

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

DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024

ISSUE—TEN



Christmas Eve Sunday

9:00 am Combined Worship Service (with Junior Church)

Guest Speaker — Retired Pastor Ralph Hartenbach

10:00 am Sunday School

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Children's Christmas Eve Service

7:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Guest Speaker — Angel Kishbaugh

BETHANY STAFF

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Paul Miller, Custodian Home: 570-759-1456

George Miller, Church Access: 570-218-2533

Beverly Collins, Pianist

Ronald Sult, Treasurer

Website: www.bethanyberwick.org

Church Van Ministry: 272-250-9862

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New Address!

[https://www.facebook.com/
bethanychurchofberwick/](https://www.facebook.com/bethanychurchofberwick/)

Advent meanings

During Advent, which begins this year on December 3, many churches and families use wreaths to symbolize watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Colors for the candles vary, with some traditions using blue (for hope or creation) and others preferring purple (for royalty, humility or penitence).

The four candles that each represent a week in Advent also signify hope, peace, joy and love. (The third candle is often pink.) In the center is the white Christ candle, representing Jesus as the light of the world. That candle is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The round, green Advent wreath has special meaning of its own. It symbolizes eternal life and the unending love of God, who sent his only Son to earth to die in our place.



Short Term Prayer Concerns

Hazel Eckart, Harvey Eckart, Deb Springman, A Family in Turmoil, Pat Leach, Randy Peters, Dorothea Peters, Adrienne Bowers, Joshua, Christine Reaser, Dean Bowman, John Ptashinski, Tammy Kline Smith and Brandy, Marge Seewagen, Sandy Slowick

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, Donna Stubbs, Sam Miller, Shirley Hornberger, Kim Varner, Marlene Eckrote, Jim & Carol Zeart, Kim Kishbaugh, Warren Wolfe, Edna Mae Belles, Kent Williams, Rosemary Martz, Joe Phillips, Sr., Betty Morgan, Karen Hunsinger, Bill Mausteller, Billy Robbins, Samantha Scoblink, Nick Pritchuk, Renee Ptashinski, Mike Mattern, Esther Bower, John Ptashinski, Joan Harmon, Dick and Bethann Savage, Carmella Picarello, Judy Harvey, Edna McClintock, Gloria Varner, Eric Black, Tod Locher, Lisa Hubley, Gary Fisher, Pastor Ed Cope, Jackie Fisher, Tammy Smith, Frances Houseknecht, Pam Price

Sympathies for the families of:
Joyce Noroski, Donald Fox, Thomas Karem

Another year for God

Another year is dawning; dear Father, let it be,
in working or in waiting, another year with thee.

Another year of progress, another year of
praise,
another year of proving thy presence all the
days.

Another year of service, of witness for thy love;
another year of training for holier work above.

Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,
on earth, or else in heaven, another year for
thee.

—Frances Ridley Havergal



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12/03 Sally Campbell
- 12/04 Wayne Kishbaugh
- 12/06 Morgan Lisnock
- 12/07 Judy Harvey, Michael Lisnock
- 12/08 Michael Forsythe
- 12/09 Lance Locher
- 12/10 Dale Clemons
- 12/12 Aaron Cope, Lori Scandle
- 12/13 Keith Hess
- 12/15 Karen Hunsinger, Jessica Shultz
- 12/16 Hazel Eckart
- 12/17 Marlene Eckrote, Donald Shiner
- 12/19 Kelly Noroski, Dorothy Reimel,
Christopher Sult
- 12/22 Lydia Bacher
- 12/24 Trudy Johnson, Christine Shaffer
- 12/25 Joel Shiner
- 12/26 Eli Patel
- 12/27 Jenny Lemon, Thomas McClintock
- 12/28 David Winship
- 12/29 Luke Sult
- 12/30 Sandy Eckart
- 12/31 Steven Erb



Bethany Church of Berwick 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: December 2023

