

Bethany Road

Bethany Presbyterian Church

Volume 16, Issue 4
April 2018

From the Desk of Pastor Peter

Signs of Spring are all around us. The transition doesn't happen in a day, much as we wish it would. Rather it unfolds slowly but steadily, one faltering step at a time. In one Google search I found these 7 official signs of Spring: the snow melts, the rivers flood, monarchs migrate, trees bud, oceans bloom, the arctic awakens and the sun rises over the North Pole for the first time in 6 months*. We see these signs on a small scale right here in our own world.

Have you ever noticed how the stretching out of the preparation builds the anticipation? Like a child waiting for Christmas, or a lover waiting for his or her sweetheart to return from a long absence. Remember Carly Simon's old song, "Anticipation, it's makin' me wait!" I can feel it all around me, the anticipation for Spring, but this weather, it's makin' us wait!

The events that took place in the days leading up to the Resurrection are comparable. They are like a slow, steady drum beat that gets louder and more persistent with each new turn. Jesus rides into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday as the crowds wave branches. But soon the chief priests and the elders begin to plot his death. Mary prepares Jesus for burial when she anoints his feet. Judas plans for betrayal. Jesus and his disciples eat their last supper together and he gives it new meaning, foreshadowing his sacrifice. Jesus agonizes in the garden then is arrested. His disciples desert and betray him. He is put on trial, flogged, mocked and exchanged for a notorious criminal. Then, like the freak snow storm that always heralds that Spring is about to make an entrance, Jesus is put on the cross and dies!

But we know that what looked like defeat to all around him was his finest moment. The warrior entered the battle with sin and death, and on Resurrection Day, he returned victorious from the grave! As you wait for Spring to finally arrive, as you witness small wonders turn into persistent changes around you, as you feel the disappointment of a late snow storm, perhaps you can use these moments as organic reminders to reflect on Christ's march forward to betrayal, death and finally victory. May we all anticipate the Resurrection and celebrate it with great enthusiasm!

"The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said!" (Matthew 28: 5,6)

Dear Friends at Bethany Church. A note of thanks to all of you who sent me cards, made visits, prayed for me, sent flowers, and made food. Your caring was very much appreciated. My life has changed significantly since I came to Whispering Oakes Retirement Center but God hasn't changed. He is ever faithful no matter what the circumstances are and He never leaves us. Thanks again for all you folks have done for me. God Bless you all. Liz Shillito

Committee Meetings:

- **Property** April 2 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Deacons** April 3 at 6:00 p.m.
- **Christian Ed.** April 3 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Worship & Memorials** April 9 at 7 p.m.
- **Member Involvement/Outreach** April 9 at 7:00 p.m.
- **SESSION** April 25 at 7 p.m.

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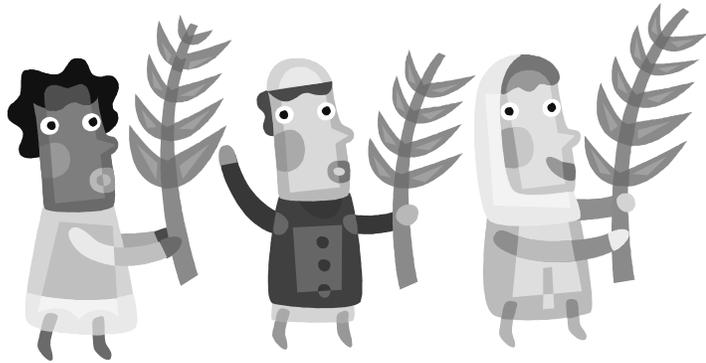
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West Virginia back cover

Holy Week April 14- April 21

Palm Sunday

The Children's Choir will be singing at the 10:15 a.m. service on April 14. We look forward to hearing them sing and wave palm branches on this great day of celebration.



Maundy Thursday

There will be a Maundy Thursday Service of Communion here at Bethany on April 18th, at 7:00 p.m.



Easter Brunch

Bethany's Easter Brunch will be at 9:00 a.m. during the Sunday School Hour. Come and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord! Please bring a breakfast casserole or baked items to share. Juice and coffee will be provided.



Good Friday Cross Walk



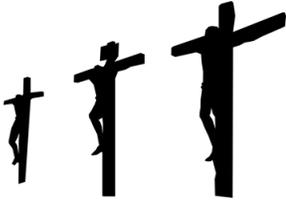
Friday, April 19th

We invite you to join with members of other Mercer churches for this Good Friday observance. We will walk in procession, carrying a large cross, to different churches and at each church focus on a Biblical character's perspective of the Cross.



We all look forward to a joyous **Easter Sunday Worship at 10:15 a.m.** Our Holiday Choir will be singing. Pastor Peter will be preaching. All are invited.

My Ladies Bible Study—"Today You Will Be With Me in Paradise" . . .



