



BETHANY
United Methodist Church
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

FEBRUARY 2023

ISSUE—ONE



Lenten Worship

Lent Services 2023 – 250 Years of Amazing Grace

Services will be at 7:00pm on the designated dates.

Ash Wednesday, February 22
Host Church: First UMC, Berwick
Speaker: Pastor Susan Knorr
Scripture: Psalm 51:1
Topic: David

First Sunday in Lent, February 26
Host Church: Bethany UMC, Berwick
Speaker: Pastor Ralph Hartenbach
Scripture: Isaiah 6:7
Topic: Isaiah of Babylon

Second Sunday of Lent, March 5
Host Church: Wesley UMC, Nescopeck
Speaker: Pastor Bill Klebe
Scripture: Luke 15:32
Topic: The Prodigal Son

Third Sunday of Lent, March 12
Host Church: St. Paul's UMC, Berwick
Speaker: Pastor Steve Portner
Scripture: John 9:24
Topic: The Blind Man

Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 19
Host Church: Evansville UMC, Berwick
Speaker: Cathy Cope
Scripture: John 4:13-14
Topic: The Woman at the Well

Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 26
Host Church: Summerhill UMC, Berwick
Speaker: Max Sitler
Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:15
Topic: Paul



BETHANY STAFF

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“Like” us on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/bethanyumcberwick/>

An Electronic Copy of the Beacon will be posted on the website at www.bethanyberwick.org

Marked by love



Through the centuries [people] have displayed many different symbols to show that they are Christians. They have worn crosses in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even had special haircuts. Of course, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with any of this, if one feels it is [one's] calling. But there is a much better sign, a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church until Jesus comes back. ...

Love — and the unity it attests to — is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father.

—Francis Schaeffer



Short Term Prayer Concerns

Corie Bush and Baby, Joan Karns, Rollie Seybert, Linda Eyer, Murray Arbegast, Diane Specht, Craig McClintock, Brenda Peters, Al Roberts, Judy Harvey, Sandy Eckart, Bob Haile, Ted Decker, Thomas Makar, Donna Alley

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, Olive Boone, Jim & Carol Zeart, Kim Kishbaugh, Warren Wolfe, Edna Mae Belles, Kent Williams, Joan Laubach, Rosemary Martz, Joe Phillips, Sr., Pastor Dennis McCracken, Karen Hunsinger, Bill Mausteller, Betty Morgan, Samantha Scoblink, Nick Pritchky, Joyce Noroski, Billy Robbins, Mike Mattern, David Bowman, Esther Bower, Ben Mike, Eric Black, Mary Carver, Mary Ruder, Gloria Varner, Charlotte Laytar, Carmella Picarello

Sympathy for the Families of
Howard Hess, Glenda Zimmerman, Donald Meske, Harold Clark, David Bowman

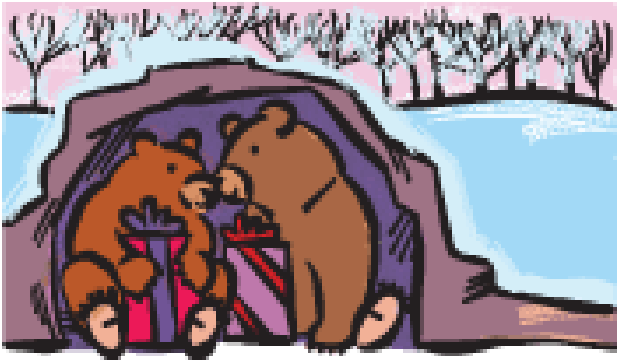
Lenten signals

Why should we observe Lent?
This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/02 Lonnie Brady, David Zimmerman, Jr.
- 2/03 Deanna Schuckers
- 2/04 Gina Talanca
- 2/05 Carter Townsend
- 2/07 Kimberly Morris
- 2/08 Carole Unseth
- 2/09 Donald Davis, Benjamin Stroup
- 2/10 Nolan Eyer, Shane Scandle,
Ruby Sherman
- 2/12 Julia Rauch
- 2/14 Paityn Brown
- 2/15 Cassidy Boston, Cindy Sweppenheiser
- 2/17 Douglas Stroup
- 2/18 Kenton Karns
- 2/19 Jane Ruhmel
- 2/21 Mary Remley
- 2/23 Christy Kehl-Hess
- 2/24 Susan Forsythe, Norman Peters
- 2/25 Dena Klingerman
- 2/26 Melanie Grasley-Mordan,
Adam Molick
- 2/27 Harvey Eckart
- 2/28 Harold Ackerman, Chris Nowakoski