1. Kristen Cunnington, Patrolman
2. Deputy Michael Tkach
3. Officer Kyle Trenholm
4. Deputy James Dalton
5. Officer Joseph Gainley
6. Deputy Kevin Bradley
7. Officer Michael Klinetob
8. Vincent Figureido, Patrolman
9. Officer Raymond Thonkinson, III
10. Detective Gregory Martin
11. Sgt. Thomas Hegland
12. Officer Joshua Switzer
13. Deputy Michael Beyer
14. Officer Joshua Lowery
15. Tyler Soboleski, Patrolman
16. Officer Brandon Shultz
17. Deputy James Arter
18. Officer Steven Torres
19. Officer Scott Sienkiewicz
20. William Lefevre, Patrolman
21. Officer Victor Guevara
22. Detective Reagan Rafferty
23. Deputy Kevin Katch
24. Officer Phil Mainiero
25. Officer Michael Quaranta
26. Officer Riley Robinette
27. Clinton Libby, Patrolman
28. Lee Pitonyak, Patrolman
29. Deputy Anthony Kopitski
30. Officer Randy Gaugler
31. Dallas Herbert, Patrolman



- 1/01 Alfred Houseknecht
- 1/05 Natalie Mowery
- 1/06 Sandy Slowick
- 1/07 Linda Cain, Becky Jo Kelchner
- 1/09 Roland Seybert
- 1/11 Sheri McClafin
- 1/12 Frances Houseknecht, Corey Klinger
- 1/13 Jason Nowakoski
- 1/14 Ralph Hartenbach
- 1/17 Willis Forsythe, Elizabeth Leffler,
Bella Winship
- 1/19 Eden Covino
- 1/21 Kim Volkel, Marc Wynings
- 1/26 Carl Gordner
- 1/27 Linda Hughes, Arthur Leffler
- 1/28 Billyett Hess, Nikki Shiner
- 1/29 Mike Harmon
- 1/31 Damian Robak

God's peaceable kingdom

Once in a while — too seldom, it seems, but often enough to give us hope — Isaiah's prophecy comes true: "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together ... The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together" (Isaiah 11:6-7, NRSV).

In February 2022, a Minnesota photographer captured a rare event: a wolf and a deer lying feet from each other in the snow — and neither was eating the other! Occasionally we hear of Palestinians and Israelis partnering to teach peacemaking skills, a rally protester helping an injured counter-protester, a crime victim and perpetrator embracing. A divorced couple I know, deeply estranged, decided they could sit together at their son's high school graduation to demonstrate their love for him.

In a world sadly torn apart, glimpses of mending, tolerance and love are signs of God among us. Isaiah (11:6) declares what makes such goodness possible: "A little child shall lead them." We know this child as the babe of Bethlehem, Jesus.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

**Bethany Church of Berwick
Peacemakers Prayer Support Ministry**

Matthew 5:9

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for they will be called sons of God.**

General Prayer for Departments:

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- Briar Creek Township Police Department**
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- Columbia County Sheriff's Office**
- South Centre Township Police Department**
- PA State Police Shickshinny Station**

Specific Daily Prayer for Officers: January 2024

1. Patrolman Brenton Bacon
2. Deputy William Miner
3. Officer Jeremy Mulders
4. Deputy Heather Comstock
5. Officer Jessica Shoup
6. Elizabeth Whitenight
7. Officer Philip Schlegel
8. Deputy Dale Stokes
9. Officer Henry Roote
10. Sgt. Tyler Miller-Stephens County, TX
11. Patrolman Mason Dabulis
12. Officer Joseph Loyacono
13. Dustin Sabol, Patrolman
14. Deputy Dale Coombe
15. Chief Kenneth Strish
16. Thomas D. Frace, Chief of Police
17. Chief Richard Haraschak III
18. Assistant Chief Troy Maneval
19. Chief William Richendrfer
20. Jarrod Noss, Criminal Investigator
21. Officer Christopher Kelchner
22. Sheriff Timothy Chamberlain
23. Chief Michael McNeal
24. Chief Deputy Earl "Skip" Mordan
25. Sgt. Marc Fedder
26. Sarah Klingaman
27. Deputy Scott Mayernick
28. Officer Shawn Timbrell
29. Sergeant Stephen LeVan
30. Deputy Kristie Rospendowski
31. Kristen Cunnington, Patrolman

Getting to Know Pastor John Leek

John Wesley Leek wants everyone to know the basics of faith and discipleship.

“Jesus said we come to him like children,” he explains. “We're the ones who overcomplicate it.”

