

*Bethel Light*

*Spring 2023*

*the quarterly newsletter of*

*Bethel Presbyterian Church*

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***HOPE, TRUTH, ENCOURAGEMENT AND PEACE***

# Spring 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 Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you receive this newsletter, we will be in the first days of the season of Lent. Lent, like Advent, is a season of preparation. During this season, we are called and invited to prepare our hearts for the good news of Easter, for the celebration of Christ's resurrection. It is traditionally a season of repentance and confession, as we acknowledge humbly and honestly our failure to be faithful, hopeful and obedient followers of Christ - to recognize that we don't always love God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength - and that we do fail to love others with the kind of love we are called to give.

This kind of honest, humble confession prepares us to welcome on Palm Sunday the Savior who comes to us. It prepares us to grieve our shared responsibility for Christ's death and wonder at the immensity of his sacrifice for us. It prepares us to celebrate with exuberant gratitude and praise on Easter Sunday. Longing to come to Holy Week and Easter with hearts ready - we begin with 40 days of preparation. During those 40 days, we focus on what it means to faithfully follow Jesus and what keeps us from doing so. We let go of those things that hamper our faithfulness and take on those things that assist our faithfulness. Our church life and activity centers, for the season, on this taking on and letting go. There are many opportunities through this season at Bethel Presbyterian to prepare our hearts - I hope you will set aside the time for this important preparation time this season.

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ash Wednesday, is the beginning of the Lenten Season. We gather at 7:00 p.m. for a service of confession and preparation, acknowledging our brokenness and frailty. A poignant moment in this service is the "imposition of ashes" in which worshippers receive ashes in the shape of a cross on their foreheads or hands with the words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." This is a quiet, reflective service, a special and meaningful start to Lent. Prior to the service, at 5:30 p.m., we will share a simple soup dinner together as a church family. A love offering will be taken at that dinner to support Delfina, who is a Guatemalan local, learning to be a therapy provider in her village through our ministry partner, Therapy Clinics International. BPC is helping to provide support for Delfina this year as she finds her way forward as a widow and mother after the death of her husband.

Then, on Sundays during Lent, in both of our worship services, we will explore the idea of Wilderness - its reality, its blessings and its lessons for us. We'll look at this season of Lent as a special kind of wilderness experience in our spiritual lives - a time of journey, challenge, growing and becoming.

Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, is Palm Sunday - the day we join those who welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem with waving palms and shouts of Hosanna!

Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, Maundy Thursday, is the day we remember how Jesus gathered his disciples at the Last Supper, his prayer in the garden and his betrayal. We will gather at 7:00 p.m. that night for a reflective service that includes the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

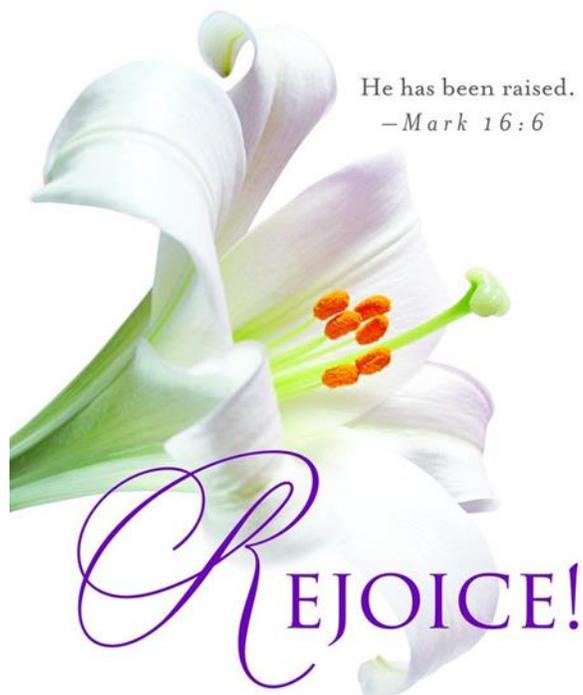
Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday, is the night we remember Jesus' death for our sake. We will gather again this evening at 7:00 p.m. for Tenebrae, the service of diminishing light, hearing, singing and reflecting on the moments of Jesus' trial, crucifixion and death.

And, then, joyfully and finally ...

Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday, at 10:30 a.m., we celebrate Christ's resurrection!

I hope you will be able to take part in many, or all, of these opportunities to help you prepare your heart for Easter and to deepen your journey of faith. May you have a blessed Lent.

