbank.org>:

- Choose "Donor Login" if you have donated with Vitalant or Central Blood Bank before
- If you have not donated with Vitalant or Central Blood Bank before, choose "New Donor"
- At the "Schedule your Appointment Today" screen, scroll down using the far right scroll bar and enter group code G0010008 to schedule your donation
- If you cannot schedule online, please call 412.209.7000

All participating donors will receive a \$5 Amazon gift card, redeemable via email.

vitalant 

Finance Committee

OUR MONEY IS WORKING FOR GOD'S MISSION!

Finance Committee Notes:

- ✚ Session recently approved monies from our endowment - in addition to the 10% withdrawal as in the 2022 budget - in order to meet the ongoing and rising costs of our ministry to year-end.
- ✚ The pipe organ which is a crucial part of our worship service had the leather sealing of the valves replaced over the summer months at a cost of \$7,500. The final phase will be to modernize the electricals as we go from old relays to modern electronic actuation in 2023.
- ✚ The new LED sign for the front of our church has been installed at a cost of approximately \$30,000. Partial funding for the sign came from the Memorial and Building Funds.
- ✚ It was reported that the solar submersible pump system that was purchased by our Mission Committee is not only providing water to the Malawi orphanage, but irrigation for their crops.

Thanks for your continued support of our church - for the 3rd quarter A.D. 2022!

October 2022 Received Total Offerings	\$196,783
2022 YTD Budgeted Total Offerings	\$196,670
Difference	+\$113
2022 Annual Total Offerings	\$236,000

Your support is greatly appreciated as our church has experienced unprecedented increases in utilities, along with the downturn of mutual funds and bonds in our endowment.

***Helping to serve and support His mission at Bethel Church,
Finance Committee***



Mission Committee

As Christians we are called to continue the mission of Christ in this world; as a Committee we are directed to use our resources with the Matthew 25 initiative focusing on Congregational Vitality by addressing these areas:

- ✚ **Overcoming Hunger**
- ✚ **Seeking Health and Wholeness for All**
- ✚ **Sharing the Good News**

Sharing the Good News - Our Winter Events Will Include the Following:

- ✚ **Kids Club:** For four weeks we will be going to Homestead Presbyterian Church on Sunday afternoons to teach a Bible lesson, have a craft, games and a snack. If you would like to join us, please let a member of the Mission Committee know.
- ✚ **Mission Display:** We have made the Marshall Road entrance into an area for you to see all the different Mission projects that are going on throughout the church. Come and have a look and see how you would like to help.
- ✚ **City Mission:** We have a bin in the back parking lot of the church to donate clothing and shoes that will benefit homeless men, women, children and Veterans of Southwestern PA.
- ✚ **A Drop Off Food Drive for SHIM:** A Community Food Drive is planned for the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the parking lot or the following Sunday inside the church in support of South Hills Interfaith Movement.
- ✚ **Jennifer Hoines - Therapy International:** We met with our friend Jennifer and have decided to help support her friend Delfina and her son. Delfina lost her husband in a bus accident and she works with Jennifer in Guatemala, but needs more help financially to raise her son. We will keep you posted on the collections throughout the year.
- ✚ **Blessing Store - Duquesne Presbyterian:** We will continue different collections, such as paper towels, diapers, gently used household items and children's clothing. Keep a lookout on the website or the weekly Bulletin for the upcoming items needed.

We also invite you to participate in any of our projects even if you are not a Committee Member, as we offer our projects as a church-wide opportunity to serve.

The Mission Committee: Barb Clark, Debi Hodill, Debbie May, Joyce Pratt, Larry Jay and Barbara Jay



When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Music and Worship Committee

It is hard to imagine that we are already two months into another school year and quickly approaching the Advent and Christmas Seasons. I am pleased to announce that once again on Christmas Eve, there will be two services presented at the church. The first service will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This service will be a Children's Service, designed for worshipping the Lord and celebrating Christ's arrival through songs and readings with a structure and length that is designed to attract the youth of the church. Our second service of the evening will commence at 9:00 p.m. This will be our Traditional Candlelight Service that will feature the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir.

