

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

JUNE / JULY 2023

ISSUE—FIVE



The plans of the
LORD
stand firm
forever, the
purposes of
his heart
through all
generations.

Psalm 33:11, NIV

BETHANY STAFF

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Beverly Collins, Pianist

Ronald Sult, Treasurer

Website: www.bethanyberwick.org

Church Van Ministry: 272-250-9862

PayPal available for gifts and tithes on our website.

“Like” us on Facebook!

New Address!

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



The Grief Support Group will not be meeting on June 26 or July 3. We would like to invite anyone who is grieving a loss to join our group to help heal. We would like to help you. Please invite anyone you know who is grieving. The Grief Support Group meets Mondays, at 6:30pm in Room 2 downstairs.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with
the glory that is to be revealed to us.



Short Term Prayer Concerns

Joan Karns, Dorothy Kampf, Judy Johnson, Gena Guerin and Family, Charles Mackes, Jeffrey Hess, Joanne Gearhardt, Bonnie Knolla, Jonathan Phillips, Viola Freed, Renee Ptashinski, Todd Heller, Marie Grace

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., Pastor Dennis McCracken, Karen Hunsinger, Bill Mausteller, Betty Morgan, Samantha Scoblink, Nick Pritchky, Joyce Noroski, Billy Robbins, Mike Mattern, Esther Bower, Mary Carver, Gloria Varner, Charlotte Laytar, Dick and Bethann Savage, Eric Black, Linda Eyer, Al Roberts, Judy Harvey, Kelly Eyer, Joan Harmon, Carmella Picarello, Tod Locher

Sympathy for the Family of: Sharon Weaver



BETHANY BEACON – JUNE 2023

CONFERENCE APPROVES BETHANY DISAFFILIATION

Bethany Church was approved for disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church at a May 17 special meeting of the Susquehanna Conference.

The historic move allows the congregation to focus on continuing our ministry of joyfully helping others to see, accept and grow in the light of Jesus Christ. We continue to welcome and affirm the worth of all people.

Bethany remains a United Methodist congregation until settlement with the Susquehanna Conference. This should take place by the end of June.

Pastoral Leadership

Pastor Stephen Portner has chosen to stay with the UMC and will begin a new assignment in July. His last Sunday at Bethany will be June 18. The congregation is very grateful for his leadership, encouragement, and teaching, and he and wife Christine will be greatly missed!

Please plan to attend a combined worship service and meal on Sunday, June 11, to celebrate their Bethany ministry. See page 7 for details.

The church council will work with the GMC to find a qualified, full-time pastor as soon as possible. In the meantime, guest speakers and laity will lead worship.

Next Steps

Bethany has already been accepted into the Global Methodist Church, an international denomination founded in 2022 to connect Methodists dedicated to Biblical teaching and traditional Wesleyan values. The GMC's mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly.

Unlike the UMC, the GMC has no trust clause. Bethany property will be held by a nonprofit organization under the name Bethany Church of Berwick.

Much work remains to be done to complete the transition. Church council will continue to share updates in the coming weeks.

We're excited for the opportunities this next chapter will bring to deepen our faith and share the love of God even more broadly! Please continue to keep Pastor Steve and Christine, the church council, and the entire congregation in prayer as we complete this transition and seek God's guidance for our church family and ministry.

Yours In Christ,
Bethany Church Council

Bethany Church Timeline

- 1901 First service held at Jessup Street School
- 1902 North Berwick Evangelical Church dedicated
- 1946 Becomes Bethany Evangelical United Brethren Church
- 1951 Ground broken for new sanctuary
- 1968 Merger of EUB and Methodist denominations creates Bethany United Methodist Church
- 1997 Consecration of addition that included the Big Room and classrooms
- 1998 Bethany Blessings opens
- 2023 Church becomes Bethany Church of Berwick