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



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
<b>Year 2023</b>							
			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
<b>Year 2024</b>							
Jan. 7, 2024	Jan. 14, 2024	Jan. 21, 2024	Jan. 28, 2024	Feb. 4, 2024	Feb. 11, 2024	Feb. 18, 2024	No Dec. 31, 2023 New Year's Eve
Feb. 25, 2024	Mar. 3, 2024	Mar. 10, 2024	Mar. 17, 2024	Mar. 24, 2024	April 7, 2024	April 14, 2024	
April 21, 2024	April 28, 2024	May 5, 2024	May 19, 2024	May 26, 2024	June 2, 2024	June 9, 2024	No Fellowship on Dates Below
June 23, 2024	June 30, 2024	July 7, 2024	July 14, 2024	July 28, 2024	Aug. 4, 2024	Aug. 11, 2024	No March 31 Easter
Aug. 18, 2024	Aug. 25, 2024	Sept. 1, 2024	Sept. 8, 2024	Sept. 15, 2024	Sept. 22, 2024	Sept. 29, 2024	No May 12 Mother's Day
Oct. 6, 2024	Oct. 13, 2024	Oct. 20, 2024	Oct. 27, 2024	Nov. 3, 2024	Nov. 10, 2024	Nov. 17, 2024	No June 16 Father's Day
Nov. 24, 2024	Dec. 8, 2024	Dec. 15, 2024	Dec. 22, 2024				No Dec. 1 Thanksgiving
							No Dec. 22 Christmas
							No Dec. 29 New Year's Eve

# Deacons

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



The Deacons began the new year meeting January 24<sup>th</sup>, thanking both Debbie May and Lana Kling from the Class of 2022 for their service and time with the Deacons. We happily welcomed Jack Miller to the class of 2025.

The Deacons discussed the many ways we can reach out to all our member needs, bringing Christ's love and care. We continue to reach out to members sending sympathy, get well and some birthday cards. We are continuing to keep in touch with our college students and in February we will purchase gift cards which will be mailed to the students in late February or early March.

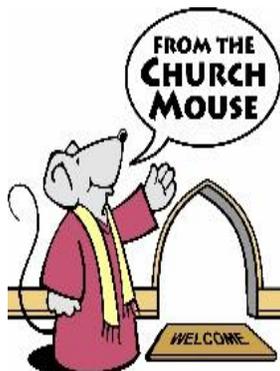
Stephen Ministry: Kathy Crump reported that she continues to send out grief books to those experiencing the loss of a loved one.

The Christmas Cookie Project was very successful. We made sure all our shut-ins and church staff received delicious homemade cookies.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: There are several shawls on hand. If you would like to give a shawl to someone, please contact Cindy Fair or a member of the Deacons. Do you like to knit or crochet and would like to make a prayer shawl? Please contact Cindy for all the details.

Upcoming - Easter Treats: The Deacons will prepare and deliver the Easter treats to all our shut-ins.

The Deacons are planning another Bake Sale for May 16<sup>th</sup> on election day. We will be sending additional information. We will need the help of our wonderful bakers and their delicious goodies!



## ***Deacon Officers for 2023:***

***Co-Moderators - Pam Adomaitis and Joyce Pratt  
Treasurer - Cheryl Pantano  
Secretary - Cindy Fair***

# Finance Committee

Finance Committee Notes:

## ***Our money is working for God's mission!***

We are pleased to announce that a new LED sign has been installed at our church (\$28,111) and is fully operational. This system enables us to project to the South Hills all the fine activities going on at our church. It says that we are alive, active and modern in our worship of God. Funding for the sign came from designated memorial funds and many generous people of the congregation. These designated funds could not be used for general operations.

Every so many years - about 10 years - the mortar between the brick covering our church needs to be sealed to keep moisture from seeping inside. Evidence of leakage often appears as a dark spot on the interior paint or even peeling of the paint. We are due for this remediation. Please consider helping with this next big project.

## ***Thanks for your continued support of our church - off to a good start for A.D. 2023!***

January 2023 Received Total Offerings	\$24,277
2023 YTD Budgeted Total Offerings	\$16,667
Difference	+\$7,610
2023 Budget Pledged/Unpledged Receipts	\$200,000
FYI - January 2023 Gas and Electric Bill	\$6,783

Potential 2023 "Pet Projects" for additional giving: Talents to our church include - grant writing and application for monetary support, mission work with SHIM and Malawi and donations toward the sealing of the outside brick (estimated at \$23,800).



***Helping to serve and support His mission  
at Bethel Presbyterian 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 spring events will include the following:

**Soup Sale:** As a fundraiser, we will have a Soup Sale on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please let our Committee know if you would like to make your favorite soup.

**Summer Resale:** On June 3, 2023, you will have an opportunity to rent a parking space at the church to sell any of your special treasures, (furniture, housewares, etc.) You can purchase a parking spot and will be responsible for selling your own items. Start saving your items for June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Kids Club:** We will be going to Homestead Presbyterian Church on Sunday afternoons in April to teach a Bible lesson, enjoy crafts, games and a snack. If you would like to join us, please contact a member of the Mission Committee.

**Mission Display:** We have designated the Marshall Road entrance as an area for you to see the different Mission projects which are going on throughout the church. Come and have a look! See how you would like to participate.

**City Mission:** There is a bin in the back parking lot of the church for donating clothing and shoes that will benefit homeless men, women, children and Veterans of Southwestern PA.