His own path took unexpected turns. Though Pastor John shares a name with the founder of Methodism, he didn't become a Christian until his second year as a casino management major at the University of Southern Mississippi. He attended Asbury Theological Seminary after an employer and others helped him recognize that God was calling him to ministry.

Pastor John sees in Bethany Church a heart for community, for building up Christ's body together, and for serving beyond the church walls. “I can see that in all your mission projects. I really see that in the big commitments you have made in caring for and building up kids. I also see in you courage.”

In his first few months in Berwick, he plans to focus on preaching Jesus and getting to know the congregation. Individual and small group meetings will allow him to hear what people love most about Bethany and where God may be stirring hearts for future ministry.

With two small boys and a newborn, Pastor John and wife Abby focus any free time on the family. “We try to do something outside every day, and the boys and I love reading books together. I've learned a lot about trains and all kinds of construction equipment in the past few years!”

He would love for some Bethany members to share their talents and hobbies. “I'd also love to get back to regular exercise at the gym and hope to join the YMCA.”

He cites Proverbs 27:17: “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” “Perhaps some of your especially active folks will provide some accountability!”

Five Things Pastor John Has Learned in Ministry

When you see a gift in someone, point it out!

“It was an employer who pointed out that I was called to ministry. By God's grace, I came to agree with him. Only then did I find out many others had the same impression but hadn't said anything.”

God is active in the world and changes people and circumstances all the time.

“I've seen too much to doubt. I've seen people young and old written off where God said, ‘Not yet!’ I've witnessed miracles. Our challenge is to have eyes to see what he's already doing.

People rarely become disciples of Jesus by accident.

“Simple things done consistently are what brings growth. Find ways to spend intentional time with God and with other people who love Jesus; those are the building blocks that everything else flows from.”

The great commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is our job, but the great commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) is who we are.

“We are called to be people who are being made new and into the likeness of God's son, Jesus. What I like most already about Berwick in general and Bethany Church in particular is the kind and generous attitude you share.”

The Holy Spirit will lead us in what we are to do.

“I believe the vision for what comes in the next season will emerge from God speaking to many, and I'll be listening to hear what the Holy Spirit may be speaking through your combined time with Him.”

Missions & Evangelism

Extra Mile Giving for December will be in support of The Shaffer House Ministry Expenses

Our Extra Mile Giving for December will be in support of the Shaffer House Ministry expenses. Your donations will help offset the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the Shaffer House (expenses: Insurance, maintenance of the building, garbage, and water).

Extra Mile Giving for January will go to AGAPE

Our Extra Mile Giving for January will be going to AGAPE of Bloomsburg. They provide food and other valuable ministries to our local communities. Giving envelopes for both months are available at the Information Desk in the Main Entrance hallway or on the Angel card table

PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY CAREPACK MINISTRY

The mission team continues to do the Peanut Butter and Jelly Care Pack Ministry the 3rd Wednesday of every month. We have been placing about 20 care packs in the pink totes at the drive thru area and distributing the ones that are left to the food pantry boxes around town. When donations don't come in, this is paid for by the mission fund. Your continued support would be appreciated with donations of peanut butter and jelly or monetary gifts.

List of the items needed for the Little Pantry locations

We are hoping the church as a whole might be willing to help with donations of the things we need. This has been an ongoing project. Here are some things we need:

Individually wrapped granola bars, breakfast bars, cereal bars and similar.

Ramen noodles, soups, instant lunch soups, nuts, tuna pouches, individual packs of crackers, fruit cups

Hygiene products, Individually wrapped toilet paper, Hand sanitizer, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste

Towels and washcloths, Soap, Drawstring garbage bags (large or kitchen size),

Large or XL ziplock bags,

Tote bags--the reusable kind from grocery stores and similar. These can be used or new.



Free Clothing Give Away

We will be having a clothing giveaway in the Big Room on December 2nd from 9-12. We would appreciate your help sorting clothes that come in. We need help with the setup on Friday, December 1 at 5:30pm and on Saturday. Please see Ashely Wojciechowski with any questions or concerns.

Giving Tree

Our Next Giving Tree will be December 9th at 9am. We will be meeting by Subway on Front Street. Please come help hang clothing on the trees. Your donations of warm clothing items are appreciated.

