



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

APRIL 2023

ISSUE—THREE



Holy Thursday Tenebrae Service with Communion - 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service - 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunrise Service - 7:00 am

Sunrise Breakfast—following Sunrise Service

Combined Worship Service - 9:00 am

Sunday School - 10:00 am

Please join us for our worship services.

Everyone is welcome and hope to see you.

BETHANY STAFF

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PayPal available for gifts and tithes on our website.

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

Jesus answers our uncertainties

Thomas didn’t believe the other disciples when they said Jesus had risen. The two travelers to Emmaus despaired over Jesus’ death, uncertain what might come next.

During our life of faith, we all face questions, doubts and despair. In *Fearless*, Max Lucado says Jesus’ responses to us echo his responses to the disciples. His answer to our doubt is the same as with Thomas: “Touch my body” — which we do every time we connect with the church (the body of Christ), wounds and all. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus urges us to ponder his story found in Scripture — which we do through Bible reading and study. Today, just as long ago, Jesus meets his followers — in his body, in his Word — and strengthens our faith.



Short Term Prayer Concerns

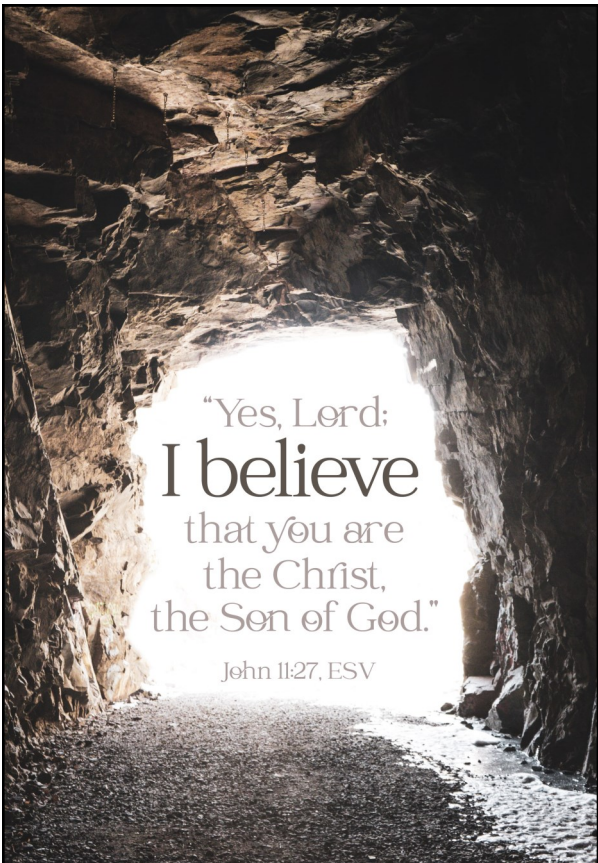
Hazel (Bunni) Meske, Kellie Eyer, Joann Gearhart, Dan, Megan, Doug Stroup, Brenda, Jamie Trego, Corie Bush and Baby, Brandon

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, Esther Bower, Ben Mike, Eric Black, Mary Carver, Gloria Varner, Charlotte Laytar, Carmella Picarello, Dick and Bethann Savage, Linda Eyer, Al Roberts, Judy Harvey, Tod Locher

Sympathy for the Families of:
Robert Bull, Dora Jean Dunn





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/01 Chelsea Hunsinger
- 4/03 George Miller
- 4/06 Kathleen Bohl, Andrew Shaffer
- 4/08 RuthAnn Brown, Ronald Kishbaugh, Erin Sullivan
- 4/12 Edna Mae Belles, Lynn Shaffer
- 4/14 Sheila Williams
- 4/18 Jennifer Carroll, Pam Kleintob
- 4/21 Jacob Demler
- 4/22 Alexis Grasley
- 4/24 Hayden Pollock
- 4/26 Justin Schenkel
- 4/27 Richard Benfield, Carol Mowery, Brittany Nowakoski
- 4/29 Betty Morgan
- 4/30 Richard Hause

How Jesus says your name

It's been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is "safe" coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus' tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: "Oh, Mary, there, there." Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just "Woman ..." — and then a gardener: "Woman ..."