**Drop-Off Food Drive for SHIM:** A Community Food Drive is scheduled for the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. ***You can also bring in your donations the Sunday immediately following the Food Drive.***

**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. 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 Bulletins 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

# *Music and Worship Committee*

In the upcoming weeks, the church family is about to enter into one of the most holy and sacred times of the year. It is the period known as Lent and during this time of the year, Christians embrace the opportunity to step back and truly reflect upon our relationship with God and the sacrifices he made to save us all as sinners.

As musicians, it is one of the greatest times of the year to express our love for Christ and all that he has done for us through song and music. We hope that as members of the congregation, you will enjoy the music we have to offer on Sunday mornings, as well as the special services that will be occurring throughout the Lent and Holy Week Season.

This Lenten Season, in addition to performing every Sunday morning during our Classic 9:30 a.m. worship service, we will also be offering special music during the Holy Week leading into the celebration of Easter Sunday. We will be bringing special music on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, as well as a special worship service on Easter Sunday. The Holy Week will be our opportunity to combine the music of all of the talented musicians of the church to praise God for all he has given us, including the ultimate sacrifice. Music throughout Lent and Holy Week will include the Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, organ, piano and, of course, hymns, as a chance for the congregation to join in on the musical festivities. We hope that you will be able to make it out to see our very talented musicians perform as we are amidst one of the most holy seasons of the year!

On behalf of the entire Music Program at Bethel Presbyterian Church, we would like to wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Lent and Holy Week Season!



*Blessings,*

*Jason Wilcox,  
Director of Music and Worship*

# Spiritual Formation

As the weather gets warmer, we look forward to springtime, when the earth starts to wake up from its winter slumber. We have been fortunate so far this winter; it has been so mild; I wonder how spring will be. The gardens are already popping up! Springtime bulbs of daffodils, tulips, crocus - to name a few - are up and just waiting for some really warm days. They are sprouting from the earth, awake from their slumber, their rest! The colors will bring a smile to your face and the sun will bring warmth to your heart. This time of year always makes me think of the spiritual lives of people.

Dallas Willard was an American philosopher but was also known for his writings on Christian spiritual formation. He has written many books. Here is a quote from one of his books titled, *Renovation of the Heart*:

*Our soul is like a stream of water, which gives strength, direction and harmony to every other area of our life. When that stream is as it should be, we are constantly refreshed and exuberant in all we do because our soul itself is then profusely rooted in the vastness of God and his kingdom, including nature; and all else within us is enlivened and directed by that stream. Therefore, we are in harmony with God, reality and the rest of human nature and nature at large.*

We come to a juncture in our lives when we realize we need God. We believe, we have been taught, we worship. So how is your stream doing? In the Monday night study starting February 28<sup>th</sup>, author John Ortberg will focus on this question. It may come early in our life or maybe at the end of life but a time will come when you are faced with the decision to follow or not follow Jesus. Not just attend worship or help out in the many areas of life that you do. But in your soul, that space in your heart that is constantly yearning for the peace which surpasses all understanding. How you navigate that is between you and the Holy Spirit. Some say it is the Holy Spirit who will awaken this spirit journey in you; it cannot be achieved on our own.

As Jesus told his disciples in John 16:7-15, the coming of the Spirit is to your advantage. In Genesis 1:1-2 we see that the Holy Spirit has been around, well, since forever. He hovered over the waters. I see him as a wind swirling around doing his work. I still see him in my mind hovering over the land and us waiting for us to invite him in.

Pastor Cathie's teaching on the Names of God has been powerful to say the least. A few weeks ago, she taught us about the names Father - Son - Spirit one in three - always has been and always will be. No separation, different entities yet the same - the LORD ADONAI. My prayer is that you open your mind, heart and soul and that the Holy Spirit becomes an active part of your faith journey.

Peace,  
Barb



# Spiritual Formation

**From the Spiritual Growth Steering Team** (formerly known as the Congregational Life and Christian Education Committees) ...

Here is what we are up to as we head into the Lenten Season and spring and summer months:

**Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Please mark your calendars. We will gather at 5:30 p.m. for a simple meal of soup and bread prior to our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. We will have extra soup available for sale after the service. The cost is \$7.00 per quart. All proceeds will benefit Jennifer Hoines and her work at Therapy International.

## Small Groups:

Sunday Morning Groups will continue with their current studies during Lent. All are welcome to join at any time. They meet at 10:15 a.m.: the Women's Group meets in the McMillan Room; the Men's Group meets in the Quilters Room; Children meet in the Youth Room. *Thank you to all the leaders: Lora Spence, Dan Beckstrom and Pam Backstrom!*

The last day for Sunday School will be May 28<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost.

**Journeys Class** (discussion topical class) is the third Sunday of each month.

- ✚ February 19<sup>th</sup>, Ross Edwards continues his talk on the History of Jerusalem.
- ✚ March 19<sup>th</sup>, Seth Dubin will be here to speak on "All Things SHIM".