We also hope that you will be able to join us for all of the fun festivities to be had during the Holiday Season, including our "Hanging of the Greens Event" scheduled for Sunday, November 27th. We will be utilizing that time to decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas Season, as well as enjoying each other's company in a time of fellowship.

As always, anyone is welcome to join our music ensembles at BPC (*no audition necessary*), as the Holiday Season is a wonderful time to help celebrate the spirit of the season. The Bell Choir rehearses on Thursdays, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. and the Chancel Choir from 7:45 - 9:00 p.m. If not wanting to join the amazing ensembles of Bethel Presbyterian Church, we hope that you will at least join us Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for our church services and enjoy the fine music that is produced by these wonderful musicians. As always, be safe this Holiday Season and have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Blessings,

*Jason Wilcox,
Director of Music and Worship*



Spiritual Formation

Footprints ...

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church has been working hard since the beginning of the year on how to meet the needs of the members and the community. At the last meeting, they went around the room discussing ideas, being ever prayerful about what God might bring to the group. One of the prompts they all felt was the importance of prayer and it rose to the top.

Certainly, we do pray fervent prayers during worship, in our homes, at meetings. What was this to look like? A group of people got together and after a few days came together and said this is what I have been hearing in my prayers, this is on my heart, I think we should ... The suggestions were talked about and we are ready to implement them. The guidance of the Holy Spirit was the main topic of discussion. All aspects of prayer have been considered. You will see more about these in the coming months.

First, we will be praying through the church directory on a weekly basis. We will invite the entire body of Christ to pray over the people on the weekly list. You will find the names in the Bulletin. You will receive a call letting you know we are praying for you the week before and if you have any needs, you are welcome to let us know and the Prayer Group will pray for you (this will be done in complete confidentiality).

Prayers During Worship: As Pastor Cathie prompts us during prayer time, you will be invited to raise a first name or an event (i.e., Hurricane Ivan) for the congregation to pray for. After the service, look for someone standing up front by the doorway to the Choir door. You will find a person or persons willing to pray with you for any need you may have. This will be done in complete confidentiality.

Monday Morning Prayer from 10:00-11:00 a.m.: Join us in the Sanctuary for prayers. We will have prompts for you, devotions, music, candles ... just show up as you like.

Prayer Box: There is a prayer box in the Narthex for you to add prayers. They can be concerns or praise and joy for prayers answered. You don't even need to sign them unless you would like Pastor Cathie to call on you. Please note that on the card. Also, the Monday group will pray over these cards.

Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held in Galbraith Hall. Watch for more information as we develop this request.

January "24 Hour Prayer Vigil": The Sanctuary will be open for 24 hours (during the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. we will pray from home). You are welcome to fill in a time slot, show up and we will have materials for you to use - candles, music, devotions. You will be asked to write down whatever is put on your heart regarding the church during this time.

We pray that these times of prayer strengthen you on your walk with Christ. We ask that the will of the Holy One be done in His church, in His people, for the community and that people will find Christ Jesus in these walls and that they find comfort and peace - a place to serve and worship - a place to gather with others for His glory - and that we move forward with the heart of a servant, moving in the direction in which He guides - being the hands and feet of Jesus - feeding the poor, helping the brokenhearted, clothing those who are in need. May we listen with an open heart, may the Holy Spirit fill this place with His love and guidance.

In His precious name,
Barb

Spiritual Formation

November:

Monday Morning Prayer: Join us at 10:00 a.m. every Monday morning for prayer time in the Sanctuary. We will have prompts to help you through the time. All are welcome ... come every Monday or whenever you can.

Wednesday Morning Study continues with *The Book of Revelation*. Join us at 10:00 a.m. in the McMillan Room. (No class on November 23rd.)

