



BETHANY CHURCH
OF BERWICK
116 Summerhill Avenue
Berwick, Pennsylvania 18603

BETHANY BEACON


Mission Statement: We are a Beacon for God—

Helping people to see, to accept and to grow in the light of Jesus Christ

VOLUME FIFTY-NINE

AUGUST 2023

ISSUE—SIX



“Anyone who
loves me will
obey my teaching.
My Father
will love them,
and we will ...
make our home
with them.”

JOHN 14:23, NIV

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PayPal available for gifts and tithes on our
website.

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Thy will be done

Placing ourselves completely into God's hands can be challenging. If you need help in that area, pray these words from Thomas à Kempis: "Lord, you know what is best. May your will decide what shall be done. Give what you will, how much you will and when you will. Do what you know is best for me. Do what pleases you and brings your name most honor.

"Put me where you will, and deal with me in all things as you please. I am in your hand — turn me backwards and forwards, turn me upside down. Here I am, your servant, ready for anything, for I have no desire to live for myself but only to live perfectly and worthily for you."



Short Term Prayer Concerns

Melody Thomas, Madge Stump, Pam Pearson, Eli Stump, Joshua Flook, Bob-Diane-Family, Austin, Renee Ptashinski, Lisa Hubley, Chris, Sally Evans, Carl Kishbaugh, Howard Martz, Dorothea Peters, Joyce Noroski

Please note: If you would like someone to be moved to the long-term list, please contact the church office.

Long-Term Prayer Concerns

Wendy McClintock, Isabel Bower, Jennie Bedford, Shirley Hornberger, Kim Varner, Marlene Eckrote, Jim & Carol Zeart, Kim Kishbaugh, Warren Wolfe, Edna Mae Belles, Kent Williams, Joan Laubach, Rosemary Martz, Joe Phillips, Sr., Betty Morgan, Karen Hunsinger, Bill Mausteller, Billy Robbins, Samantha Scoblink, Nick Pritchky, Joyce Noroski, Mike Mattern, Esther Bower, Charlotte Laytar, Dick and Bethann Savage, Eric Black, Al Roberts, Judy Harvey, Kelly Eyer, Joan Harmon, Tod Locher, Carmella Picarello, Gloria Varner, Jackie Fisher, Gary Fisher

... he will
**SPEAK
PEACE**
to his people,
to his faithful,
to those who
turn to him
in their
HEARTS.



Psalm 85:8, NRSV

It's Official: We Are Bethany Church of Berwick

You may have noticed some changes around the church. Signage, bulletins and other materials reflect our new name: Bethany Church of Berwick! Following a June 29 closing meeting, Bethany's disaffiliation is complete and we are part of the Global Methodist Church.

One thing that won't change, at least for now, is the hymnals. Those belong to Bethany, and we will continue to use them for the time being.

Pastor search: Please keep the church in prayer as we work with GMC leaders to find a new pastor to lead us into this next phase of ministry. In the interim, we will enjoy a variety of guest pastors and lay speakers. We're grateful to those who have stepped up to share their talents and serve in this way. Please make sure to share your appreciation!

Financial update: Financial accounts have been transferred to Bethany Church of Berwick. In a July 30 presentation, council updated the congregation on our financial status. Disaffiliation costs were substantial. While we have some reserves, we are considering options to keep us on firm financial footing.

On average, monthly expenses outpace giving. This leaves us with a shortfall that is not sustainable in the long term. Please prayerfully consider your stewardship so we can not only maintain but grow discipleship efforts for the future.

In addition, council is evaluating three potential options to rebuild reserves: a fundraising campaign, applying for a Federal Employee Retention Tax Credit grant, and sale of the parsonage. Note that congregational approval would be required to sell the parsonage.

Continued prayers: Please remember to keep our Bethany family in prayer through this transition as we seek God's direction. If you have questions, please reach out to any council member.

Christ still calls us

The rugged hills of Galilee drop down to meet the sea
Where burly men still mend their nets, still fish there eagerly.

The sea's the same place where Christ said, "Lay down your nets and heed
My call to love all people, and serve them in their need."

"I'll help you fish for humankind," he told them long ago.
His call's still heard, His help's still real today, as we well know.

Yes, people still are leaving "nets" wherever they might be,
And as disciples still go forth to serve Christ willingly.

—Peggy Ferrell

Students and Teachers are encouraged to bring their backpack to church on Sunday, August 27 to receive a blessing for the new school year.



August

God in his own right hand doth take each day —
each sun-filled day — each rare and radiant night,
and drop it softly on the earth and say:
“Touch earth with heaven’s own beauty and de-
light.”