**Monday Night Study:** 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. No Bible knowledge ... no problem. Join us as we get to the heart of the matter - Jesus!

## Lent Study -

**New Study Begins February 27<sup>th</sup>:** John Ortberg will be discussing "*Soul Keeping*".

*Your soul's resting place is in God. John Ortberg wants to take you there. In this six-session, video-based Bible study, John Ortberg takes you on an exploration of the soul from the perspective of a wise guide who has struggled to understand and care for his own soul. Ortberg highlights his relationship with Dallas Willard, a "professor of the soul" and what he learned from this man in the midst of his own struggles and hardships. Ortberg shares his honest, funny, moving, insightful and tender journey with you so that you can better care for your own soul.*

**April 24<sup>th</sup> Study Begins:** Louie Giglio's study, "*Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table.*"

*In Psalm 23, David wrote that God has "prepared a table before me in the presence of my enemies." It's important to note that this table is set for two. Our enemy, the devil, is not intended to join us there. Yet, he seizes every opportunity to lie his way into our minds and claim control over our lives. He can cause our minds to spin out of control with thoughts that are unproductive, destructive and harmful. It is our responsibility to manage whose voices are at that table! Our Good Shepherd invites us to linger at this table and find nourishment, rest and deep intimacy with the King of the Universe. It's time to win the battle for your mind.*

# Spiritual Formation

**Small Group with Suzanne Gamble:** Meet at Suzanne's home at 7:00 p.m., as you peel back the layers of the week's sermon. Suzanne leads with insight and promotes a lively discussion - March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>. Contact Suzanne for directions to her home.

**Wednesday Morning Study:** The Names of God is just getting started. Join us at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings in the McMillan Room. No prior Bible knowledge is needed. All are welcome to join; friends are welcome and encouraged.

**Preteen Events:** Meet us in the Youth Room at 12:00 p.m. All students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> are welcome. Friends are always welcome and encouraged!

February 26<sup>th</sup>: *Escape Room Shenanigan's - Jesus' 12 Disciples.* It starts in the small, dusty towns near Capernaum ...

March 26<sup>th</sup>: *Lunch and a movie!*

April 23<sup>rd</sup>: *Mission Possible* - dress for the weather. We will be working outside in the gardens! Bring work gloves if you have them.

**Jesus, Legos and Me:** We continue until March 16<sup>th</sup>, with an Easter Egg Hunt and a dinner on March 30<sup>th</sup> to finish out the session! We will pick back up on September 28<sup>th</sup>. The children have learned about the Miracles in the Bible and are learning stories from the New Testament, Names of God and even the Lord's Prayer! *We want to thank all the hands that have come along side this Jesus filled night to help in every capacity! As this program continues to grow (we have 40 children on the rolls), we could not do it without YOU!* Looking for a way to grow in your spiritual walk? Join us anytime!

**Joyful Noise:** We are so very proud of the children and all the hard work they are putting into learning how to play the bells and singing to the Lord! We will have one more performance this session - mark your calendars for March 19<sup>th</sup> during the Classic Service. *The children thank Pam Backstrom and Pastor Cathie for their leadership!*

**Summer Bible Camp Formally Known as VBS - "Happy Campers":** We are entering a new venture this year. Thursday nights starting June 22<sup>nd</sup> - August 17<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., you have the opportunity to come meet, work and learn alongside the children of the community as we learn about Jesus! We need all hands on deck. There is room for everyone to help in some capacity! Look for the signups coming soon. Thank you for helping the children grow in their love for the LORD! They are on a faith journey much like us; we can be the hands and feet of Jesus teaching and growing!

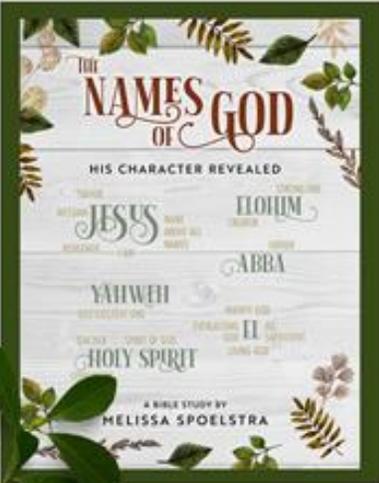
**Informational Gathering:** Looking to find answers about our faith here at BPC? Mark your calendars for April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will meet in the McMillan Room at 12:15 p.m. All are welcome!

**Save the Date:** Church Picnic - August 27<sup>th</sup>

**Steering Team:** Kristen Kiesling, Pam Backstrom (Chairs), Pat Brown, Cindy Fair, Suzanne Gamble, Jack and Diane Miller, Staff: Pastor Cathie Smith, Barb Clark

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Clark

# Bits & Pieces



ALL WELCOME!  
NEW STUDY...