Homestead Presbyterian Kid's Club: We will travel to Homestead after church on November 13th, 20th, December 4th and 11th, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. If you would like to be a part of this mission, please reach out to Barb Jay or Barb Clark for more information.

Journey's, Sunday, November 20th: The Sunday morning, once a month, topical class is excited to present Frank Jackson ... and his Yoke! Frank will walk us through his journey of the amazing instrument he designed and created. He will talk about the years in the planning, obstacles and joys, and, of course, he will play for us as well! Please join us in the Auditorium at 9:00 a.m. Don't forget to grab your coffee from the McMillan Room before you head down.

The Bells Are Ringing: The Children's Bells that is! Join us at the November 20th Worship Service (10:30 a.m.) to hear the children joyously play for us. We are excited to present the children for their first performance. Pam Backstrom and Pastor Cathie will lead.

Advent Monday Evening Study: Please join us as we watch and discuss *Max Lucado's Because of Bethlehem*, November 21st, 7:00 p.m., in the Youth Room! We will discover "A remarkable gift in an unremarkable package." No prior study knowledge is required.

Small Group: Our Small Group at Suzanne Gamble's home is digging into the sermons from the past week. Join the group at 7:00 p.m. at her home on November 22nd. No prior experience is needed.

Hope Café: Saturday, November 26th, from 8:00 - 10:00 p.m., in the Youth Room. Youth, 7th-12th grade, are invited to join us for coffee, snacks, games and music! Spread the word!

There is NO Sunday School for Children on November 27th.



Spiritual Formation

Advent starts November 27th - "Calm and Bright"



Hanging of the Greens: Sunday, November 27th
3:00-5:30 p.m. - Hanging of the Greens
5:30-6:30 p.m. - Potluck Dinner (sign-up at the bottom of the Narthex stairs)
6:30-7:00 p.m. - Carol sing and lighting of the Wreath

Throughout the Season

- Pick up your Advent Devotion at the bottom of the Narthex stairs.
- Monday Evening Advent Study starts November 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. Please join us for **Because of Bethlehem** by Max Lucado (a video series). Everyone is welcome to join us as we begin this Advent journey together. No prior Bible study needed.
- The Men's Group will begin the Advent Season discussing the book and video **Faithful** by Adam Hamilton - "Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph." No prior study experience required. Sunday morning starting November 27th, 9:15 a.m., in the Quilters Room.

December:

Monday Morning Prayer: Join us at 10:00 a.m. every Monday morning for prayer time in the Sanctuary. We will have prompts to help you through the time. All are welcome ... come every Monday or whenever you can.

Wednesday Morning Study continues with *The Book of Revelation*. Join us at 10:00 a.m. in the McMillan Room. (No classes on December 21st and 28th.)

Jesus, Legos and Me Christmas Party: Thursday, December 1st at 5:00 p.m. This is our last Thursday of this session. See you on January 12th when the winter session begins!

Food Drive: Drive by and drop off your food donation at the Clark entrance on December 10th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Hope Café: Is on hiatus this month.

Children's Music: Next session begins on January 12th, 7:15 p.m.

No Sunday School on December 25th and January 1st.

Spiritual Formation

January and February:

Monday Morning Prayer: Join us at 10:00 a.m. every Monday morning for prayer time in the Sanctuary. We will have prompts to help you through the time. All are welcome ... come every Monday or whenever you can.

Sunday School: Join us at 9:15 a.m. There is a class for everyone!

✚ **Journey's Class:** Ross Edwards (*The History of Jerusalem*) will be the speaker for the next two months. Join us as he shares his knowledge of Biblical proportions! He is delightful, knowledgeable and enjoys questions during his talks.

Wednesday Morning Study: Join us at 10:00 a.m. in the McMillan Room. New Year Classes start January 4th.

Jesus, Legos and Me: We start back up on Thursday, January 12th, 5:00 p.m. Join us for Legos, dinner and story time! \$5.00 for dinner. No preregistration needed.

Hope Café: Watch for details coming soon!