—Jean Blewett (1862-1934)



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 8/02 Murray Arbegast, Maggie Seely
- 8/09 Emaley Bacher, Mary Lee Hunsinger,
Jade Volkert
- 8/10 Jonathan Phillips
- 8/11 Diane Clemons, Joe Phillips, Sylvia Seely,
Barry Volkel
- 8/14 Kathy Brown, Megan Lazar
- 8/15 Isabel Bower, Griffin Keller, Lisa Seely
- 8/16 Ronald Earl
- 8/17 Quinn Bowman, Dylan Francis
- 8/18 Michael Mowery
- 8/20 Sarah Schenkel
- 8/24 Ronald Sult, Carol Zeart
- 8/25 Bonnie Knolla
- 8/26 Hope Sullivan
- 8/28 Samuel Shelhamer
- 8/30 Tyler Hazlett



Bethany United Methodist Church
Peacemakers Prayer Support Ministry

Matthew 5:9

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.**

General Prayer for Departments:

- Borough of Berwick Police Department
- Briar Creek Township Police Department
- Salem Township Police Department
- Nescopeck Borough Police Department
- Columbia County Sheriff's Office
- South Centre Township Police Department
- PA State Police Shickshinny Station

Specific Daily Prayer for Officers: August 2023

- Officer Shawn Timbrell
 - Sergeant Stephen LeVan
 - Deputy Kristie Rospendowski
 - Kristen Cunnington, Patrolman
 - Deputy Michael Tkach
 - Officer Kyle Trenholm
 - Deputy James Dalton
 - Officer Joseph Gainley
 - Deputy Kevin Bradley
 - Officer Michael Klinetob
 - Vincent Figureido, Patrolman
 - Officer Raymond Thonkinson, III
 - Detective Gregory Martin
 - Sgt. Thomas Hegland
 - Officer Joshua Switzer
 - Deputy Michael Beyer
 - Officer Joshua Lowery
 - Tyler Soboleski, Patrolman
 - Officer Brandon Shultz
 - Deputy James Arter
 - Officer Steven Torres
 - Officer Scott Sienkiewicz
 - William Lefevre, Patrolman
 - Officer Victor Guevara
 - Detective Reagan Rafferty
 - Deputy Kevin Katch
 - Officer Phil Mainiero
 - Officer Michael Quaranta
 - Officer Riley Robinette
 - Clinton Libby, Patrolman
 - Lee Pitonyak, Patrolman

Missions & Evangelism

Extra Mile Giving for August is going to Your Loving Choices

August's Extra Mile Giving will go to Your Loving Choices. Your Loving Choices is a Christian ministry promoting life as given from God, offering loving support to those facing unplanned pregnancies, providing education about the life-giving options of adoption and parenting, conveying God's healing to those traumatized by abortion, and advocating abstinence as the only true prevention of sexual crises. Envelopes are available at the Information Desk.

Extra Mile 2023 Giving as of 7/26/2023

Agape	\$ 311.80
Beyond Violence	\$ 235.00
Boy Scout Troop 6	\$ 220.00
CCVIM	\$ 336.35
Cliff Center	\$ 190.00
For the Cause	\$ 260.00
Krista Hartenbach	\$ 1,236.05
Peanut Butter & Jelly	\$ 1.00
Peacemaker's Ministry	\$ 100.00
Unseth's	\$ 731.00



When we least deserve love

“Love me when I least deserve it,” says a Swedish proverb, “because that’s when I really need it.” My mom recounts how my 1-year-old sister, scooting around in a walker, somehow got hold of and spilled a loosely capped bottle of cooking oil. As Mom cleaned up, my sis scooted into the bathroom and unwound all the toilet paper.

Mom went to investigate the ruckus, and as she respooled the TP, my sister went back to the kitchen, pulled crackers out of a lower cupboard, tossed them on the floor and drove over them — in the remaining oil. At that point, Mom decided it was naptime! Yet I know Mom laid her little one in her crib with tender love. After a rest, they’d start afresh.

In John 21, the risen Jesus addresses Peter, who had denied him three times the night of Jesus’ arrest. But Jesus didn’t treat Peter harshly. In love, the Savior offered his disciple a fresh start. So too, when we’re at our worst, hurting God’s heart by hurting others and creation, God loves us all the more. He loves us into a fresh start — even, and especially, when we least deserve it.

Be
kind

Puzzle!

Fill in the blanks with the correct words. Then transfer the letters to the numbered boxes below to complete Psalm 107:1, NIV.

Shape that symbolizes love 31 15 7 18 5

Part of a stove used for baking 12 3 24 39

Color made by red and yellow 28 42 7 8 27 37

A present 1 32 20 11

Clothing a girl wears 19 22 43 44 33

Something you open to go into a room 40 29 17 47

Opposite of soft (sound) 34 17 41 30

To take a long walk 14 2 9 38

A high body temperature 45 50 49 48 42

Items used to build or fix things 13 35 21 16 26

Edge of the sea 10 23 46 51 4

Home for a bee 6 25 36 4

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9	10		11	12		13	14	15
	16	17	18	19		20	21	22
	23	24		25	26		27	28
29	30		31	32	33		34	35
36	37		38	39	40	41	42	43
44		45	46	47	48	49	50	51

Answer: heart, oven, orange, gift, dress, door, loud, hike, fever, tools, shore, hive; Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1, NIV

THANK
YOU

Thank you so
much for the gift
card. Love you guys &

-Lauren Rauch

My Church Family,

Thank you for the years of prayer,
blessings, and support. I hope to make
all of you proud as I enter this next
chapter of my life.