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/01 Jason Welch
- 6/02 Betty Lemon, Matthew Snyder
- 6/03 Karen Stroup
- 6/04 June Sitler, Kristyn Stump
- 6/05 Shawna Francis, Courtney Schnauffer
- 6/06 Jennifer Nowakoski
- 6/07 Zachary Robak
- 6/09 Michael Mordan
- 6/10 Dorothy Hallman
- 6/11 Rick Scandle
- 6/13 Ethan Spence
- 6/14 Eileen Buffone
- 6/15 Jayson Hess
- 6/16 Paul Davis, Janet Eckert
- 6/17 Lauren Force, Zachary Kishbaugh, Eli Stump
- 6/18 Jenna Eyer
- 6/21 Elizabeth Stout
- 6/23 Destiny Hause, Dawn Manhart
- 6/24 Henry Snyder, Rick Talanca,
Bernie Wojciechowski
- 6/25 Pastor Steve Portner, Anthony Remley
- 6/26 Shirley Welliver
- 6/27 Jane Ackerman, Adalynn Eyer,
Edna McClintock, Amy Phillips
- 6/28 Laura Spence, Nina Baylor-Winship
- 6/29 Carole Butz, Beverly Collins, Eldon Shultz
- 6/30 Diane Shymansky



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: June 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
29. Officer Riley Robinette
30. Clinton Libby, Patrolman



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 7/01 Linda Eyer, Tracy Talanca
- 7/02 Gavin Welch
- 7/04 Deborah Cope, Barbara Richards
- 7/06 Randall Kishbaugh
- 7/11 Gary Eckrote, John McClintock
- 7/12 Ronald Fox, Garrett Lazar,
Angela Locher, Everett Snyder
- 7/14 April Snyder, Shea Volkel
- 7/17 Karen Force, Laura Shields
- 7/18 Wayne Shaffer
- 7/19 Dean Bowman, Alex Klinger
- 7/22 Thomas Fetterman
- 7/23 Amy Reddish, Shelly Remley
- 7/24 Debra Bristol, Marilyn Hess,
Sandra Tripp, Kim Varner
- 7/25 Lexie Leffler, Hazel Schechterly
- 7/26 Jeffrey Girton
- 7/27 Rae Earl
- 7/28 Cheryl Wynings
- 7/29 Deborah Leffler, Linda Sult
- 7/30 Willas Whitmire



**May God Bless the United States
of America and her people.**

Bethany United Methodist Church Peacemakers Prayer Support Ministry

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General Prayer for Departments:

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- 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: July 2023

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

Fare Thee Well

A Note from the Pastor

Over these past eight years we have been through quite a bit together. When Christine and I arrived we were all broken to some degree, and we have healed together over the years. The house next door went up for sale and we were able to purchase that, raze it, and eventually turn the lot into a green space. It is now a play area for the Bethany Blessings daycare and for the children of the church, so they no longer have to cross Summerhill Avenue to get to where the playground used to be. The church really seemed to be building up momentum when COVID hit. We have been slowly coming back from that setback, just as most every other church and business has had to do. "Setback" is really an understatement, because COVID has changed all of our lives and will continue to affect our lives for many years yet to come. And, another huge change is that, as I write this, the church is in the process of leaving the United Methodist Church and joining the Global Methodist Church, pending an Annual Conference vote of approval on May 17. With or despite all these changes, the church has grown to be more healthy and vital. Praise be to the Lord! It is my prayer that the church continues on that path of growth in its mission and ministry.

I also wanted to say a big "Thank you," to all of you who have made our years here blessed ones. It has been a joy to work with you, and you have made a good and lasting impact on our lives. We have made some wonderful friendships here we hope will continue long after we move. As a United Methodist pastor I will not be allowed to return for conducting pastoral care, such as weddings and funerals, preaching and visitation, but I will be able to carry on with occasional get-togethers and catching up on how things are going with you and your family. So, we want to say "Fare thee well," because we really do want this church to fare well in the years to come. You will continue to be in our prayers and thoughts.