My Ladies Bible Study, open to all widows, will continue this month. We will be meeting in the rear of Carson Chapel on Monday, April 22 at 10:30 a.m. This will be our second in seven lessons based on the "The Seven Last Sayings from Jesus from the Cross." We will be looking at His response as He speaks to one of the thieves on the cross—Today **You** will be with me in paradise. Wow, what a promise! We will conclude at 11:30 a.m.

Fun and Fellowship. . .Ready. . .Set. . .Go

Our Fun and Fellowship group will be meeting on Monday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lindsey Room. This month's meeting will be a busy one since we will be making final plans for the Spring Brunch. Our major project will be the creation of our favors, but there still will be plenty of time to chat, laugh, and enjoy each other's company. All women are invited and you can come as often as you wish. Why not join us?

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND ITS SPRING BRUNCH ON SATURDAY, APRIL 27 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE SOCIAL HALL

"Living Loved"



On Saturday morning, April 27 in the Social Hall of the Church, the Bethany Presbyterian Women's group will be sponsoring its Spring Brunch with the theme, "Living Loved." We will begin at 10:00 but if you want a little extra "chat time" please feel free to come at 9:30 when coffee and other beverages will be available.

If you have felt blessed by God, this is the place you should be. A short devotional will be provided on love, a great time of fellowship, relaxation, a few fun games, really good food and the opportunity to win one of our always popular gift baskets (which everyone has a chance to win).

Our menu will include a sandwich, pasta salad, and a variety of delicious cupcakes. How much does this cost—there really is such a thing as a free lunch! Since there won't even be any collections until fall, we are asking everyone to bring a dollar and no that is not a price of admission! An explanation of the dollar will be explained at the Brunch.

If you would like to donate a basket for our giveaway, please call the church office at 724 662-4340 or Nancy Ollinger-Thiess at 724 662-3986, bring it to the office anytime, or bring it on that Saturday morning. It can be any theme you desire. . .large or small. . .we love them all.

We do need to know how many will be attending (since we want plenty of food!) so please call the church office at 724 662-4340 and let us know. Feel free to invite a friend or neighbor. . .all women are cordially invited. So put on your favorite spring attire, and join us. If you say I have never attended before, that is all the more reason you should be with us. **YOU** are important to our Lord and to us and **HE** and we will miss you if you are not there. We will conclude at noon.

From the Desk of Mr. Nate,

The month of March is quickly coming to a close, although I don't know if it will go out like a lamb! Our bi-annual Family Retreat hosted 38 children and adults and made great memories together. Our first session of Totally Terrific Tuesdays (TTT) has concluded with the lessons of Jesus our Prophet, Priest, and King. The kids loved the new therapy dog station. Forty four youth attended the Hunter/Trapper Education Course hosted here in our facilities with lunch provided by you.

The next couple of months appear to be even busier with youth groups wrapping up, last session of TTT, First Communion Class, Gutter Sundae, "56" Capture the Flag, Egg Hunt, Dessert Auction, Easter Week, Youth Paintball, Pirates Game, and ongoing preparations for VBS, WV Trip, and camp. See more information below.

Ordination Update- As I have shared previously, I am waiting for a call (ie "job offer") from a church before I can proceed further with my oral exams by committee and presbytery. Teri and I have prayed about this for some time and have sought counsel from many people wiser than us in these matters. As a result, we have determined that we will not pursue a possible "call" here at Bethany. We are looking for lead pastor positions, but also open to associate positions, preferably in the Allegheny Presbytery and even in western PA. Teri and I would prefer to be in central proximity between both of our parents (PA/OH/IN/KY), but we are open to where God leads. However, ****please note**** that all these details are unknown to our youngest three at this time. J

PRESBYTERY
of the
ALLEGHENIES

Over the last few months, I have had several interviews with a church in the presbytery and in the metro Pittsburgh area about their lead pastor position. They also came to hear me preach the first of March. Currently, they are checking with my references and we will have a dinner/interview with the search committee on Monday, April 8. We also visited on a Sunday morning and are prayerfully waiting. Please pray with us as we seek God's will.



Athletics vs. Pirates on Sunday, May 5th at 1:35 pm

Cost is \$25 per ticket. Place your payment in an envelope and in the drop box by the office doors by Sunday, March 31st and no later than Wednesday, April 3rd. **Free transportation** will also be provided by Bethany Church via Watson Bus leaving after the morning service (11:30 am). Bring a lunch with you or eat at the park!

A **First Communion Class** will be offered on Saturday, April 6 at 11 am for interested children and youth by Pastor Peter and Mr. Nate. Pick up your workbook at the Welcome Center. A special service is planned for Maundy Thursday.



Our fifth annual **Dessert Auction** is on Sunday, April 14th after the Lenten Lunch. Proceeds will be going towards **the Jamaica Junior/Senior Mission trip** that is on June 29-July 6. Be thinking of what cake, pie, or other dessert items that you want to make or bid on!