A daily prayer

Since God will be my end
Let him be my beginning,
So that I may now fully live
Instead of falling, straying, sinning.

—Angelus Silesius

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: February 2023

1. Officer Shawn Timbrell
2. Sergeant Stephen LeVan
3. Deputy Kristie Rospendowski
4. Kristen Cunningham, Patrolman
5. Deputy Michael Tkach
6. Officer Kyle Trenholm
7. Deputy James Dalton
8. Officer Joseph Gainley
9. Deputy Kevin Bradley
10. Officer Michael Klinetob
11. Vincent Figureido, Patrolman
12. Officer Raymond Thonkinson, III
13. Detective Gregory Martin
14. Sgt. Thomas Hegland
15. Officer Joshua Switzer
16. Deputy Michael Beyer
17. Officer Joshua Lowery
18. Tyler Soboleski, Patrolman
19. Officer Brandon Shultz
20. Deputy James Arter
21. Officer Steven Torres
22. Officer Scott Sienkiewicz
23. William Lefevre, Patrolman
24. Officer Victor Guevara
25. Detective Reagan Rafferty
26. Deputy Kevin Katch
27. Officer Phil Mainiero
28. Officer Michael Quaranta

Missions & Evangelism

Extra Mile Giving for February

Our Extra Mile Giving for February will be in support of Krista Hartenbach's mission work with RESOURCING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL. R.C.E. serves international Christian schools and education ministries in their mission of providing exceptional educational opportunities with a biblical foundation and Christian worldview. You may use the envelope attached to your beacon or envelopes are available at the Information Desk in the Main Entrance hallway.

Giving Tree Mission

Our next giving tree mission will be held on the first Saturday of February. We are in need of children's coats and men's coats and warm items. We will meet in front of Subway in town to hang items on the trees at 9:00 am on Saturday February 4th if anyone is interested in helping. We will then go back at 4:00 pm to pick up what isn't taken.

Thank you!! Barb E.

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.



I'm so very thankful for the mission team at [Bethany United Methodist Church](#)! On December 10, 2022, items were hung on the trees in town for those in need. Several people came out that morning and were taking items from the trees while we were still hanging them. There is a need in our community.

~Barb Erb



thanks you

Thank you to everyone at Bethany United Methodist Church for your generous donation to the Teen Center!

We truly appreciate your generosity and support!

Sincerely,

For the Cause of Teen Center

November 30, 2022

Dear Bethany Family,

Thank you to everyone who took an angel and brought a gift back for a child involved in KidsPeace. The kids had a wonderful Christmas party and were so happy with the gifts they were given. I am so thankful for all of you and feel so fortunate to be a part of the Bethany Family.

~Love Kellie

December 11, 2022

Thanks to all the members of Bethany for the beautiful poinsettia. It is still thriving.

Thanks.

Richard & Esther Bower

January 13, 2023



To the members of Bethany UMC,
Thank you so much for your generous donation to United in Recovery. We are so thankful for your continued support and partnership!

Happy Holidays! Olivia + the UIR Team

December 2022

Dear Bethany United Methodist Church,

We truly appreciate you generosity this Holiday season. Because all of our programs are free, gifts like yours are treasured.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year -

Sincerely,

FTC Teen Center & YAB

December 21, 2022

The Way Forward

Bethany Church Council met Tuesday evening, January 17, 2023. During that meeting, a timeline was developed for moving forward in our disaffiliation with the United Methodist Church. We want everyone to be aware of the progress being made and the anticipated calendar of events.