Bits & Pieces

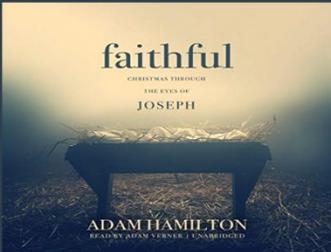


Christmas at
BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE:
CHILDREN'S SERVICE AT 4:00 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT 9:00 PM
CHRISTMAS DAY:
MORNING SERVICE AT 10:30 AM

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
MAX LUCADO
BECAUSE OF
Bethlehem
LOVE IS BORN
HOPE IS HERE



Monday Evening Bible Study
Four Nights: November 21st, 28th
December 5th and 19th
At 7:00pm



faithful
CHRISTMAS THROUGH
THE EYES OF
JOSEPH
ADAM HAMILTON
READ BY ADAM VERNEER | UNABRIDGED

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
Four week series at 9:15 am
November 27th to December 18th
(First week meets in the Youth Room, remaining weeks will be held in Auditorium)

Bits & Pieces



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Advent Kick-Off Celebration

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

3:00 pm- Decorating the Church

5:30 pm- Potluck Dinner
(sign up in the hallway at the church)

6:30 pm- Carol Sing
and lighting the wreath



FALL DONATION DRIVE

Children's Clothing, Toilet Paper, and Diaper Drive!

(Diapers size two and up)



Please leave all items in
Marshall Hallway Entrance

Donations will benefit The Blessing Store!

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY 10:00 TO 11:00 AM

Book of Revelation



Bits & Pieces

A poster for 'HOPE cafe' presented by BPC Youth. The background is dark with scattered coffee beans. At the top, it says 'BPC YOUTH PRESENTS' in white. Below that, 'HOPE' is written in large, glowing purple letters, and 'cafe' is in a smaller, textured white font. To the left of 'HOPE' is a white line-art illustration of a coffee cup with steam. Below the title, the address 'BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2999 BETHEL CHURCH RD.' is listed in white. The main event is 'OPEN MIC NIGHT' in large, glowing purple letters. The date and time are 'Saturday, November 26, 2022 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm'. A paragraph of text describes the event: 'Are you a poet, singer, songwriter, or love live music? All students grades 7 through 12 are welcome to participate on stage at our Cafe! Even if you don't plan on performing, invite a friend and join us for a fun night of entertainment!'. At the bottom, it says 'Free: Coffee, Games, Music, Fun!' in white.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are looking for able-bodied individuals to assist in lifting the wreath on our bell tower. Please join us on Saturday, November 19th, at 9:00 a.m. Contact Gary May at 412/780-2706 to let him know if you are available.

RETIREMENT FOR BOB MURPHY: After 35 years of working at BPC, Bob will be retiring on December 5th. If you wish to contribute to a purse for Bob, you can give your cash/check to Nancy Carr or Kathy Young. **All checks should be made payable to Robert Murphy**, not Bethel Presbyterian Church. This amount will not be counted as a contribution for BPC; it is a gift of appreciation for Bob. Donations are due by Tuesday, November 29th.

Bits & Pieces

Light up your home and neighborhood this Christmas Eve with...

LUMINARIES

\$12 per kit
each kit contains all you need for 10 luminaries
including battery-powered weather-resistant candles

to order call 412-835-0405 or click [here](#)
order deadline Dec. 1



BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN QUILTERS ...

Our quilting group remains busy with a backlog of quilts waiting to be done! This is our latest quilt. The owner of this quilt is 80 and it was pieced by her mother. She is having it quilted to pass on to her daughter!



CHANCEL FLOWERS: Here it is ... only two months left in 2022 ... and looking over the Chancel Flower Vase Chart, there are still two openings for vases in 2022. The dates open are December 11th and 18th. If you would be interested in sponsoring one of these dates, contact Carol MacDonald or the Church Office.

Chancel Flower Vase sponsor letters will be mailed out by the beginning of January 2023. I want to thank everyone who continues to sponsor Chancel Flower Vases.