Thank you,
Gwyn Noroski

6-12-2023

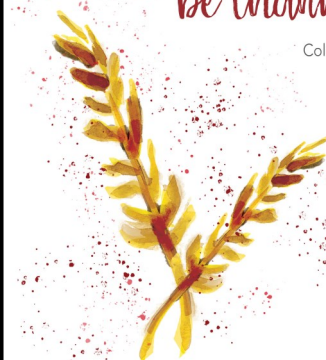


Bethany United Church,
thank you for your generous donation
to Troop 6. This money was used to
help some of our scouts go to camp
this summer. It also allowed us to
keep scouting this summer. Thank you
for all your support.

Scott Hark
Scoutmaster
Troop 6

And let the
peace of Christ
rule in your hearts...
and
be thankful

Colossians 3:15



Bethany Church
116 Summerhill Avenue
Berwick, PA 18603

July 11, 2023

Dear Church Friends,


I'd like to thank you for the beautiful birthday card you sent me in June, and thanks to all the people who signed it. It arrived on the day of my birthday and was a really nice surprise. I enjoyed receiving it and reading the names of all the people who signed it. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness.

Enclosed please find a check for \$ for the Church to use where needed most.

Sincerely,

Paul Davis

Paul Davis




Use simple ingredients and your imagination to bake these fluffy, cloud-like treats.

What you need:

- 3 egg whites
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- Mixer
- 2 Tbsp. powdered sugar
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- Parchment paper

What you do:

1. Preheat oven to 300°. In a mixing bowl, combine egg whites and vanilla. Whisk eggs with mixer at medium speed until frothy.
2. While whisking, gradually add sugar and cornstarch. Keep whisking at high speed until stiff peaks form.
3. Spoon mixture onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Create fun shapes.
4. Bake 20 minutes. Cool and enjoy!



PUZZLE

Creator of the stars

The stars and sky testify to God’s amazing power and creativity.

Directions: Use the clues and Bible passages to fill in the blanks. Then transfer the circled letters (in order) to the spaces below to complete a verse of praise.

God determines this and calls each star by name. (Psalm 147:4)

The heavens are the work of God’s what? (Psalm 8:3)

What does God bring out one by one? (Isaiah 40:26)

God made two great lights to do this. (Genesis 1:16)

God promised Abraham this would be like the stars. (Genesis 15:5)

The sun, moon and stars have this. (1 Corinthians 15:41)

The lights in the sky serve as what? (Genesis 1:14)

The heave__s declare the __lory __f __od;
the ski__s __roc__aim the wo__k of his ha__ds.

PSALM 19:1, NIV

Answer: number, fingers, host, govern, offspring, splendor, signs; The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1, NIV

God is watching

In the cafeteria line one day, a seminary dean noticed a bowl of big, juicy oranges. A sign by it read, “Take only one. God is watching you!” At the other end of the lunch line sat a large plate of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. Beside it was a hastily scrawled note, likely from a hungry student: “Take as many cookies as you want. God is back there watching the oranges.”

The message behind that good-natured irreverence? If you believe that God’s sight is limited to one place, then your idea of God is too small!


—adapted from *The Wired Word*

Save-worthy

I was teaching a junior high Sunday school class about salvation and that age-old question, “Are you saved?” Before diving in, I asked the students what they collect and why. Answers included sports cards, coins, stamps and rocks — items you may have saved as a child too. We save because items seem special or interesting to us. Collecting implies worth and a desire to keep something safe.

In our class, that led to discussion about what it feels like to be saved by or for Jesus ... to be the “savee” instead of the “saver.” How amazing that God deems us special, interesting and worthy of safekeeping. We are God’s precious, well-loved “collection,” and he’s reserving space and preparing a place for each one of us.

—Julie Lee

August 2023						◀ Jul 2023	Sep 2023 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 8 am TOPS (SGR)	2 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)	3 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	4	5	
6 Pulpit – Pastor Joe Brady 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR)	7 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	8 8 am TOPS (SGR)	9 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)	10 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	11	12	
13 Pulpit – Pastor Jonh Lee/Gary Bowman 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR)	14 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	15 8 am TOPS (SGR)	16 PBJ Carepack distribution 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)	17 6:30 pm Church Council (SGR) 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	18 8 am Lifeline Screening (BR)	19	
20 Pulpit – Jeff Girtton/Angel Kishbaugh 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR)	21 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	22 8 am TOPS (SGR)	23 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)	24 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	25	26	
27 Pulpit – Greg Martz 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR)	28 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	29 8 am TOPS (SGR)	30 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)	31 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	