## WEDNESDAYS

10:00 AM

BEGINNING FEB. 1  
MCMILLIAN ROOM

**THE NAMES OF GOD**  
HIS CHARACTER REVEALED

JESUS ELOHIM  
YAHWEH ABBA  
HOLY SPIRIT

A BIBLE STUDY BY  
MELISSA SPOELSTRA

# ASH WEDNESDAY

light soup dinner  
5:30 pm

# 2/22

service of ashes  
7:00 pm



**Grab & Go quarts of soup**  
Thursday, February 23  
Stop by the church office **\$7.00**

# Bits & Pieces

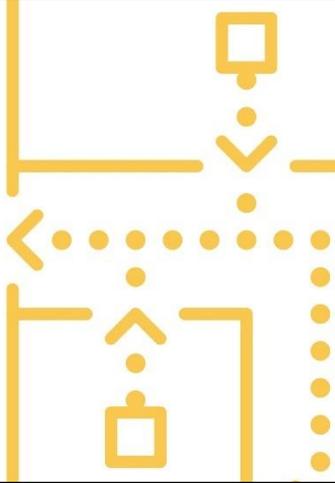
**BPC Preteen Youth Group**

## "Escape Room" Challenge

**Sun. Feb. 26 12-3 pm**

All 3-6th graders are invited to join in the shenanigans as we as we reveal the Parables of Jesus. Lunch provided. Friends are always welcome and encouraged!

Contact [barbclarkce.bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto:barbclarkce.bethelpc@gmail.com) with questions or to RSVP!!



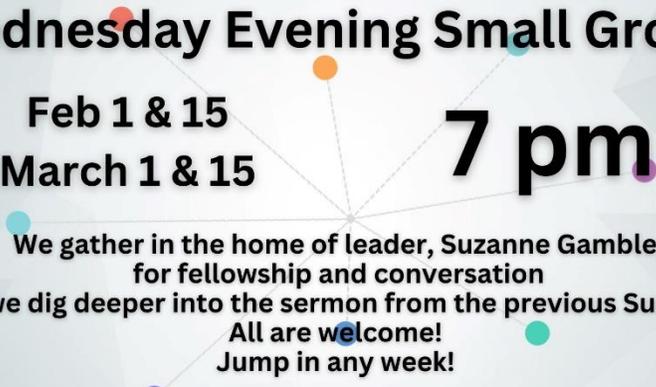
## Wednesday Evening Small Group

**Feb 1 & 15**  
**March 1 & 15**

# 7 pm

We gather in the home of leader, Suzanne Gamble, for fellowship and conversation as we dig deeper into the sermon from the previous Sunday. All are welcome! Jump in any week!

Any questions contact Suzanne at [sgamble5@verizon.net](mailto:sgamble5@verizon.net)



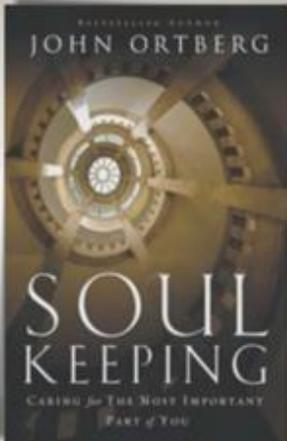
A new Monday evening small group begins...

## Feb. 27

### @7:00 pm

“A soul without a center feels constantly vulnerable to people and circumstances. But the *soul* comes alive when it is centered on God. John Ortberg”

[barbclarkce.bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto:barbclarkce.bethelpc@gmail.com)  
for more information



## *Bits & Pieces*



**Jesus, Legos, and Me**  
Winter Session  
January 12th to March 16th  
Thursdays at 5:00pm  
For more information  
Website:  
[www.bethelpresby.org](http://www.bethelpresby.org)  
or  
Call: 412-835-0405



### ***Chancel Flower Vases*** ***Preparing the Chancel Each Sunday with a Beautiful Vase of Flowers!***

When preparing the chancel flower calendar for 2023, I noted there are several Sundays still available. Please let me know if you want to sponsor a vase of beautiful flowers to remember a loved one, maybe a special anniversary, an upcoming special event or to honor a loved one. The cost of each vase of flowers is \$35. When you contact me, I will be happy to tell you all the Sundays available (Carol MacDonald at [cmacdnld@verizon.net](mailto:cmacdnld@verizon.net) or you can contact the church office at 412/835-0405).

***Carol MacDonald***

# Bits & Pieces



## New Address for Diane and Jack Miller

1505 Highland Drive  
Finleyville, PA 15332

Save  
the  
Date

**OUR MISSION COMMITTEE IS PLANNING AN EXCITING EVENT ... TRUNKS AND TREASURES SUMMER RESALE:** This event is scheduled for Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. See Page 8 for additional information. The Committee is still working on all the details and will update everyone as soon as everything has been confirmed.