Carol MacDonald
cmacdnl@verizon.net



ARE YOU RECEIVING EMAILS FROM THE CHURCH? If not, your email address may not be in our database and you may be missing out on important updates. Contact the church office today with your email address.

Bits & Pieces

SEND SOME LOVE: The following Bethel Church family members would love to receive notes and emails from us!

Artis Senior Living: Jean Smith (#306), Maria is the Activities Director. Send emails to her ... she will see that the right people get them. Her email is mdeangelis@artismgmt.com; 1001 Higbee Drive, Bethel Park, PA 15102.

Asbury Heights: Charleene Paupa, 700 Bower Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243.

Bethel Park Retirement Residence: Rodney Payseure (#232) and Betty Ramsey (#236), 2960 Bethel Church Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102.

Concordia of the South Hills: Helen Spence, 1300 Bower Hill Road, B169, Pittsburgh, PA 15243.

Country Meadows: Allene Crossman (#210), 3580 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017 and Louise MacLachlan (#48), 3560 Washington Pike, Building 1, Bridgeville, PA 15017.

Heritage Manor: Marilou Booth, The Activities Director will see that the residents receive emails (activities@heritagemanorsl.com); 4220 Saw Mill Run Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15227.

Passavant Community: Bette Wetzel, Passavant Community, Whittenberg Place, 2000 May Drive, Zelienople, PA 16063.

Pro Medica: Ginny Flynn, Pro Medica, 940 Walnut Bottom Road, Carlisle, PA 17015.

Sunrise Senior Living: Art Brandenburg (#305), 500 Village Drive, Upper St. Clair, PA 15241.

The Residence at Bethel Park: Bert Drummond (#201) and Beverly and Mel Lacich (#230), 5851 Keystone Drive, Bethel Park, PA 15102.

OUR NEW INFORMATIONAL SIGN has been installed. If you would like to contribute to this new way of communicating to the community, please mark "Church Sign" on your check/envelope. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Any questions, please see Dan Beckstrom. Thank you



"ONLINE GIVING QR CODE"



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We will be preparing the Sanctuary for the Christmas Season with the beautiful poinsettia plants. The poinsettias will be placed on the Chancel December 23, 2022.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ORDER FORM AND RETURN TO:

**Carol MacDonald
c/o Bethel Presbyterian Church
2999 Bethel Church Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102**

ORDERS MAY BE LEFT IN THE PW BOX IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 16, 2022.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PW.

QUANTITY: _____ RED POINSETTIA @ \$8.00 TOTAL: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

Poinsettias may be picked up following Christmas Worship Services:

I will pick up _____ I will not _____ Give to shut-in _____

ORDERED BY: _____

PHONE NO.: _____

Presbyterian Women



OUR PURPOSE: *Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and study. To support the mission of the church worldwide. To work for justice and peace and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.*

By the time you will be reading this Holiday-A-Fair will be over and many thanks needed for everyone's help with making this a success. Every year we think it couldn't possibly be beat and every year it is! Thank you one and all for all your time and talents ... we couldn't do it without you.

On another note ... PW is sorry to announce that Naomi Circle will not be continuing effective immediately. Unfortunately, our numbers have dwindled down to a very few who are able to come anymore. We didn't have as many participating from the Residence as we would have liked. The plan is that now the regular Wednesday morning Bible Study will include the first Wednesday of the month, taking the place of the Naomi Circle. Those who were in the Naomi Circle can join the Wednesday study or Mary & Martha Circle on the second Monday of the month.

Presbyterian Women will be helping with the Potluck Supper part of the Festival of the Greens. We will help organize the food and help serve it.

In December we will be distributing our monies to missions as we traditionally do at this time of the year.

We are hoping to plan a retreat in February ... watch for further news.

We wish you and your families a Joyous and Blessed Christmas Season and a Happy New Year!