If you plan to participate, please sign up at the Welcome Center or on your Attendance Card.

Our “Incredible Race” **Vacation Bible School** is scheduled for June 3-7 with registration at www.bethanyvbs.org. This summer a theme orchestrating God’s amazing race around the world is developing from VBS to camp!



Register for **Bethany Summer Camps** at www.bethanysummercamp.org. Camp is July 14-19 for those currently in 3rd-9th grade. Pastor Juan Patt from Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church in Belize will be our camp speaker. If you are interested in helping as a camp counselor or in high school as a Counselor in Training, contact Mr. Nate.



Parents, register for **afterschool program TTT** at www.tttafterschool.org. Our last session for TTT this spring is April 2, 9, 16 for Kindergarten to 2nd grade. Thank you to everyone who volunteers to help with the kids and cookies.



Our **Bethany Youth** of middle and high school continue to meet on Sundays from 6-8 pm. Our last four weeks of **Alpha** answers these questions “How can I resist evil?” “Why and how should I tell others?” “Does God heal today?” “What about the church?”

Gutter Sundae is Sunday, April 7. **Paintball** is scheduled for Saturday, May 4th at 10 am Slippery Rock Baptist Camp. Cost is \$20. Lunch and extra paint is provided.



56 Group meets Sunday nights from 6:00-7:30 pm at the Chapel for 5th & 6th grade. Leaders are Brad Baker, Marcie Miller, and Austin Hall. They will be playing “**Capture the Flag**” on Sunday, April 7 at Brandy Springs. Answering questions each week like: “Why aren’t other religions okay? What if I fail? What if I give up? What if I get hurt?”



April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 6:30 Cub Scouts	<i>2</i> 3-6 TTT 6:30 Property	<i>3</i> 8:00 Quilters 9:30 Moms In Prayer 6:00 Deacons; Girl Scouts 6:30 Christian Ed. 7:00 Choir	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 11:00 Communion Class
<i>7</i> 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Lenten Lunch 6:00 Youth Groups	<i>8</i> 6:30 Cub Scouts	<i>9</i> 9:30 Mom2Mom 3-6 TTT 7:00 Member Inv; Outreach; Worship & Memorials	<i>10</i> 8:00 Quilters 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Military Prayer 7:00 Choir	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 1:00 Shower So- cial Room/ Kitch- en
<i>14</i> 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Lenten Lunch 6:00 Youth Groups	<i>15</i> 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Fun & Fel- lows lowship	<i>16</i> 3-6 TTT 6:30 Cub Commit- tee	<i>17</i> 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Moms In Prayer 7:00 Choir	<i>18</i> 7:00 Maundy Thursday Com- munion Service	<i>19</i> Office Closed Cross Walk	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 9:00 Easter Brunch 10:15 Worship	<i>22</i> Office Closed 10:30 My Ladies 6:30 Cub Scouts	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 8:00 Quilters 7:00 Choir	<i>25</i> 7:00 Session	<i>26</i> 5:00 Brunch Set- Up Kitchen/Social Room	<i>27</i> 10-12 Women's Brunch Kitchen/ Social Room
<i>28</i> 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6:00 Youth Groups	<i>29</i> 6:30 Cub Pack Meeting	<i>30</i>				

Bethany Presbyterian Church
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Regular Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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PERMIT No. 39

**We're here
to Exalt,
to Encourage,
to Equip, to**

Evangelize

TO: Current Resident

Have you had that tug on your heart to go on a mission trip and are not sure where to find one? Well...we have the trip for you, **WEST VIRGINIA 2019**.

This unique trip in the hills of **West Virginia** has had a calling from God to many Bethany and Mercer community members for over 30 years. Lois Finney and Esther Thompson saw the need in the small community of Circleville, WV while on a short term bus trip. The relationship that was built with our WV friends has, by the grace of God, been ongoing to lead hundreds of children and adults to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The trip is a week of leading Vacation Bible School and living in a camp setting while forming a tight knit family doing God's work. Please consider joining this team as there is a role for anyone ages 1-111.

This year's dates are June 15-22. Join us for a few days or all week long!

Our teens, finishing 8th through 12th grade, lead the Bible School. We are looking for adults to help with crafts, games, help cook meals, be van drivers, creek hikers, campfire builders, on the music team, prayer warriors, and anything in between. We will find a spot for you! P.S. We DO have electric and flushing toilets!

Sunday, April 7... Gutter Sunday at 6:00 pm for 8th-12th grade youth interested in attending WV Trip.

Wednesday, April 24th - 7:11 pm - An organizational and training meeting for youth and adults interested. Turn in shirt sizes!

Contact Dan & Amy Cameron, Scott & Wendy Hinkson, or Sam & Renea Smith for more information.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."