Our new address will be 219 Grand Parkway North, Lewistown, PA 17044

Missions & Evangelism

Extra Mile Giving

for June is going to For The Cause

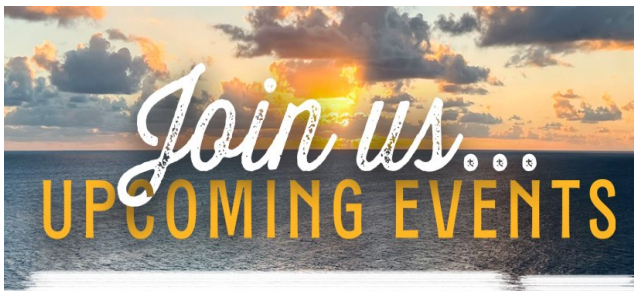
Our Extra Mile Giving for June will be going towards For The Cause. For The Cause is a non-profit organization. Their goal is to make Luzerne and Columbia counties a region of pride. They do the weekend food program and weekly food distribution program for the Berwick Area School District and the Teen Center in Berwick.

for July is going to The Cliff Center

Our Extra Mile Giving for July will be going to The Cliff Center. The Cliff Center is a Christian organization who provide a safe place where youth can come as they are without any judgement to find their identity in Christ. They provide meals and activities to local youth using scripture based practices.

You may use the envelopes that are available at the Information Desk, angel card table or contemporary service reception table.





The Church Yard Sale and Bake Sale will be June 3rd from 8-12 pm in the Big Room. We will be having a bake sale during the yard sale and we need donations of baked goods to sell. Items can be dropped off at the church. Please make arrangements with Angel Kishbaugh for your larger items. Proceeds will benefit our pantry box and PB&J ministries.



Ladies Night will be July 15 at 7:00 pm in the Big Room for a comedy/movie night. Please save the date and join us for a time of fun and fellowship.



Please contact the American Red Cross to schedule an appointment to give the gift of life at the next Blood Drive on July 3 from 1-6 pm. Thank you!!

Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Berwick to schedule an appointment.

Bethany Blessings Sunday will be celebrated on June 4 during the 9:00 am worship service.

Graduate Sunday will also be celebrated on June 4 during both worship services. Please come and celebrate our graduates accomplishments.

Pieces of Prayer
 Pieces of Prayer will meet Tuesday, June 6th at 6:30pm in the Stained Glass Room.

We will have a Combined Worship Service on June 11 at 11:00 am and a covered dish meal after worship in Honor and Thanks for Pastor Steve and Christine's ministry at Bethany. We want to wish them well in their new ministry appointment. Please sign the list at the Information Desk so we know you will be coming. The meat will be provided but ask you to bring your favorite covered dish or dessert to share.



THE SALVATION ARMY

VBS AT THE PARK!!

TUESDAY-THURSDAY
JUNE 6TH - 8TH
5PM - 7PM
BER-VAUGHN PARK

ANY QUESTIONS CALL 570-759-1214

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THE SALVATION ARMY

Community Carnival

FRIDAY JUNE 9TH

5PM-7PM

FREE: MUSIC | GAMES | FOOD & PRIZES

The Salvation Army
320 West Second St.

official partner **design** group

AIM AND WIN!!

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Dear Bethany Church Family,

I, would like to thank each and every one of you for your cards, your prayers and well wishes. My mother Olive I. Boone loved her church and everybody in the Church. Thank You again for everything.

may God Bless You All,
David
Boone

Thank you so much to everyone who came to the "Go To It Man" book signing and sale and also to all those who purchased a book. I'm so grateful for all the caring and support given to my family from so many people.

All the proceeds from the book are being given to the Go To It mission fund right here at Bethany Church. These funds will be used for community outreach. May God truly bless you,
Angel



Thank you,
Lord of life,
for this beautiful summer day!
May all who worship here
know the
warmth of your presence
and the
sunlight of your love.



American
Red Cross

YOU make a difference!

The American Red Cross is so grateful for your partnership! Your commitment to host a May blood drive with the Red Cross truly made a difference helping to boost the community blood supply and ensure hospital patients have the lifesaving blood they need.

