



BETHANY
CHURCH OF BERWICK
A Global Methodist Congregation

116 Summerhill Avenue
Berwick, PA 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 SIXTY

MARCH 2024

ISSUE—TWO



March 28

Holy Thursday Service with Communion @ 7:00 pm

March 31 — Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service @ 7:00 am with Breakfast to follow

Combined Worship Service @ 9:00 am

Sunday School and Children's Egg hunt @ 10:00 am

BETHANY STAFF

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Beverly Collins, Pianist

Ronald Sult, Treasurer

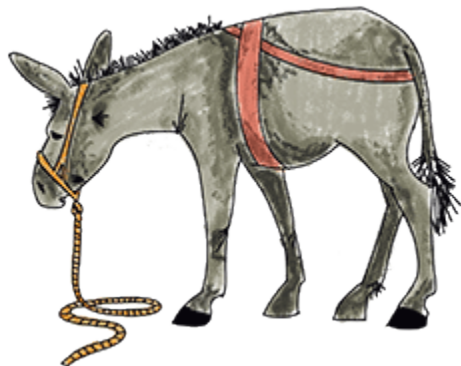
Website: www.bethanyberwick.org

Church Van Ministry: 272-250-9862

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New Address!

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



Be the donkey

Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

“When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?” she replied. “If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor.”

Jesus told his followers they’d need to carry (or “take up”) their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?



Take a moment to

PRAY

Short Term Prayer Concerns

Julie H, Robert L, Bernie S, Ruby S, Harold A, Deb S, Thomas M, Ethel H, Tiffany S, Tyrone L, Kenzie, Becky, Matt G, Dee, Joshua

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 M, Donna S, Sam M, Shirley H, Kim V, Marlene E, Jim & Carol Z, Kim K, Warren W, Edna Mae B, Kent W, Rosemary M, Joe P, Betty M, Karen H, Bill M, Billy R, Samantha S, Nick P, Renee P, Mike M, Esther B, John P, Joan H, Dick and Bethann S, Carmella P, Judy H, Edna M, Gloria V, Pam P, Tod L, Gary F, Jackie F, Pastor Ed C, Frances H, Tammy S

Sympathy for Families of:
Ronald Fox, Lisa Hubley, Jack Carver

Our Feeble Prayers, Our Father's Response

In *He Still Moves Stones*, Max Lucado recalls the story of Derek Redmond, a 1992 Olympic competitor in the 400-meter race. Halfway through Redmond's semifinal run, a torn hamstring sent him tumbling to the ground. His dad, Jim, immediately ran onto the track. He met up with Derek, who, though crying, had managed to stand and was hopping forward.

“You don't have to do this,” Jim said. But Derek insisted. “Well, then, we're going to finish this together,” said Jim, who supported his son as he hobbled to the finish line. The crowd cheered and wept as Derek, with Dad's assistance, finished the race.

Lucado writes: “What made the father do it? ... Was it the strength of his child? No, it was the pain of his child. ... God does the same. Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.”

MARCH Birthdays

- 3/02 Gloria Varner
- 3/03 Lynn Fulton
- 3/06 Glenn Bristol, JoAnne Hause
- 3/08 Barbara Erb, Renee Harmon,
Tammy Nowakoski-Rubenstein
- 3/11 Donald Bohl, Tim Remley
- 3/19 Kim Doran, Cassandra Mowery,
Lucy Rado, Christine Rauch
- 3/20 Lucinda Kishbaugh
- 3/21 Tawnya Lisnock
- 3/22 Tod Locher, Paul Miller, Susan Varner
- 3/24 Jacob Kuklis, Jacob Volkert
- 3/25 Barbara Kleckner, Everly Styer
- 3/27 Mike Kleintob
- 3/31 Kara Capozzi



We will be celebrating Scout Sunday on March 10 during the 9am worship service. We welcome our Scouts and their families to worship with us.



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: March 2024

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

Bethany Church has new pastor

P.E. 1-20-24

BERWICK — Bethany Church of Berwick will welcome the Rev. John Wesley Leek as its new pastor on Sunday, Feb 4.

Leek brings 10 years of pastoral experience, finding innovative ways to connect communities to Christ. The pastor graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary, Kentucky, in 2013. He will be joined by his wife, Abby, and three young sons.

“We are called to be people who are being made new and into the likeness of God’s son, Jesus,” Leek said.

He wants everyone to know the basics of faith and discipleship.

He sees in Bethany Church a heart for community, for building up Christ’s body together and for serving beyond the church walls.

“What I like most already

about Berwick in general and Bethany Church in particular is the kind and generous attitude you share,” he said.

Bethany welcomes all those seeking a church family with whom to explore faith, grow in God’s love and find ways to serve.

A traditional service takes place at 9 a.m. Sundays, with contemporary worship at 11 a.m. Christian education options are offered in between.

Bethany Church of Berwick, 116 Summerhill Ave., is a Global Methodist congregation dedicated to helping others to see, accept and grow in the light of Christ.

The church serves the community through its Bethany Blessings preschool and childcare center, clothing giveaways and giving tree mission, among other ministries.