There is much to learn regarding the way forward for our church. The two pathways include the Global Methodist Church or becoming an independent church. In helping each of us discern our best path, **a presentation is scheduled for February 5, 2023 during the Sunday School hour.** It will be held in the sanctuary at 10:00 am.

One week following, **February 12, 2023, the congregation will vote** on whether to become a part of the Global Methodist Church or to become independent. Though Council is preparing a comparison study for the congregation, each of us is encouraged to prayerfully research both directions to make the decision we feel is pleasing to God. This vote will be accomplished at the conclusion of each worship service.

In event of bad weather, our presentation and vote could possibly be delayed by one week. We are very interested in including everyone in the congregation in this decision making.

If you have questions, Council members are available for conversation. For further research, you can find answers to many questions by searching the **Global Methodist Church** on the internet.

Income/Expenses 2022—White Envelope		
	Income	Expenses
January	\$ 21,127.25	\$ 19,819.54
February	\$ 13,365.80	\$ 24,281.18
March	\$ 15,325.15	\$ 18,337.37
April	\$ 12,538.00	\$ 26,623.03
May	\$ 14,837.25	\$ 19,172.15
June	\$ 16,366.75	\$ 20,847.10
July	\$ 16,629.00	\$ 27,443.08
August	\$ 11,488.11	\$ 20,455.24
September	\$ 14,645.90	\$ 27,699.89
October	\$ 82,193.59	\$ 21,925.08
November	\$ 11,937.23	\$ 26,697.03
December	\$ 14,376.22	\$ 24,787.41
Total	\$244,830.25	\$278,088.10

Blue Envelope Giving		
(In Current Account)		
Building/Missions/Shares of Ministry Fund		
	Income	
January	\$	1,925.00
February	\$	1,880.00
March	\$	2,880.00
April	\$	1,155.00
May	\$	2,075.00
June	\$	1,608.00
July	\$	1,930.00
August	\$	1,254.00
September	\$	2,564.00
October	\$	1,735.00
November	\$	2,292.25
December	\$	1,513.00
Total	\$	22,811.25

Extra Mile 2022 Giving as of 12/31/2022		
Agape	\$	470.00
Beyond Violence	\$	439.00
Boys Scout Troop 6	\$	422.95
CCVIM	\$	640.75
Harvest Home	\$	442.30
For the Cause	\$	247.00
Peanut Butter & Jelly	\$	150.00
Peacemaker's Ministry	\$	180.00
Second Chance Haiti	\$	275.00
The Hope Center	\$	337.16
United in Recovery	\$	199.15
Unseth's	\$	2,553.05
Your Loving Choices	\$	329.65

Shares of Ministry As of 12/31/2022		
	Owe	Paid
Benevolence	\$ 4,975.00	\$ 4,975.00
Connectional Ministry	\$ 7,403.00	\$ 7,403.00
Clergy Support	\$ 7,971.00	\$ 7,971.00
	\$20,349.00	\$20,349.00



Photo courtesy of Harold Ackerman

The river of life

The Red River of the North, in the north-central U.S. and central Canada, takes countless twists and turns. A close-up aerial photo or map shows its frequent sideswipes and U-turns. One could cross the river several times without changing direction while hiking or biking along the border between Minnesota and North Dakota. You might wonder at points if it has completely turned back south — which raises another point: While most rivers flow south, the Red River flows north.

Sometimes life meanders, but that doesn't mean we're off course. Sometimes we seem to be going in the opposite direction of most people, but that doesn't mean we're not headed the right way. Sometimes it feels like it takes us a long time to make progress, but that doesn't mean we're not moving. We might just be taking in more of life's scenery! Follow your own unique trajectory, letting God, the creator of all rivers and all life, serve as the current that moves you ever onward.

Sunday School Class Invitation

The **Community Cares** Sunday School Class has begun the study of **The Chosen**. We are excited about this class and welcome anyone who would like to join us. We meet in the library during the Sunday School hour.

Children of the LIGHT

This craft celebrates that now we are light in the Lord (see Ephesians 5:8).