***Blessings,
Pam Decker, Moderator***

PW CALENDAR



PW Board

*Second Tuesday of the Month
7:00 p.m., McMillan Room
December 13th, January 10th and February 14th*

Mary & Martha Circle

*Second Monday of the Month
6:30 p.m., Dinner, McMillan Room*

Retreat

February 11th, Details TBD

Child Care News

Fall sure has flown by here in Child Care! We kept ourselves very busy talking about Halloween, Fall, Birthdays, Safety, Thanksgiving and Community Helpers! As we begin to learn about the upcoming Christmas Season, we reflect on the importance of the people in our lives and how to show our appreciation for them. We look forward to making ornaments to decorate our Child Care tree. The children take pride in their hard work and love showing their creations to their family members!

As we celebrate the upcoming New Year, we look forward to indoor gym play during the cold, winter months. In addition to stories and crafts involving the cold weather, we will remind the children how important it is to stop the spread of germs.

In the months to come we will be celebrating Martin Luther King Day and President's Day. We will talk about the love that we have for family and friends as we celebrate Valentine's Day.

As a reminder, Child Care will close to celebrate the Christmas Holiday on Friday, December 23rd. We will re-open Monday, January 2nd and are excited to hear about all of the celebrations from the kids as they are always happy to come back to school.

We will also be closed on Monday, February 20th, in observance of President's Day.

We are also searching for our next great staff member. If you or anyone you know has interest in learning more about an opportunity to join our team, contact the Child Care office.

We all hope each and every one of you and your families have a safe and prosperous Holiday Season!



**Nichole Murphy,
Child Care Director**

*"You can find magic
wherever you look.
Sit back and relax,
all you need is a book."
— Dr. Seuss*

Preschool News

It feels like we just started the school year, but here we are two months under our belts and the holidays are just around the corner! There will be much excitement in the lives of our preschoolers as we anticipate Christmas. It is truly a blessing to be caught up in the magic of the season with our little ones!

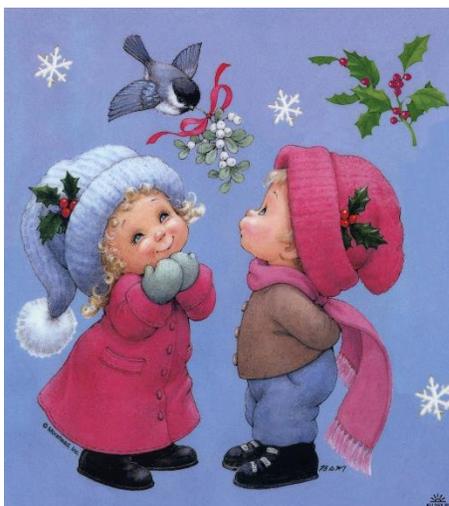
There are many plans being made for a very special Holiday Season in Preschool. The children will be getting ready for Christmas by preparing gifts for their parents, learning songs they will sing at their Christmas Programs, and most importantly, thinking of all the many reasons we have to be thankful. Believe it or not, we already started singing Christmas songs in Music Class to prepare for our Christmas Programs! We would like to give a huge thank you to Ms. Leanne Parise for volunteering her time to continue to share her gift of music with our preschoolers.

Preschool registration for the 2022-2023 school year will take place in January. Church members and current Preschool/Child Care families can begin registering for the 2022-2023 school year on January 9th, 2023. If you are interested in learning more about our Preschool Programs, please feel free to call or email so we can answer any questions you may have. This winter is a great time to set up a time to tour our Preschool, meet our teachers and to check out what our Preschool is all about! Please contact Angela to schedule a tour today! We will open registration for all of our programs (Time for Twos, Three-Year, 3-Day and 4-Day Four-Year and Transition Classes) to the public on January 16, 2023. We will also begin taking commitments from families whose children will regularly attend our enrichment program, Curious Kid's Club. We certainly are blessed here at Bethel Presbyterian Preschool to have such wonderful programs that are run by our caring Preschool teachers, who are dedicated to help our Preschool children grow both socially and academically. We appreciate your recommendations and assistance in spreading the word to your family and friends about our excellent Preschool Programs!