Thank You

An abundance of gifts

In 2022, people set some amazing Guinness World Records. A Nebraska man paddled more than 37 miles in a hollowed-out pumpkin boat. A Vermont teen wearing 4-inch heels walked more than 600 feet across a tightrope. And an Oregon man found and alphabetized all 26 letters in a can of alphabet soup in 2 minutes and 8.6 seconds. (The toughest part, he says, is distinguishing subtle differences between letters such as M and W.)

Your talents might not earn you any world records, but they certainly can grow faith and change lives. Whether you're good at teaching, singing, writing, cooking or accounting, the church can put those skills to productive use. Romans 12 lists many more qualities you may not realize are spiritual gifts: graciousness, serving, generosity, acts of mercy, loving and honoring others, extending hospitality, rejoicing and weeping with people, making peace.

You might not be able to outperform the alphabet soup record. But God abundantly blesses each of us to "outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10, ESV) and in sharing his love.

—Stephanie Martin

PUZZLE

JESUS' FAMILY TREE

Matthew records a timeline of Jesus' family dating back to Abraham.
Do you know who is in Jesus' family tree?

Directions: Use Matthew 1:1-17 to order the genealogy. Then put the letters in order in the boxes to answer the question below.

- T. Uzziah the father of Jotham
- O. Jacob the father of Judah
- N. Jacob the father of Joseph
- E. Elihud the father of Eleazar
- U. Boaz the father of Obed
- F. Abraham the father of Isaac
- R. Solomon the father of Rehoboam
- E. Josiah the father of Jeconiah



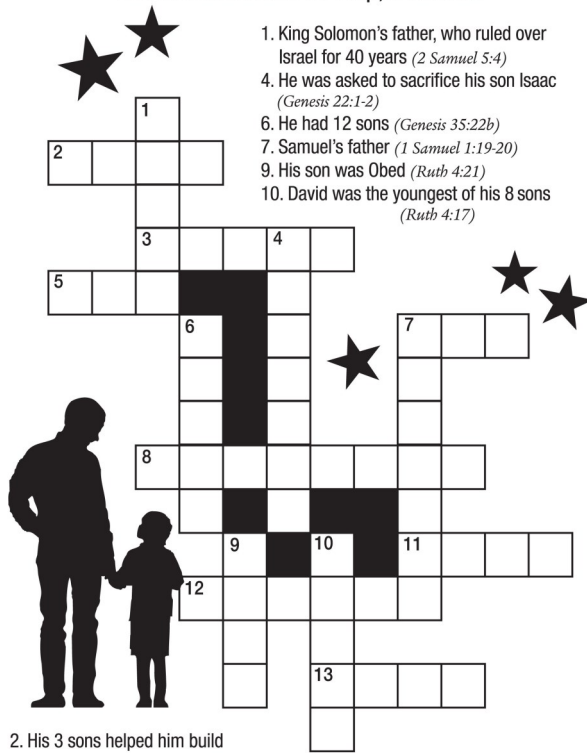
How many generations were there from Abraham to David, from David to the Exile, and from the Exile to Jesus, the Messiah?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Answer: FOURTEEN

Puzzle!

Complete this crossword with names of biblical fathers.
Use the references for help, if needed.



1. King Solomon's father, who ruled over Israel for 40 years (2 Samuel 5:4)
4. He was asked to sacrifice his son Isaac (Genesis 22:1-2)
6. He had 12 sons (Genesis 35:22b)
7. Samuel's father (1 Samuel 1:19-20)
9. His son was Obed (Ruth 4:21)
10. David was the youngest of his 8 sons (Ruth 4:17)
2. His 3 sons helped him build an ark (Genesis 6:10)
3. His youngest son, Jacob, tricked him into giving away a birthright (Genesis 27:30)
5. The Father of our Lord (Ephesians 1:3)
7. His sons were not like Samuel; they were wicked (1 Samuel 2:12)
8. David's best friend and the father of Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:6)
11. Father of Cain, Abel and Seth (Genesis 4:25)
12. He was married to Mary, mother of Jesus (Matthew 1:20-21)
13. Father of Jonathan; Israel chose him as their first king (2 Samuel 9:6)