**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.

**2023 PER CAPITA GIVING:** Do you know that each year Bethel Presbyterian Church supports the missions and services of the larger Presbyterian Church through our Per Capita offering? The Pittsburgh Presbytery, the Synod of the Trinity and the National Presbyterian Church U.S.A. are funded by these gifts from each member congregation. The Presbytery keeps an eye on the bigger picture serving needs such as poverty, disaster assistance, abuse and neglect, but the key source of funding is the Per Capita giving from each and every member of the Presbyterian Church. Bethel Presbyterian Church was the recipient in 2018 from disaster assistance for all the flooding in Bethel and we were able to help our neighbors financially.

Bethel Presbyterian Church's Per Capita assessment for 2023 is \$35.70 for each confirmed member of the congregation, totaling more than \$8,000. You can do your part and pay the \$35.70 all at once or throughout the year. ***If you don't pay, BPC still has to pay the larger Presbyterian Church for each confirmed member***, so we ask that you prayerfully consider and submit your family's expected contribution for each confirmed member and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Bethel Presbyterian Church is a very giving congregation and our offerings directly support dozens of local and global missions, as well as the needs of those in our own church family.

***In Christ's Service,  
BPC Finance Committee***

## *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](mailto:mdeangelis@artismgmt.com); 1001 Higbee Drive, Bethel Park, PA 15102.

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

**Helen Spence**, 812 Boulder Drive, Bethel Park, PA 15102.

**Country Meadows:** **Allene Crossman (#210)**, 3580 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017.

**Heritage Manor:** **Marilou Booth**, The Activities Director will see that the residents receive emails ([activities@heritagemanorsl.com](mailto: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.

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

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**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

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"ONLINE GIVING QR CODE"

*Wishing you a Blessed Easter, this is our time to reflect  
on the crucifixion of Our Lord and to celebrate His rising,  
to sit on the right hand of Our God and Father.*

*Please complete the following information to order your Chancel Easter Flowers.*

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. ____	2 Stem Lily Plant	\$19.00	\$ ____
No. ____	8" Pot of Tulips	\$17.00	\$ ____
No. ____	8" Pot of Hyacinths	\$17.00	\$ ____
No. ____	3 Stem Hydrangeas Plant	\$18.00	\$ ____

**ORDER DEADLINE - APRIL 2, 2023**



***In Memory Of:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***In Honor Of:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Given By:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Ordered By:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Telephone No.:*** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to Presbyterian Women.**

Place completed forms in the PW box in the volunteers' office or mail completed order forms to:

PW Bethel Presbyterian Church  
2999 Bethel Church Road  
Bethel Park, PA 15102  
Attention: Carol MacDonald

- ✚ Plants distributed following our Easter 10:30 a.m. Worship Service.
- ✚ Colors of plants are by growers' availability.
- ✚ Please give my plant to a shut-in \_\_\_\_\_.

# 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.*

We have been so fortunate to have such a mild winter and it's looking like we're heading into a mild spring as well. Life at Bethel feels normal again and more and more activities are being planned all the time.

We held a very successful Retreat for the first time since the Covid lockdown in 2020. We talked about Love, Rest and Listening. Thank you to Barb Clark for leading us.

Blanket Sunday is February 19<sup>th</sup>, but know that if you don't get to contribute then you will have time to before we send the money to Church World Services. We're sure with all the Turkey/Syria earthquake disasters, these supplies will be needed more than ever.

The big event for us coming up this spring will be the Teddy Bear Tea on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. We have already begun planning and will be looking to borrow some teddy bears and tea sets to complete the décor which will be held in the Auditorium. Further updates and announcements will be coming out with ticket sales in April.

After that event we will be planning our "Back to School Supply" collection for SHIM during the summer and, of course, planning for HOLIDAY-A-FAIR which is scheduled for Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. SAVE THE DATE!!!

## **PW CALENDAR**

### **PW Board**

*Second Tuesday of the Month  
7:30 p.m., McMillan Room  
March 14<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup>, May 9<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup>*

### **Mary & Martha Circle**

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

### **Teddy Bear Tea**

*May 20<sup>th</sup>, Details TBD*

Blessings,  
Pam Decker, Moderator

# Child Care News

It seems like just yesterday we were busy preparing for the holiday season and here we are now anticipating the arrival of spring. We know everyone here at Child Care is anxiously waiting to run and play in the sun.

We have had a busy winter in Child Care learning and playing with our friends and teachers. We have been able to get some exercise and burn off energy in the Auditorium while the snow and winter weather have taken over the playground.

The children have been working very hard on various crafts and lessons/themes for the winter such as penguins, bears, nursery rhymes, forest animals, snow and Valentine's Day. With literacy and early childhood education a focus of ours here in Child Care, we continue to love the library books that Miss Jane kindly brings to our center each and every week. We can't wait to celebrate Dr. Seuss week coming up at the end of February.