January and February will also be busy months at Preschool. In January we will entertain our Dad's with "Donuts with Dad" in our 3's, 4's and T-Classes! The children get so much excitement from being with Dad at school. There will be lots of learning and fun centered on "winter" concepts. Miss Verna will again visit us this winter with her "hands on" science lessons. It will be a busy and fun winter ahead at Preschool!

From our Preschool family to yours:

***We wish you all a blessed Holiday Season!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***



***Angela Burns - Preschool Director
bethelpresps@verizon.net
412/835-0441***

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and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible
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then be directed to amazon smile prime. Under the search
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<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-0974289>

December Birthdays

*Birthday wishes to the following active members
and their families celebrating birthdays!*

2	Emily Daschbach	6	Ann Lindsay
6	Holly Palumbo	7	Elma Black
8	Patricia Burford	8	Mary Lou Englert
8	Caden McKinley	8	Logan Virgin
9	Taylor Anderson	9	Danielle LaTorre
10	Aaron Kloc	11	Arthur Brandenburg
11	Scotty Webler	11	Bette Wetzel
12	Beth Mundsinger	13	Debi Hodill
14	Alan Crump	15	Russ Lautenschlager
17	Luke Zeiler	19	Amelia Palumbo
21	Gabriella Doring	22	Landon Doring
25	Susan Davin	25	Carol McDonald
25	Jennifer Boyle Sinatra	25	Jill Sinatra
29	Cory Kossan	31	Joshua Adomaitis



January Birthdays

*Birthday wishes to the following active members
and their families celebrating birthdays!*

1	Ian Schultz	2	Peter Edwards
3	Bruce Ericson	4	Christina McKinley
5	Dana Provence	7	Donald Roach
8	Autumn Zimmerman	11	Judith Ritchie
11	John Szott	11	Ansley Basso (Virgin)
12	Kristie Bozicevich	12	Sarah Kossan
13	Scott Schnabel	15	Kohlton Adomaitis
18	Wendy Roithner	18	Mary Love
18	Edith Wallace	19	Colleen Quinlan-Sullivan
19	Miranda Day	21	Gladys Bown
24	Steve Kloc	25	Thomas Fetsick
27	Randolph Burroughs	29	Noah Decker
29	Aaron Placke	31	Lana Kling
31	Michael Smith	31	Luke Stefancin



February Birthdays

*Birthday wishes to the following active members
and their families celebrating birthdays!*

1	Christine Burford	2	Scott Lawrence
5	Janet Ericson	5	Robert McKinley
7	Bonnie Opsal	11	Eleanor Coventry
11	Amy Placke	12	David Long
13	Bob Gales	14	John Miller
14	Veronica Walkuski	15	Craig Stefancin
17	Larry Jay	19	Brooke Cashman
20	Tanner Stroech	25	Deborah May
26	Margaret Ann Coulter	27	Chris Day
27	Patrick Quinlan	27	Sean McGowan
28	Angus MacDonald	28	Jessica Sasso



Our Blanket of Prayer | The Military and Families



OUR BLANKET OF PRAYER: Ansley Basso (Virgin), Gary Bittner, Marilou Booth, Art Brandenburg, Dawn Clibbens (Carole Legleitner's daughter), Michele Cobb, Marilyn DeHuff, Pete Edwards, Ginny Flynn, Pat Kaczmarek, Steve Kloc, Dick Kraft, Mel Lacich, Kim Long, Robin Macherey, Angus MacDonald, Emily Parise, George Ritchie, Kim Reed, Wendy Roithner, Fred Shoemaker, Sally Sinatra, Jean Smith, Lynne Smith (Pastor Jim's wife), Sheila Vandevander, Edith Wallace