Answer: DOWN 1. David, 4. Abraham, 6. Jacob, 7. Elkanah, 8. Jonathan, 11. Adam, 12. Joseph, 13. Saul, 9. Boaz, 10. Jesse, ACROSS 2. Noah, 3. Isaac, 5. God, 7. Eli,

Community Vacation Bible School

June 25-29th 6:00-8:30 pm

Family meal starts at 5:30 pm

Ages 4-12



Supported by Community Churches and Parishes

Register Early

www.BethanyBerwick.org



Hosted at Bethany UMC, 116 Summerhill Ave, Berwick



God remembers

It is not difficult for me to remember that the little ones need breakfast in the morning, dinner at midday and something before they go to bed at night. Indeed I could not forget it. And I find it impossible to suppose that our heavenly Father is less tender or mindful than I. ... I do not believe that our heavenly Father will ever forget his children. I am a very poor father, but it is not my habit to forget my children. God is a very, very good Father. It is not his habit to forget his children.

—J. Hudson Taylor

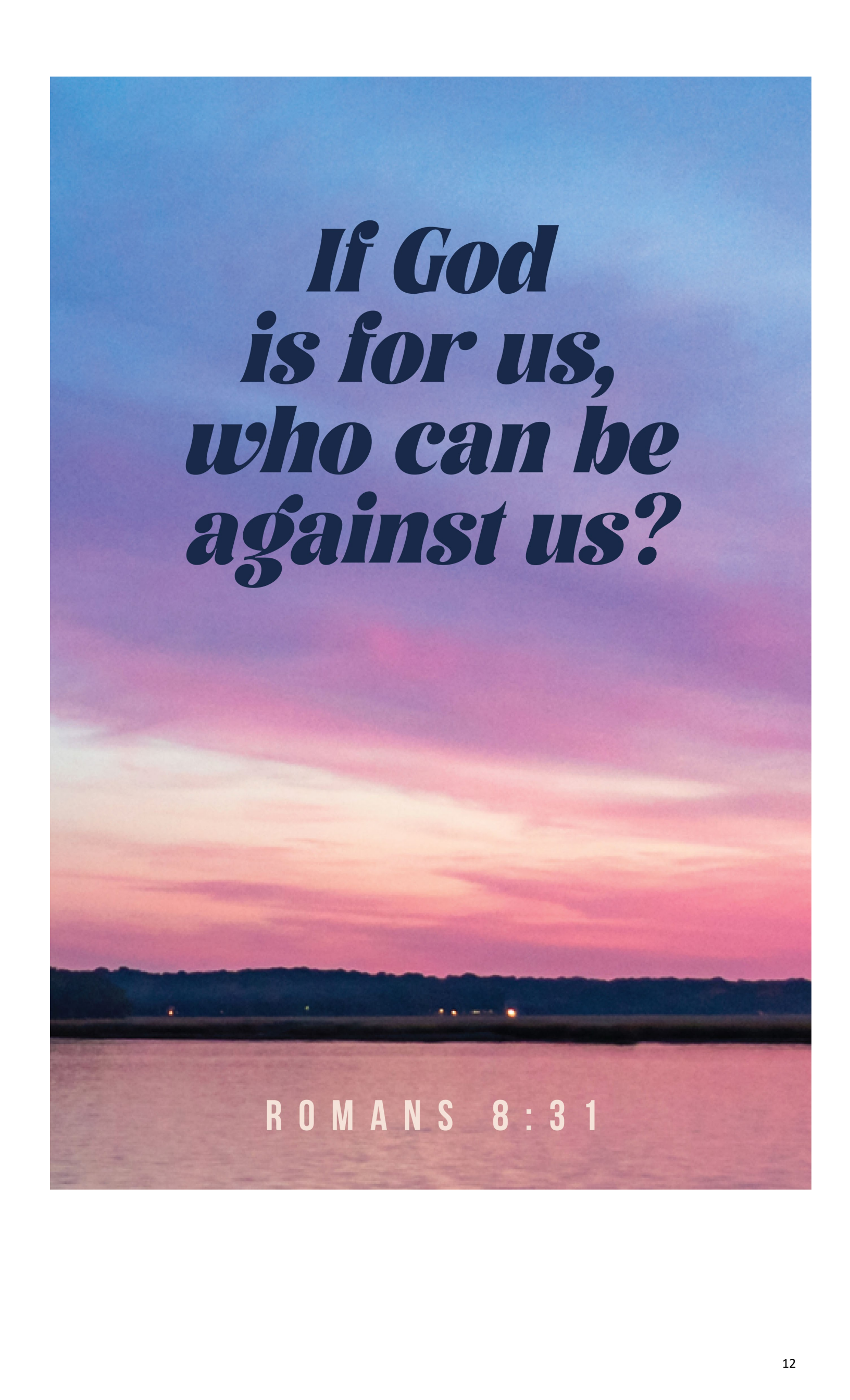
June 2023

◀ May 2023

Jul 2023 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Save the DATE for VBS 	 6/18 Happy Father's Day			1 10:30 am The Bridge Bible Study (Wesley Nesco) 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout) 7pm The Bridge Bible Study (1st UMC)	2 4:30 pm Setup Yard Sale (BR)	3 8:00 am Yard Sale (BR) Walk For Life
4 Trinity Sunday Bethany Blessings/Graduate Sunday 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR) 2pm Piano Recital (Sanc/Overflow)	5 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	6 8 am TOPS (SGR) Bethany Blessings Graduation 6:30 pm Pieces of Prayer	7 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)	8 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	9	10
11 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Combined Worship(Sanc) 12 pm Meal In Honor of Pastor Steve & Christine (BR)	12 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	13 8 am TOPS (SGR)	14 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR) 	15 6:30 pm Church Council (SGR) 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	16	17
18 Father's Day 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR) Pastor Steve's Last Sunday	19 Connie Vacation 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	20 Connie Vacation 8 am TOPS (SGR)	21 1st Day of Summer PBJ Carepack distribution Connie Vacation 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)	22 Connie Vacation 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	23 Connie Vacation	24