We really could use children's' warm items especially boy's and men's. We have plenty of women's. Coats would be great for kids and men.





Tyler Hazlett pictured with all the bags of food items he donated to Bethany Church's Harvest Home collection.

"Let's go on a shopping spree to fill some food pantries in our area. SOUTHERN TIGER FOOTBALL and CHEERLEADERS with [Bethany Church Berwick](#) "GO TO IT TEAM" partners in making food pantries full tonight." by Tyler Hazlett

Tyler Hazlett participated in a fundraiser with the Southern Columbia Football and Cheerleading Teams. As the winner of the fundraiser, he won a shopping spree at Boyers' Market in Mount Carmel.

He collected \$400.00 worth of food items during his shopping spree and because he was donating his winnings to a community food pantry, Boyers' Market gave him \$600.00 in gift cards to buy additional food to be donated to the community. Thank you, Tyler, for your generous heart and "Thank You" to Boyer's Market in Mount Carmel for their very generous gift to our community.



On October 21st, Samantha Scoblink, Sarah Hazlett, and Diane Shymanski enjoyed a fantastic Ladies Fun Day exploring the alphabetically arranged tour of quilt history! So many beautiful quilts to see – check them out! We hope to see you at our December Ladies Fun Afternoon.

Ladies Fun Afternoon

December 2, 2023
1-3 pm
Bethany Church of Berwick
Fellowship Hall

Make a Snowman Craft
Enjoy a Hot Cocoa Bar




Please sign up at the Information Desk,
bethanychurchberwick@gmail.com,
570-752-2576, or on Facebook



Thank you to everyone who packed a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child or packed one online.

We received 12 packed boxes.
Thank you for your generosity

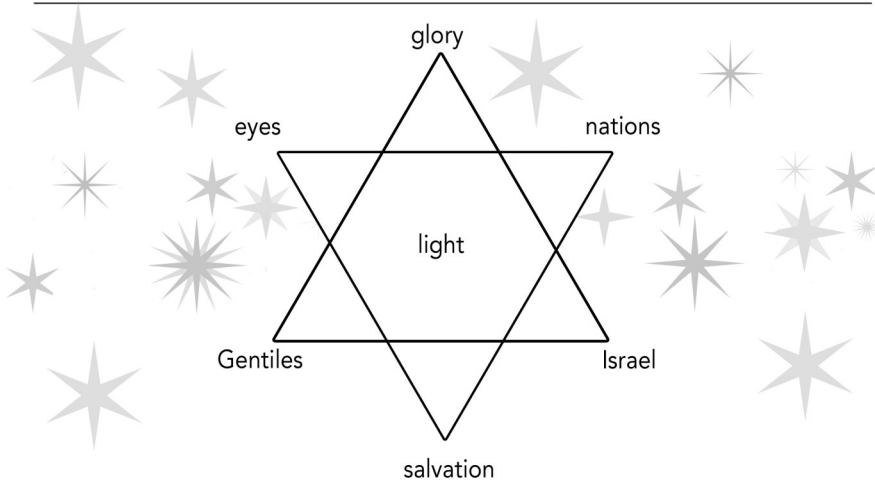
PUZZLE



SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

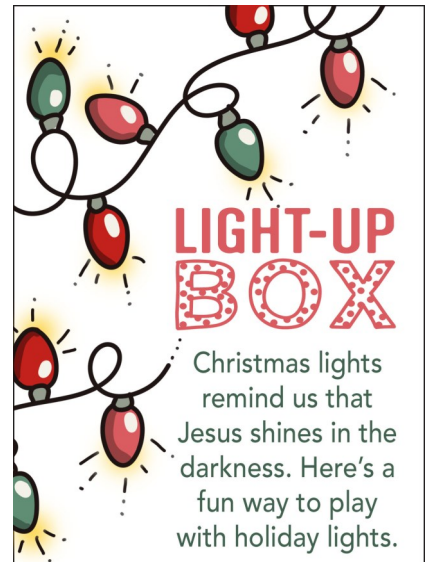
Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.



"For my _____ have seen your _____, which you have prepared in the sight of all _____: a _____ for revelation to the _____, and the _____ of your people _____."