THE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES

Joshua Croner, Army Reserves, Serving in the Middle East

Robert Dalzell, Department of Defense, Korea

Michael Davis, Marine Corps

Capt. Christopher Demetraides, Marines, Iraq

Pett. Off. 3rd Class Gary M. Dernus, Iraq

CMDR Christopher Rose, U. S. Navy, San Diego
Captain - USS Alexandria
(Son-in-law of Roy & Mary Burford)

Captain Blane T. Shearon, Navy
(Son-in-law of Phyllis Criss)

Private Larry Shoop, Demolition, Afghanistan

Capt. Mike Sieber, Army, Special Services (on third tour in Iraq)

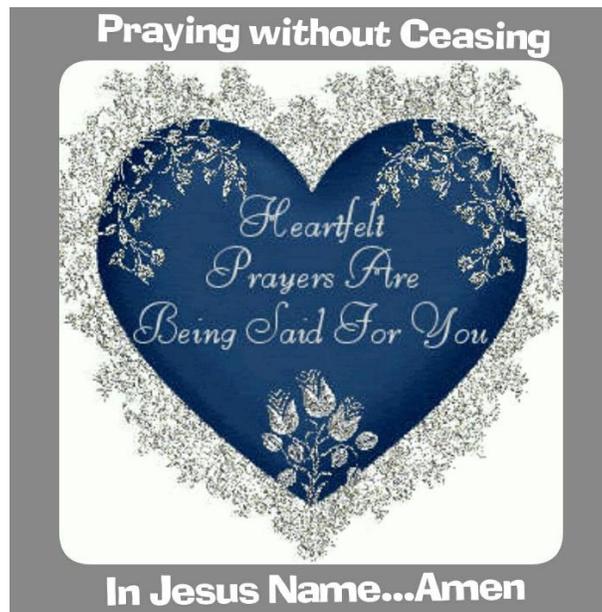
SFC David Williams, Army Recruiter
(Son of Gregory Williams, stepson of Deborah {Werner} Williams)
has been promoted to Station Commander of the Burlington
Recruiting Office in Burlington, VT)



Call Kathy Young with updates and additional names of friends, family or community members who are in the military.

Prayer Concerns

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to the Adomaitis family on the loss of Paul Adomaitis (Conrad's brother), to the Carr family on the loss of Bonnie Ringer (Kevin's mother), to the Gill family on the loss of Sylva Gill and to the Wells family on the loss of Joanne Wells. May these families find comfort in knowing that our thoughts and prayers are with them during these challenging times.



Staff & Church Contact Information

2999 Bethel Church Rd., Bethel Park, PA 15102
412/835-0405 Church Office 412/835-1037 Fax
Website: www.bethelpresby.org
Email: bethelpres@verizon.net

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Cathie Smith, 412/965-4253 or pastorcathie.bethelpc@gmail.com

Worship Leader/Digital Media Coordinator: Nick Barilla, 412/835-0405

Christian Education: Barb Clark, 412/835-0405

Director of Music and Worship: Jason Wilcox, 412/651-4638

Organist: Cody Soska, 412/877-9139

Administrative Assistant: Kathy Young, 412/835-0405

Administrative Assistant: Nancy Carr, 412/835-0405

Custodian: Bob Murphy (Day), 412/835-0405

Maintenance/Custodian: Russ Young (Night), 412-835-0405

Church Officers

SESSION

Rev. Dr. Cathie Smith, Moderator
Barbara Jay, Clerk of Session
Robin Macherey, Clerk of Session

Class of 2022

Jack Miller
Carl Parise

Class of 2023

Conrad Adomaitis
Dan Beckstrom
Cliff Decker
Barbara Jay
Robin Macherey

Class of 2024

Pam Backstrom
Kristen Kiesling
Judy Ritchie
Mike Smith

DEACONS

Class of 2022

Pam Adomaitis
Lana Kling
Debbie May
Cheryl Pantano
Joyce Pratt

Class of 2023

Marilyn Beckstrom
Cindy Fair
Diane Miller

Class of 2024

Pat Brown
Joanne Ericson
Pat Kaczmarek
Ted Keenan
Carol MacDonald