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE



Special to Press Enterprise

NEW PASTOR WELCOMED

Feb 2024

Bethany Church of Berwick was excited to welcome its new pastor, **John Leek**, and his family on Feb. 4. The congregation, a Global Methodist Church, is looking forward to what God has in his plan for it.

Join Pastor John for our March "Cottage Meetings!"

Limited space available, so sign up now. These cozy gatherings offer fellowship and meaningful conversation, deepening connections with Bethany Church. We can't wait to see you there!

Signup sheets are on the Information Desk for the dates available.

Bethany Church Family,

We have been extremely blessed by your warm welcome. Moving across the country to a new church in a new community was a daunting endeavor, but you have made it feel like coming home. We are deeply grateful for all you have done to prepare the parsonage, bring us delicious meals, contribute to gift cards to explore Berwick, and welcome us into your community. Thank you! We are honored to be a part of the Bethany Church Family, and look forward with anticipation to all that God will do in and through this church in the coming years.

In Christ,
Pastor John and Abby & Daniel, Joshua, and Ezra



Photo taken February 4, 2024

Sunday, February 4th, we gathered to hear a message that I pray was both personal and universally resonant, as we contemplated the nature of calling and the beauty of purpose in our lives as followers of Christ. (If you were unable to join us you can listen to the service by going to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bethanychurchofberwick or through our website at www.bethanyberwick.org).

Here are some key takeaways from the sermon:

****Unexpected Callings****: Just as I shared my own story of transition from a possible career in casino management to church leadership, we were reminded that God often has plans for us that we could never have anticipated. Our callings may come as surprises, but they are divinely appointed.

****Community and Connection****: The strength of our church lies in the bonds of our community. By getting to know one another and sharing our journeys, we strengthen the fabric of our congregation and provide support for each other's callings.

****Embracing Our Purpose****: Drawing inspiration from Abraham's story, we are encouraged to embrace the purposes God has for each of us, knowing that our age or past does not limit the blessings we can bestow upon the world through our faith and actions.

****Looking Ahead****: As we look to the future and the unique purpose God has for Bethany Church, we approach it with open hearts, ready to say "yes" to His call and eager to see the unfolding of His plans for our community. Let us carry these messages with us throughout the week, reflecting on our individual gifts and the collective mission that we share. May we be open to the unexpected ways God might be calling us to serve and be willing to support one another as we journey together in faith.

Because He Lives,
John Leek
Pastor, Bethany Church

"Christianity is a team sport. We need everybody to do well in this game, whose result is far more important than any other."

~Pastor John Leek

Extra Mile Giving for March will go to Beyond Violence

March Extra Mile Giving will go to Beyond Violence, our local women's shelter.

In addition to a monetary donation, we will be collecting other items that they need. Some suggestions are: Play food for kitchen set for counseling - diapers - journals for adults & youth—calendar planners - hair ties/hair clips - toilet paper - paper towels - shaving cream and razors. Grocery store gift cards are always welcome. The shelter provides a valuable service to our community and they struggle to make ends meet. The bills have gone up for the center and they are really struggling. Any help we are able to give them is always appreciated. Items can be dropped off in the church office or by the office door for collection. Thank you for your support.

Envelopes are available at the Information Desk and also at the Angel Card table where you pick up your Beacon if you choose to support Beyond Violence.

"God brings good gifts to all His people, and we need those gifts because He has given us a mission larger than any of us can accomplish alone."

~Pastor John Leek



The joy of Jesus

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*

A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.

A branch that was waved ---○

How Jesus was put to death ---○-----

A stick attached to the vine ---○-

People shouted this to Jesus ○-----

Jesus washed these ○-----

This was broken and eaten ○-----

The Messiah ---○-

A drink from grapes ---○-

Jesus drove the money changers from here ○-----

"I am the vine; you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____ ;
apart from me you can do nothing." *John 15:5, NIV*

Answer: palm, crucified, branch, hosanna, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple; much fruit

