

Bethany Road

Volume 16, Issue 3

March 2019

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From the Desk of Pastor Peter

“Are we there yet?” Who hasn’t heard or uttered these words a thousand times?! They may come from the mouths of impatient children, annoyed youth, or bored adults. Age doesn’t seem to make a difference for many people when it comes to impatience.

As a child I certainly drove my parents silly pestering them with that question. I longed to get to the destination as fast as I could. However, maturity and time have taught me a life-changing truth: the journey can be as wonderful and valuable as getting to the destination. How often have we missed the joy of the journey because we have overlooked scenery, interesting waysides and quiet time to reflect on and talk with God? In fact, the journey can actually add to the wonderment of the destination. The voyage can prepare our spirit, heart, and mind to truly embrace the gift of the destination.

The Lent season can be compared to a journey, a journey on the way to the celebration of the Resurrection! As we travel with Christ on His way to the cross, we find a journey with both beautiful and terrible moments. But as we walk that road, our hearts can be filled with wonder and faith as we focus on the strength and grace of Christ as He went very purposefully to the cross. Taking time to soak in this journey allows us to arrive at our destination with full hearts, ready to celebrate Easter and the gift of Christ’s resurrection and eternal life.

Our Lent sermon series is called “Journey to the Cross.” Together we will take time to re-look, re-think, re-wonder, and reflect on the story of the greatest gift that God gave to this world: redemption through the life, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Together let’s take in the beauty of the landscape and breath in the fresh air of the Gospel. Let’s not let the rush of life rob us of appreciating this incredible journey.

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Matthew 16:21, NIV

Committee Meetings

- **Property** March 5 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Christian Ed.** March 5 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Deacons** March 6 at 6:00 p.m.
- **Outreach** March 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Member Involvement** March 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Worship & Memorials** March 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- **SESSION** March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

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BETHANY WOMEN’S SPRING BRUNCH. . .LIVING LOVED

Bethany Presbyterian Women’s Semi-Annual Brunch with a theme of “Living Loved,” will be held in the Social Hall of the Church on Saturday, April 27 at 10:00 a.m.

Our almost two hours together will feature some fun activities, our basket give a ways, an opportunity to chat and share a time of fellowship and lunch! The lunch will consist of a sandwich, pasta salad and a variety of homemade cupcakes.



Because we are providing you with a special lunch, we do need to know how many are coming so we will have plenty of food for everyone. Please call the Church Office by noon on Friday, April 26 (724 662-4340) and let us know how many will be attending. Why not invite a member of your family, a neighbor, or a coworker?

How much is the cost of admission to this fun event? You may not believe this, but it is absolutely free; but if you are willing, please bring a dollar and we will explain that morning what it is to be used for. There will be no collections until fall. I can just see the smile on your faces now. (see announcement below)

If you would be willing to donate a basket (you select your theme) please call Lois at the church office at 724 662-4340 or Nancy Ollinger-Thiess at 724 662-3986. Any basket—large or small; any theme will be welcomed.

This Brunch is open to all members and friends of Bethany and the community at large. This is the Bethany Presbyterian Women’s personal invitation for you. We will miss you if you are not there.

MY LADIES BIBLE STUDY. . .NEW STUDY BEGINS. . .



Why not join us for our new Bible Study which will be conducted on Monday, March 25 at 10:30 a.m. in the rear of Carson Chapel.

We have just concluded our Bible Study which was entitled, “The Three Women of Christmas.” Our next series of lessons will be entitled, “The Seven Final Sayings of Our Savior on the Cross,” with our first lesson being—“Father Forgive Them.” Forgiveness is hard especially today and we will discuss not only that quote from Jesus while on the cross, but how we as Christians can forgive others—not always an easy task. All widows are invited to attend. We will conclude at 11:30 a.m.

COLLECTIONS. . .NONE UNTIL FALL. . .

Because you have been so generous over the last years, we are going to give you a break from collections until late summer or early fall. At that time, we will have a new list of suggestions.



HOP TO IT. . .FUN AND FELLOWSHIP FOR MARCH COLLECTIONS. . .NONE UNTIL FALL. . .

Since we have not met because of the possibility of bad weather, we really need to “hop to it” and get ready for the Bethany Presbyterian Women’s Spring Brunch. We have many ladies waiting and we cannot disappoint them.

We will come together for a busy evening of our March Fun and Fellowship meeting which will be held on March 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lindsey Room. We will be making plans for the Brunch (to our guests~~ don’t worry we will be already for our wonderful time together.) We will put final plans on our menu and discuss our favors. We will have light (very light) refreshments. All women are invited to attend.

From the Desk of Mr. Nate,

Ordination Update- After months and then intensive weeks of studying, it was nice to have a break from the 30 day gauntlet after Feb. 16. Exams are graded now and, a little to my surprise, I passed all four. One was a little more difficult for me. Honestly, there may have been a curve, but God grades on a curve for all of us by faith alone, grace alone, and Christ alone.