Except then — "Mary" — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. "Mary." Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn't the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus' mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

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: April 2023

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

Junior Church: A Note from the Pastor

Since COVID there are many places that are dealing with being short-staffed. We here at Bethany Church are no different. We want to continue providing as much as possible for our children and youth, while at the same time want to maintain as much quality as we can. Up to the present our church has offered Junior Church in both the traditional and contemporary service, as well as something during the Sunday School hour. We just do not have the resources to continue doing that at this time. So, the following is what is planned for the near future.

Beginning Palm Sunday, April 2, there will be Junior Church only for both services. We will be inviting the children to stay with their families until after the children's message (yes, we will start that again). Then, after about 15 minutes into the worship hour, the children will be dismissed to Junior Church, which then would last about 45 minutes. Having a class for the children during the Sunday School hour will be suspended for now, at least until we can build up the number of people willing to serve the Lord in that capacity.

Ashley Wojciechowski is our new Junior Church Coordinator. We will continue to use the Tracker curriculum for Junior Church. Thank you to everyone that is helping to sustain and grow this vital ministry.



VBS Volunteers are Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with the Community VBS which will be hosted at Bethany Church on June 25-29 from 6-8:30pm. Dinner will be provided from 5-6pm. Please contact Sarah Brown if you are interested in helping.



Sharing the load

In 1969 the Hollies released "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother." Do you know the story behind that song title?

Fifty years earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, a boy with polio was abandoned at Father Flanagan's Home for Boys, predecessor to the Boys Town organization. Soon several older residents started carrying young Howard — with his heavy leg braces — especially up stairs. Father Flanagan once saw an older boy, Reuben, doing this and asked if it was hard work. Reuben replied, "He ain't heavy, Father. He's my brother." Years later, these words and the image of one person carrying another became the Boys Town brand.

All of us have been "carried" at some point, and we've likely "carried" someone else. The Hollies' song declares: "His welfare is my concern." Jesus said it this way: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The load isn't too heavy to bear because Jesus himself is always carrying us.

Missions & Evangelism

Extra Mile Giving for April will go to the Unseths

Many of you know Pete and Carol Unseth, who serve at the Dallas International University, where future missionaries are learning the languages they will need to spread God's Word, and the Bible is translated into many languages. Please give generously to help Pete and Carol as they enable the sharing of the Gospel to those who have never heard it in their own language. Envelopes are available at the Information Desk, the Angel Card table and the reception table.

Dear Bethany Family,

I just want to say thank you for supporting our outreach to the community for those in need. We successfully did our Giving Tree Mission for the month of February where we hang warm clothing on the trees in town for anyone in need. This is such a tremendous blessing to do. We actually get to help and interact with people while we hang the clothing. The need is huge in Berwick and we appreciate your donations very much. We are always in need of children's coats, hats, gloves and scarves. We are making a difference in the lives of many in our community!

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 16-20 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.

FOOD PANTRY BOX MINISTRY

With the government cutbacks beginning March 1st, people in need of food will now have less than they were receiving. This will create a hardship for the people in need. Bethany has adopted many food pantry boxes around town and fill them about once a week. This costs quite a bit of money. Some of our mission team members purchase items from their own pockets, however the church mission fund provides about \$150 each month for the pantry boxes. As you and I know, this doesn't go far...


If you are so inclined to give to this much needed mission in our community, we could use some items so we can stock the pantries weekly. We have a small reserve of food at the church but it goes quickly. We place food in the pantry boxes around town and by the morning it's gone and that's it for the week. Some of the items needed are as follows:

Toiletries such as shampoo, soap, washcloths, razors, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes etc...

Non-perishable food items such as, juice boxes, soups, ramen, canned fruit, vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, canned tuna, pancake mix, syrup, nuts, crackers, cookies (individual wrapped packs), cereal, canned baked beans, Really anything non-perishable.

Thank you again for all your support. Bethany Church is certainly a beacon of light in our community!

Serving Him Together,
Barb Erb



Ladies Night

2023

Bethany Church

Berwick PA

Who's invited: All ladies.

No membership required!

What: A time of fellowship and fun.

When: April 22 May 20
July 15 September 9
October 21 December 2



Susquehanna Valley
United Way

December 12, 2022

Bethany United Methodist Church
116 Summerhill Ave
Berwick, PA 18603

Dear Bethany United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your very generous gift of \$199.15. The Susquehanna Valley United Way, our community partners and the community at-large are so fortunate and grateful to have your support.