25 Pastor Vacation Pulpit - Sarah Hazlett 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR) 5:30 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Community VBS	26 Pastor Vacation Connie Vacation 5:30 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Community VBS	27 Pastor Vacation Connie Vacation 8 am TOPS (SGR) 5:30 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Community VBS	28 Pastor Vacation Connie Vacation 5:30 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Community VBS	29 Pastor Vacation Connie Vacation 5:30 pm Family Meal 6:00 pm Community VBS	30 Pastor Vacation Connie Vacation	

July 2023						Aug 2023 ▶		
◀ Jun 2023	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
							1	
2 Pulpit – Woody Wolfe 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR)	3 Bethany Blessings Closed 12 pm Blood Drive (BR) NO Grief Support		4 th of July Office closed Bethany Blessings Closed	5 Bethany Blessings Closed 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)	6 Bethany Blessings Closed 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	7 Bethany Blessings Closed	8	
9 Pulpit – Church Council 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR)	10 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)		11 8 am TOPS (SGR)	12 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)	13 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	14	15 7 pm Ladies Night (BR)	
16 Pulpit – Gary Bowman 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR)	17 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)		18 8 am TOPS (SGR)	19 PBJ Carepack distribution 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)	20 6:30 pm Church Council (SGR) 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	21	22	
23 Pulpit - Sarah Hazlett 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR)	24 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)		25 8 am TOPS (SGR)	26 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)	27 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	28	29	
30 Pulpit – Gary Bowman 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR)	31 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)						Monday's at 6:30 in Room 2. Please invite anyone who is grieving to join us.	

A vertical image showing a sunset over a body of water. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a vibrant orange and pink near the horizon. The water in the foreground is calm and reflects the colors of the sky. In the distance, a dark silhouette of a shoreline with a few small lights is visible.

***If God
is for us,
who can be
against us?***

ROMANS 8:31