What you need:

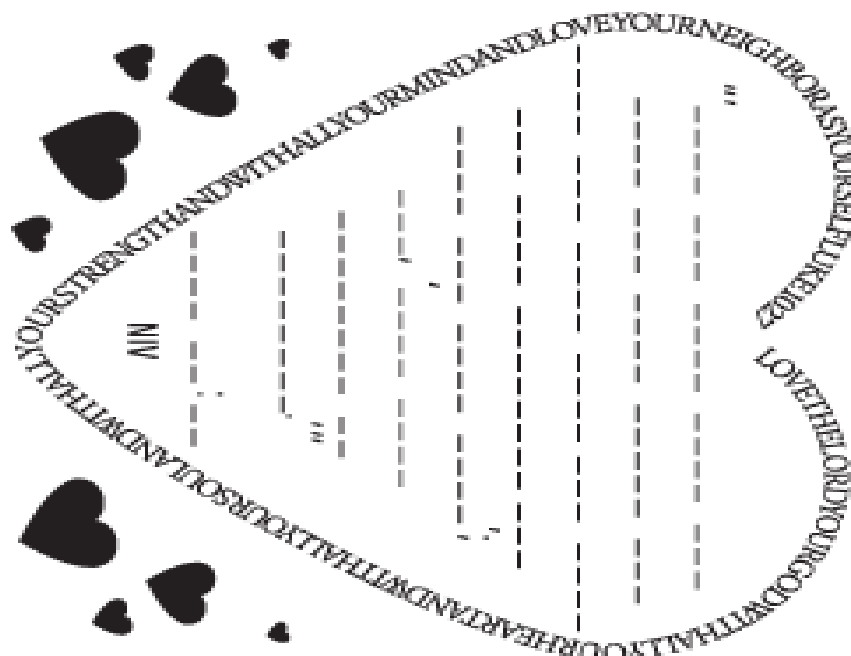
- A gallon zip-top plastic bag
- Permanent markers (dark colors)
- Black construction paper
- White cardstock
- Scissors

What you do:

1. Draw a self-portrait on the outside of the bag. Add details.
2. Insert the black paper and set the bag flat on a table. It should be tough to see your picture now.
3. On the white cardstock, draw a picture of a flashlight with a long beam of light coming out. Color the flashlight but leave the beam white.
4. Cut out the flashlight and light beam. Place them in the bag, over the black paper. When the white beam covers the black background under your picture, you can see your self-portrait clearly.

Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27, NIV

?? Bible Quiz ??

Fill in the blanks for three qualities Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, attributes to love: "Love is _____; love is _____... it keeps no record of _____."

- challenging, important, the past
- childlike, innocent, injustice
- self-sacrificing, generous, finances
- patient, kind, wrongs

Love IS...

Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, NIV)

ALL ABOUT

GOD'S LOVE

Draw a picture of what God's love means to you...





What's your favorite Bible verse about God's love...

JESUS LOVES ME

God's love is...

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HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY

February 2023							Mar 2023 ▶
◀ Jan 2023	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1-30 Pastor Steve returns	1-31	1 6:15pm Praise Team (BR)	2 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	3	4 9am Giving Tree (Subway) / 4pm Cleanup	
5 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Congregational Meeting 11am Contemporary Srv(BR)	6 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	7 8am TOPS (SGR) 4:30pm Audit (Lib) 6:30pm Pieces of Prayer (SGR)	8 6:15pm Praise Team (BR)	9 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	10	11 1 pm Brown (FH)	
12 Scout Sunday 9:00 am Traditional Worship (Vote) 10am Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR) (Vote)	13 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	14 Valentines Day  8am TOPS (SGR)	15 6:15pm Praise Team (BR)	16 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	17	18 2 pm Locher Party (BR)	
19 Transfiguration Sunday 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR)	20  6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	21 8am TOPS (SGR)	22  6:15pm Praise Team (BR) 7pm Ash Wednesday Service (1st UMC)	23 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	24	25	
26 1st Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR) 7 pm Lenten Worship (Bethany UMC)	27 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	28 8am TOPS (SGR)					