The Susquehanna Valley United Way plays an important role in helping to encourage and support collaboration in a way that drives solution to the unique, complex challenges facing each community in our Valley. With **your contribution**, we are creating greater IMPACT, better UNDERSTANDING, and even stronger RELATIONSHIPS.

Together, we can offer local solutions that will make a difference in the Susquehanna Valley. Together, we can make life better for those who need help the most right now. Thank you for joining us in that change.

Your gift demonstrates that you believe in our mission of inspiring everyone to LIVE UNITED™. Thank you not only for your gift but for your vote of confidence. I hope you'll continue to be engaged and become as involved as possible in our work.

If you have questions, please contact me at sjoseph@svuw.org or 570-988-0993 ext 4.

Kind regards,

Seth Joseph
Director of Philanthropy

Thank you!



Death doesn't win

In the final hours of 2021, a wildfire near Boulder, Colorado, destroyed 1,000 homes, including one belonging to Pastor Bill Stephens. His family, out of town at the time, lost all their possessions. After months of feeling buried in debris, insurance paperwork and mourning, Stephens decided that Easter 2022 would mark a fresh start.

During worship that morning, the pastor shared a photo of vibrant daffodils emerging on his charred property. Burned remnants were visible in the background, just as Easter's backdrop includes the pain and death of Good Friday. But the empty tomb in Easter's foreground means death won't win, reminded Stephens. Even when earthly life "isn't all daffodils," we have hope and eternal life through Jesus.

Easter reveals that God will "give us the joy, and it's going to be in the heart of pain that we go through as well," added the pastor. "And that just makes me draw closer to God."



Not resuscitation — resurrection!

In the early years of the U.S. space program, a small but powerful rocket was supported by a metal framework. This "escape tower" was bolted to the capsule in which astronauts awaited takeoff. If disaster occurred, the escape tower was to carry the capsule up and away from the main rocket. A parachute would then float the astronauts safely to earth.

Jesus' resurrection is more than a great escape. If he had merely eluded death, that would be akin to resuscitation. By God's power, Jesus didn't merely survive death but conquered it, once and for all. On Easter, Jesus returns to life not for his own sake but for the sake of all humanity. He reassures the disciples — and us — "Peace be with you."

—adapted from *Homiletics*

Good news flags

Use batik, a unique fabric-dyeing method, to create flags celebrating the good news of Christ's resurrection.



What you need:

- Colored chalk
- White linen fabric
- Washable gel glue
- Acrylic craft paint
- Textile medium
- Paintbrushes

What you do:

1. Cut fabric to the desired size and shape. Set it on a flat, protected surface. With chalk, lightly sketch an Easter design or message.
2. Completely cover the chalk lines with gel glue. Let dry.
3. Mix equal parts paint and textile medium. Paint the flag with that mixture, which makes paint permanent. Let dry.
4. Soak the dried fabric in warm water a few minutes. Then gently peel away the glue to reveal the unpainted areas. Lay flat to dry.
5. Hang the flags and celebrate!



SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?



Directions:

Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete John 20:29, NIV.

"B _ c _ _ s _ y _ _ h _ v _ s _ _ n m _ ,
y _ _ h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ;
bl _ ss _ d _ r _ th _ s _ wh _ h _ v _ n _ t
s _ _ n _ nd y _ t h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ."

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV

Puzzle!



Starting at the capital A and ending at the period, find the words to Isaiah 53:6 in the letter maze below. Words can appear forward, backward, up or down. Not all letters will be used, and some words may be split. But you won't need to lift your pencil off the page!

Allwelikesbelievewraywecommandsodtherighteousnessof
gospeltosrevealstartehtestimonysnsalordrtheiniquity
rightasisepraisedwsilfooaputownwayaposahumcornersfo
heavenouerisagoneadogivsicaruootgercorlaidoireasonsus
returncaphavent rustedeaallturnedrespossesnhtruths.Ila

Answer: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6, NRSV



The annual children's Easter Egg hunt will be held on Easter Sunday, April 9th, 2023 immediately following the 9AM combined service.

Please contact Chanelle Patel with any questions.