Luke 2:30-32, NIV

Answers: eyes, salvation, nations, glory, Israel, Gentiles, light, eyes, glory, Israel

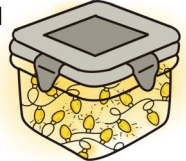


LIGHT-UP BOX

Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

What you need:

- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads



What you do:

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
 2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
 3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
 - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
 - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
 - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.
- Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!



Bible Quiz

Elizabeth, an older relative of Mary the mother of Jesus, was miraculously pregnant at the same time as Mary. What was the name of Elizabeth's husband?

- A. Aaron
- B. Zechariah
- C. Joseph
- D. Simeon

Answer: B (See Luke 1:5, 39-41.)

Praying for y'all as you wait for your new pastor to arrive.


May the Lord bless you this Thanksgiving and Christmas with some quiet times to focus on Jesus.

We're busy here with the end of semester coming soon. Lots going on in the Library, and Pete has a full plate with teaching here at Dallas Int'l University. We continue to be impressed with our students who are preparing to serve the Lord.

Appreciating you all so much.

Blessings--

Carole, and for Pete

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 5:30 am Setup Clothing Giveaway | 2 9:00 am Clothing Giveaway 1:00 pm Ladies Fund Day |
| 3 1st Sunday of Advent/ Chrismon Service Pulpit –Angel Kishbaugh 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10 am Congregational meeting 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR) | 4 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2) | 5 8 am TOPS (SGR) 6:30 pm Pieces of Prayer (SGR) | 6 6:15 pm Praise Team (Sanc) | 7 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout) | 8 | 9 Giving Tree 9-3:30 |
| 10 2nd Sunday of Advent Communion Pulpit – Pastor Ralph Hartenbach 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(Sanc) | 11 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2) | 12 8 am TOPS (SGR) | 13 6:15 pm Praise Team (Sanc) | 14 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout) | 15 | 16 2 pm Spence (FH) |
| 17 3rd Sunday of Advent Pulpit – Gary Bowman 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(Sanc) | 18 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2) 6:30 pm Church Council (SGR) | 19 8 am TOPS (SGR) | 20 6:15 pm Praise Team (Sanc) | 21 First Day of Winter 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout) | 22 | 23 |
| 24 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve 9am Combined Worship(Sanc) – Pastor Ralph Hartenbach 10am Adult Sunday School 5pm Children’s Worship 7pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service –Angel Kishbaugh | 25 Christmas Day  | 26 Bethany Blessings Closed 8 am TOPS (SGR) | 27 Bethany Blessings Closed 6:15 pm Praise Team (Sanc) | 28 Bethany Blessings Closed 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout) | 29 Bethany Blessings Closed | 30 |
| 31 New Year’s Eve/Watch Night Pulpit – Pastor Carvel May/ Angel Kishbaugh 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(Sanc) |  | | | | | |

| January 2024 | | | | | | | Feb 2024 ▶ |
|---|--|--|--|--|-----------|-------------------------------|------------|
| ◀ Dec 2023 | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  | 1 New Year's Day Bethany Blessings and Office Closed | 2 8 am TOPS (SGR) 6:30 pm Pieces of Prayer (SGR) | 3 6:15 pm Praise Team (Sanc) | 4 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout) | 5 | 6 Epiphany of the Lord | |
| 7 Epiphany Sunday Baptism of the Lord Communion Pulpit – Pastor Ralph Hartenbach 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(Sanc) | 8 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2) | 9 8 am TOPS (SGR) | 10 6:15 pm Praise Team (Sanc) | 11 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout) | 12 | 13 | |
| 14 Pulpit – Randy Peters 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(Sanc) | 15 Martin Luther King Day Bethany Blessings Closed 12 pm Blood Drive 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2) | 16 8 am TOPS (SGR) | 17 6:15 pm Praise Team (Sanc) | 18 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout) 6:30 pm Church Council (SGR) | 19 | 20 | |
| 21 Pulpit – Ron Sult 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(Sanc) | 22 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2) | 23 8 am TOPS (SGR) | 24 8:00 am Lifefile Screening 6:15 pm Praise Team (Sanc) | 25 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout) | 26 | 27 | |
| 28 Pulpit – Gary Bowman 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(Sanc) | 29 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2) | 30 8 am TOPS (SGR) | 31 6:15 pm Praise Team (Sanc) | | | | |