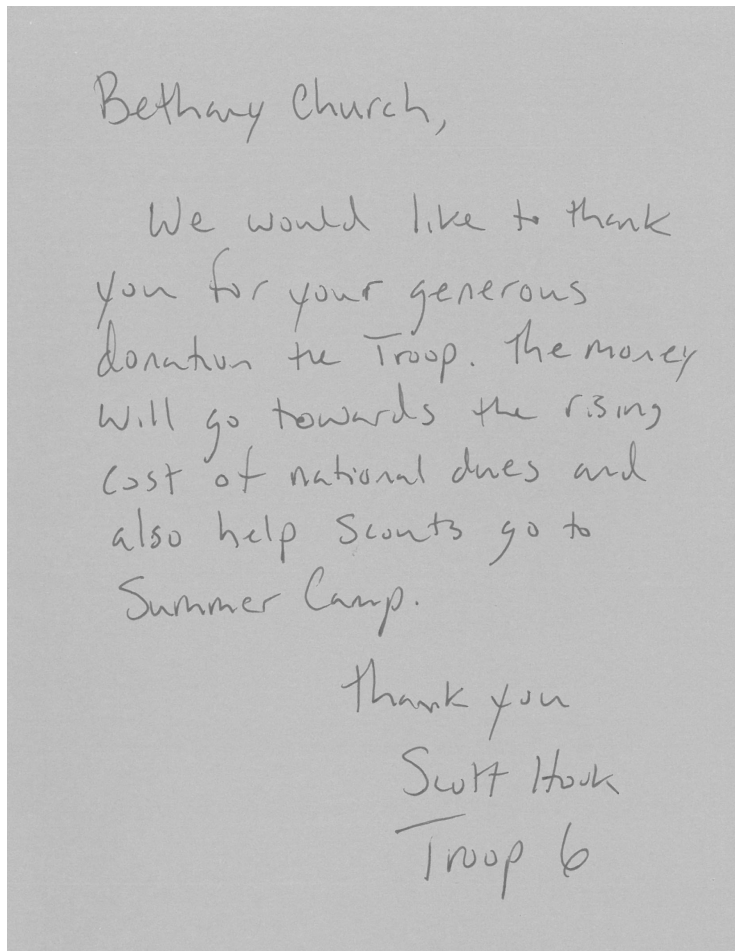


Thank you for opening your doors for our community health screening in your area.

It is because of your generosity that Life Line Screening is able to bring these health screenings into your community and for that, we are very appreciative.

We look forward to working together again!

Sincerely,
Megan Schirtzinger
Health Service Coordinator
Life Line Screening



International Fellowship
of Christians and Jews®

From the Desk of
Yael Eckstein, President and CEO

Dear Ronald,

Please accept my thanks for your recent gift. It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews!

Your decision to partner with The Fellowship is making a lifesaving difference for God's chosen people.

Since 1983 when my father, the late Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, founded The Fellowship, we have been the hands and feet of the Lord, providing lifesaving help to millions of Jews worldwide through the partnership of committed friends like you who embrace the biblical mandate to bless Israel and the Jewish people. This year, we are celebrating 40 years of ministry.

Today, The Fellowship is the largest charity in Israel, second only to the government as the largest provider of social services, and a lifeline to hundreds of thousands of elderly Jews and Holocaust survivors in the former Soviet Union (FSU). This makes The Fellowship your best partner to bless Israel and share hope with the Jewish people.

You'll see I've enclosed with this letter a special update on the sacred work that faithful believers like you make possible. I pray it will inspire you to continue providing biblical care and compassion for impoverished, elderly Jews.

Thank you once again for your obedience to God's call.

With blessings from the Holy Land,

Yael Eckstein
Yael Eckstein

you are a blessed friend and an answer to prayer for Jews worldwide. Thank you!

Resurrection rumblings

In *Easter Earthquake*, James A. Harnish explores the "earthshaking promise" of Jesus' resurrection. Easter Sunday "shatters the power of fear," he writes. "Because Christ is risen, we no longer allow fear to dominate, control or manipulate us. We don't remain imprisoned in the tombs of our past failures or buried under the weight of present anxiety. In the risen Christ, old things pass away and everything becomes new."

Easter, Harnish adds, is proof that God hasn't forsaken us and is present among us. "The Resurrection contradicts the assumption that Christ resides on an ethereal cloud in a distant heaven. Rather, we find him on the dusty road that leads to the real stuff of our ordinary world."

Jesus' followers can find him everywhere, Harnish concludes. "The risen Christ will meet us along the confused, chaotic, fearful paths of our lives and speak the same words the women hear at the tomb, 'Do not be afraid.'"

March 2024						Apr 2024 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 World Day of Prayer	2
3 3 rd Sunday in Lent PASTOR JOHN W. LEEK Communion 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv	4 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2) 6:30 pm Sunday School Mtg (FH)	5 8am TOPS (SGR) 6:30pm Pieces of Prayer (SGR)	6 7:00 pm Lenten Service (Evansville)	7 6:15pm Praise Team (BR) 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout) 6:30 pm Cottage Mtg (Forsythe)	8	9
10 4 th Sunday in Lent Daylight Savings Time Begins Scouting Sunday 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv	11 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2) 6:30 pm Cottage Mtg (Brown)	12 8am TOPS (SGR)	13 Office Closed 7:00 pm Lenten Service (Bethany)	14 6:15pm Praise Team (BR) 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	15	16 2:00 pm Cottage Mtg (Shields)
17 5 th Sunday in Lent St. Patrick's Day 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv Lily Orders Due	18 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	19 First Day of Spring 8am TOPS (SGR)	20 PBJ Distribution 7:00 pm Lenten Service (Evansville)	21 6:15pm Praise Team (BR) 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout) 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg (SGR)	22	23
24 Passion/Palm Sunday 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv	25 Holy Monday 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	26 Holy Tuesday 8am TOPS (SGR)	27 Holy Wednesday 6:15pm Praise Team (BR)	28 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout) Communion 7:00pm Holy Thursday Service (Bethany)	29 Good Friday	30 Holy Saturday
<p>31 Easter Day 7 am Sunrise Service Breakfast after Sunrise 9am Combined Worship 10am Sunday School/ Children's egg hunt</p> 						