We have a busy spring planned ahead of us for our children. The following is a list of themes we will be talking about in Child Care in the upcoming months:

- March: Super Heroes, Music/Dance, Birds and Rabbits
- April: Spring, Weather, Fish, Circus and Zoo
- May: Mothers and Grandmothers, Gardens, Pets and Bugs
- June: Camping, Fathers and Grandfathers, Summer, the Beach and the USA

We hope everyone has stayed warm and healthy this winter and we wish everyone a bright and uplifting spring 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

Our Preschool children have had a lot of fun over the winter and are now looking forward to playing outdoors again! Some highlights that the children will look forward to this spring are: picture days in March, Miss Verna's visits, our Spring Fling on the evening of April 21<sup>th</sup> and Muffins in the Morning in all classes in May.

Preschool registration for the 2023-2024 school year is underway. We appreciate your help in spreading the word and recommending our Preschool to your families, friends and neighbors. As a reminder, our Preschool offers the following classes:

- ✚ Time for Two's Class on Friday Mornings
- ✚ 3 Year Old Classes on Tuesday and Thursday (AM and PM Class)
- ✚ 3-Day 4 Year Classes on Monday/Wednesday/Friday (AM and PM Class)
- ✚ 4-Day 4 Year Class on Mondays - Thursdays (AM Class Only)
- ✚ T-Class on Mondays - Thursdays (AM and PM Class)
- ✚ Lunch Bunch & Curious Kids Club (Five Days a Week)

We are hoping to hold our annual Spring Fling and Art Show on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The Gift Basket Auction at our Spring Fling Event helps raise funds for our Preschool Scholarship Fund which provides financial assistance to help families send their little ones to Preschool. Each year, through the support of PW and various donors, we are blessed to present reduced tuition to families who demonstrate a need. If you are interested, you too, can become a part of this worthwhile project by making a pledge or a one-time donation. Any contribution you make will be greatly appreciated by the families who need the help. In addition, if you know of a business or own a business that would be interested in making a donation of a service, item or gift card for our Raffle Baskets at the Spring Fling Event, please let us know.

As always, we thank you for your support, prayers and contributions to our Preschool.

***Spring and Easter Blessings to you!***



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

# March Birthdays

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

<b>MARCH</b>	1	Emerson Szott	4	Benjamin Smith
	9	Tina Hannigan	11	Beverly Fife Lacich
	11	Judith Shoemaker	12	Melissa Dunn
	14	Jason Kling	14	Jeff McGowan
	16	Jacob Daschbach	16	Carrie Virgin
	21	Kim Schaff	22	Sara Heidenreich
	22	Rebecca Long	23	Kimberly Reed
	25	Nate Lavezoli	27	Emily Doring
	30	Thomas Reed	31	Ashley Burford
	31	Melanie Ericson		



# April Birthdays

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

<b>APRIL</b>	1	Allene Crossman	1	Stacey Lucidore
	2	Jared Pratt	3	Ian Cashman
	4	Caleb Selle	5	Paula Barr
	7	Paul Pantano	7	Hunter Schaff
	8	Kenneth Niemeier	8	Jeffrey Zimmerman
	11	William Levis	12	Jameson McKinley
	14	Alicia Ericson	14	Marilyn Kunkle
	14	Brad Lucidore	16	Abigail Schultz
	17	Leslie Toci	19	William Brown
	19	Sarah Holt	21	Gabriella Sinatra
	24	James Hannigan	24	Emily Smith
	24	Asher Stroeck	25	Cody Long
	28	David Ericson	29	Barbara Jay
	29	Tony Palumbo		



# May Birthdays

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

<b>MAY</b>	1	Jean Smith	2	Diane Miller
	3	Kim Anderson	5	Joyce Pratt
	7	Morgan Boehm	7	Jamie Hannigan
	7	Melissa Zeiler	8	Daniel Wade
	10	Lillian Schoenberger	11	Robert Daschbach
	12	Jessica Placke	14	Nolan Crump
	14	Christina Davin	18	Barbara Schnabel
	18	Matt Selle	18	Genna Wittman
	19	Gary May	21	Samuel Zimmerman
	23	Michele Cobb	26	Brandon Ericson
	26	Robert Smith	27	Geoffrey Backstrom
	28	Kim Long	28	Deborah Smith
	30	Frank Jackson	31	Marilou Booth
	31	Seibert Drummond		



# *Our Blanket of Prayer | The Military and Families*



**OUR BLANKET OF PRAYER:** Gary Bittner, Marilou Booth, Everleigh Burns (Carl Bonanni's great-granddaughter), Dawn Clibbens (Carole Legleitner's daughter), Michele Cobb, Marilyn DeHuff, Linda Dermotta (Carl Bonanni's daughter), Pete Edwards, Melanie Ericson, Ginny Flynn, Pat Kaczmarek, Susan Black Keim (Elma Black's daughter), Steve Kloc, Dick Kraft, Mel Lacich, Kim Long, Angus MacDonald, Emily Parise, George Ritchie, Kim Reed, Wendy Roithner, Fred Shoemaker, Sally Sinatra, Jean Smith, 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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)