PRESBYTERY
of the
ALLEGHENIES

Another frequently asked question (FAQ) I am asked is “What’s next?” Now that written exams are complete, I am not able to go any further in the ordination process with committee and presbytery oral exams until I receive a call from a church. Teri and I are praying about this and seeking counsel from various sources. Please pray with us as we seek God’s will.

Family Retreat is March 8-10 and will be a great time at the Castle in Franklin, PA. This is now an every other year event and we are getting a great response this year.

Options are the whole weekend, Friday only, Saturday only, or come up for Saturday. Cost is a donation to help cover the cost of room and meals. This is open to anyone whether you have children living at home or not. Circle #1 if you are interested in attending.



A PA Hunter’s Education Course will be hosted by Bethany and will be in the Social Room on Saturday, March 16. Right now we have over 37 youth registered. *If you would like to help by greeting in the morning, serving lunch, or cleaning up/setting up for Lenten lunch, please let Nate know.*

This is a six-hour training class required by law for all first-time hunters and trappers before they can buy a license. You must pass a certification exam at the end of the class to complete this training. In order to prepare for your class, read Chapters 1, 4, 5 and 9 located at Today’s Hunter & Trapper in PA. **NOTE:** All the materials needed to take the course are provided at no charge. You must be at least 11 years of age to register for this class!

Bethany will provide lunch (Pizza) at no cost to students. Drinks will also be provided. You are welcome to bring your own snacks, food, or beverages. Register at <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/137761>

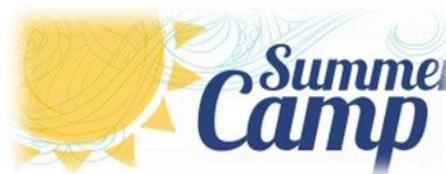
**SUMMER
INTERN**

Applications for the position of **Summer Intern** are now available for high school graduates. This is a 12 week, full-time position starting around the third week of May to the first weeks of August. Interviews will likely be over spring break with a decision made in April. Call the church office or e-mail nate@bethanymcercer.org for an application.



Parents, register for **afterschool program TTT** at www.tttafterschool.org. March 12, 19, 16 for 3rd-6th grade and April 2, 9, 16 for Kindergarten to 2nd grade.

Register for **Bethany Summer Camps** at www.bethanysummercamp.org. Camp is July 14-19 for those currently in 3rd-9th grade. If you are interested in helping as a camp counselor or in high school as a Counselor in Training, please circle #5.



Our **Bethany Youth** of middle and high school continue to meet on Sundays from 6-8 pm. This month we continue Alpha Youth on prayer, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit. Alpha is an international interdenominational outreach ministry that has reached over 30 million people. These are interactive video presentation with discussion inter mixed about the Gospel and Christian life.

56 Group meets Sunday nights from 6:00-7:30 pm at the Chapel for 5th & 6th grade. They average between 9-12 kids each week. Sunday, March 10th is **bowling at J & J Lanes** from 3-5 pm. Cost is \$5. Leaders are Brad Baker, Marcie Miller, and Austin Hall.



Small Groups continue to meet in various locations and times in the Mercer area.

Every **Thursday evening** at the Denny & Nancy Thompson's House with Ron Beil leading.

Saturday evenings at the Creasy's House with Nate Childers leading. Childcare available.
Meeting on March 2 at 6 pm.

Every other **Sunday** at Gallagher's with F. Carolas.
Next meeting will be March 31.

Any **questions** or if you are interested in a small group at another time, please see Nate Childers or call 724-974-9250 or e-mail at nate@bethanymercer.org.



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

Cost is \$25 per ticket. Place your payment in an envelope and place in the drop box by the office doors by Sunday, March 31st. **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!



March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6:00 Youth Groups	4 6:30 Cub Scouts	5 6:30 Property; Christian Ed.	6 8:00 Quilters 9:30 Mom In Prayer/Back Pack 6:00 Deacons; Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir	7	8 Family Retreat	9 Family Retreat
10 Family Retreat 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Lenten Lunch 6:00 Youth Groups	11 6:30 Cub Scouts; Outreach	12 9:15 Mom2Mom 3-6 TTT 6:00 Back Pack 7:00 W& M; Member Inv.	13 8:00 Quilters 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Military Prayer 7:00 Choir	14	15	16
17 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Lenten Lunch 6:00 Youth Groups	18 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Fun & Fellowship	19 3-6 TTT 6:30 Cub Committee	20 8:00 Quilters 9:30 Mom In Prayer/ Back Pack 6:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir	21	22	23
24 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Lenten Lunch 6:00 Youth Groups	25 10:30 My Ladies 6:30 Cub Scout Pack Meeting	26 3-6 TTT	27 8:00 Quilters 6:00 Back Pack 7:00 Choir	28 7:00 SESSION	29	30 Boy Scout Eagle Ceremony in Sanctuary & Social Room
31 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Lenten Lunch 6:00 Youth Groups						

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
100 West Venango Street
Mercer, PA 16137

Regular Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
(724) 662 – 4340

Prayer Chain: prayer@bethany-
presbyterian.org

Fax: 724-662-1080

Web: www.bethany-presbyterian.org

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