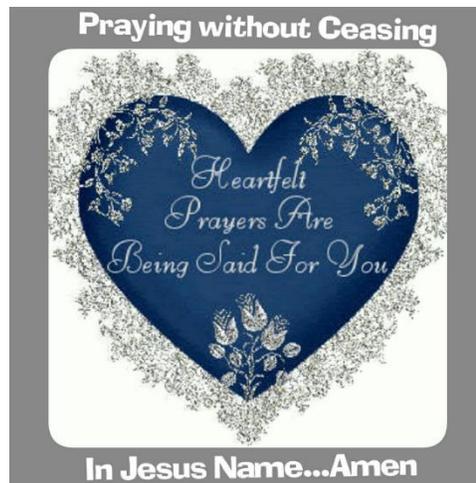
**SFC David Williams**, Army Recruiter  
(Son of Gregory Williams, stepson of Deborah {Werner} Williams)  
has been promoted to Station Commander of the Burlington  
Recruiting Office in Burlington, VT)



**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 Brandenburg/Ericson family on the loss of Art Brandenburg, to the DeFurio family on the loss of Shawn Lambert (Sueann's nephew), to the MacDonald/Vandevander family on the loss of Sheila Vandevander, to the MacLachlan/Placke family on the loss of Louise MacLachlan (Amy Placke's mother), to the Murphy family on the loss of Patrice Dokmanovich (Nichole Murphy's sister-in-law), to the Paupa family on the loss of Charleene Paupa, to the Rhodes family on the loss of Gloria Meinert (Marian's sister), to the Roithner family on the loss of Carolyn Butterworth (Wendy's mother) and to the Smith family on the loss of Mabel Gay Smith (Mike Smith's mother). 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](http://www.bethelpresby.org)  
Email: [bethelpres@verizon.net](mailto:bethelpres@verizon.net)

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Cathie Smith, 412/965-4253 or [pastorcathie.bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcathie.bethelpc@gmail.com)  
**Director of Spiritual Formation:** 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  
**Maintenance/Custodian:** Russ Young (Night), 412-835-0405

# Church Committees

## CHURCH PRESIDENT OF TRUSTEE/ CORPORATION

*Dan Beckstrom - 2023*

## CLERKS OF SESSION

*Barbara Jay - 2023*

*Robin Macherey - 2023*

## COMMITTEES FOR 2023

### Finance Committee

*Cliff Decker - Chair - 2023*

Fred Shoemaker - Treasurer

Dan Beckstrom - 2023

Kristen Kiesling - 2024

Mike Smith - 2024

Nancy Carr - Staff

Cathie Smith - Head of Staff

### Mission Committee

*Barbara Jay - Chair - 2023*

Larry Jay - 2025

Debi Hodill

Debbie May

Joyce Pratt

Barb Clark - Staff

Cathie Smith - Head of Staff

### Nominating Committee

*Dan Beckstrom - Chair - 2023*

Linda Jones

Morry Lindsay

Pam Rawlings

Cathie Smith - Head of Staff

### Personnel Committee

*Carl Parise - Chair - 2024*

Conrad Adomaitis - 2023

Larry Jay - 2025

Cathie Smith - Head of Staff

## Spiritual Growth Steering Team

*Kristen Kiesling - Co-Chair - 2024*

*Pam Backstrom - Co-Chair - 2024*

Pat Brown

Cindy Fair

Suzanne Gamble

Diane Miller

Jack Miller

Barb Clark - Staff

Cathie Smith - Head of Staff

## Supportive Services and Technology

*Dan Beckstrom - Chair - 2023*

Pam Decker

Gary May

Joel Smith

Cathie Smith - Head of Staff

## Worship & Music

*Judy Ritchie - Chair - 2024*

Angel Jackson - 2025

Robin Macherey - 2023

Leanne Parise

Jason Wilcox - Staff

Cody Soska - Staff

Cathie Smith - Head of Staff

## OTHER GROUPS

**Deacons:** Pam Adomaitis/Joyce Pratt

**Stephen Ministers:** Kathy Crump

**Presbyterian Women:**

Pam Decker - Moderator

# Church Officers

## SESSION

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

## ELDERS

### Class of 2023

Conrad Adomaitis  
Dan Beckstrom  
Cliff Decker  
Barbara Jay  
Robin Macherey

### Class of 2024

Pam Backstrom  
Kristen Kiesling  
Carl Parise  
Judy Ritchie  
Mike Smith

### Class of 2025

Angel Jackson  
Larry Jay

## DEACONS

### Class of 2023

Marilyn Beckstrom  
Cindy Fair  
Diane Miller

### Class of 2024

Pat Brown  
Joanne Ericson  
Pat Kaczmarek  
Ted Keenan  
Carol MacDonald

### Class of 2025

Pam Adomaitis  
Jack Miller  
Cheryl Pantano  
Joyce Pratt

