



# BETHANY CHURCH

BELONG | BELIEVE | BECOME

The 29<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Acts...*The Ancient Story Continues*

December 2024

## Read About:

- ▲ *Advent Reading Plan*
- ▲ *Children's Ministry News*
- ▲ *Children's Department Tree of Blessing*
- ▲ *Poinsettias*
- ▲ *Silent Night/Blue Christmas Service*
- ▲ *December Book of the Month*
- ▲ *Daily Devotions*
- ▲ *Daily Bible Readings*
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- ▲ *Small Group Opportunities*
- ▲ *Grab 'n Go Sub/Sandwich Sale*
- ▲ *Apple Dumplings Fundraiser*
- ▲ *Fudge Fundraiser*
- ▲ *Shine Your Light*



## Christmas Eve Services



*Candlelighting & Communion in the Sanctuary*

*5 PM ~ Children's Choir  
Special Music - Destiny*

*11 PM ~ Sanctuary Choir  
Pre-Service Music at 10:30 PM  
by The Vintage Brass & Mr. William Marion*

Both services will be livestreamed. A link to the services can be found on our website, [www.bethanyredlion.com](http://www.bethanyredlion.com).

*This month's newsletter  
is sponsored  
in memory of Whorley J.  
& Agnes Neff by  
W. David Neff.*

## December Meetings

Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Stewardship & Finance Committee – 7 PM – Upper Room  
Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – Administrative Council – 7 PM – Upper Room  
Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> – Board of Trustees – 7 PM – Upper Room



Life is hard enough without extra drama. Most of the time, the drama we deal with is of our own creating or someone else creating. But sometimes, God creates drama so that His work can be done.

Listen again to Matthew's telling of the Christmas story....

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV 1984) <sup>18</sup> *This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.* <sup>19</sup> *Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want*

*to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.* <sup>20</sup> *But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.* <sup>21</sup> *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* <sup>22</sup> *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:* <sup>23</sup> *"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."* <sup>24</sup> *When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.* <sup>25</sup> *But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

I would venture a guess that when Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant, that one of his thoughts was, "I didn't sign up for this drama."

For Mary's part, she, also, must have shared a similar thought, "I didn't sign up for the drama that this baby is going to create."

Joseph sought to do right by Mary and not put her through any extra drama. But after having a dream, Joseph is assured that the drama they are both facing is not of Mary's creating but of the Holy Spirit.

Holidays, lost loved ones, family fights, rising inflation, gas prices, who needs the drama? I want to encourage you as we prepare for Christmas, that joy counters drama. The joy of a promised fulfilled. The joy of a new life. The joy of a savior who will save HIS people. The joy of God with us.

Many times, it is in the midst of the drama, that we become more open to God breaking into our reality and shaking things up. Joseph had a plan, quiet carpenter life in Nazareth. Mary had a plan, quiet life with Joseph in Nazareth. Neither of them pictured the drama ahead of an unplanned pregnancy, delivery in a stable, visits from angels, shepherd worshipers, kingly gifts, slaughter of innocent babies, running for their new born's life to a foreign country. But in the midst of all this drama, God was with them. God provided for them. God protected them. God delivered them. God reminded them that He was all that they needed. Their baby already knew that.

This Christmas season, I don't pretend to know the drama that you face. Some may be self-created, but others may be God created. Whichever is the case, hold tight to the joy that God is with you. God will provide. God will protect. God will deliver. Jesus is exactly what we needed and He is exactly what this world needs. Amen.

Blessings, *Pastor Don*





The  
Season  
of

# Advent

## READING PLAN

### *Hope*

- ◇ Day 1: Jeremiah 29:10-14
- ◇ Day 2: Romans 15:8-13
- ◇ Day 3: 1 Peter 1:3-12
- ◇ Day 4: Hebrews 10:19-39
- ◇ Day 5: Psalm 33
- ◇ Day 6: Titus 2:11– 3:8

### *Peace*

- ◇ Day 7: Isaiah 9:1-7
- ◇ Day 8: John 14:1-7, 25-31
- ◇ Day 9: John 16:25-33
- ◇ Day 10: Romans 5:1-11
- ◇ Day 11: Ephesians 2:11-22
- ◇ Day 12: Colossians 3:1-17

### *Joy*

- ◇ Day 13: Philippians 4:4-9
- ◇ Day 14: Psalm 16
- ◇ Day 15: James 1:2-18
- ◇ Day 16: Psalm 30
- ◇ Day 17: Luke 2:8-20
- ◇ Day 18: John 15:1-11

### *Love*

- ◇ Day 19: Micah 7:18-20
- ◇ Day 20: Romans 8:31-39
- ◇ Day 21: John 3:16-21
- ◇ Day 22: 1 John 4:7-21
- ◇ Day 23: Philippians 2:1-11
- ◇ Day 24: 2 Thessalonians 2:13 – 3:5
- ◇ Day 25: Ephesians 2:1-10



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

## PARENTS NIGHT OUT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

5 – 8 PM

Hey Parents! It's time for you to enjoy a well-deserved night off while your kids have a blast at our ***Christmas Pajama Party!!!!*** Join us for food, games, crafts, and a Christmas movie!

This is a drop-off event! In order to ensure that we have enough volunteers and supplies, all children must be pre-registered. Registration will close by 6 PM on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Use the QR code below to register your child or find the link in the weekly Bethany Blast!



## December Acolytes

December 1<sup>st</sup>: Ryleigh A.  
December 8<sup>th</sup>: Easton K.  
December 15<sup>th</sup>: Nathaniel Z.  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>: Brooke S.  
December 29<sup>th</sup>: Elliott H.



## Christmas Eve

The children have been invited to sing during the 5 PM Christmas Eve service. Stay tuned for additional details!

## Contact Info

Rachel Zelger,  
Director of Children's Ministries  
Phone: 717-244-7624, Ext. 105





Thank you to all our new Acolytes!



Friends helping to pack shoeboxes for OCC!



The children rehearsing to sing with the Sanctuary Choir!



Sunday Morning Fun!!



# Children's Department Christmas Tree of Blessing

## Help us Make Christmas More Magical for Area Children!

### Infant/Toddler (6 – 24 months)

- Anything Little Tikes
- Anything Playskool
- Anything Baby Einstein
- Anything Fisher Price
- Learning Walkers
- Tonka Trucks
- Trains
- Stacking Rings
- Mr. Potato Head (all kinds)
- Doctor Kit
- Plush Doll
- Books
- Bath Toys

### Preschoolers (ages 2 – 5)

- Play Instruments
- Cars/Trucks/Trains
- Kitchen Play Set
- Mega Bloks
- Lincoln Logs
- Animal/Dinosaur figurines
- Play-Doh sets
- Princess Dresses & accessories
- Baby Dolls and accessories
- Legos Duplo
- Super Hero figurines
- Ride on toys/scooters
- Educational toys
- Activity Kits

### Older Children (ages 6 -12)

- Baby Dolls and accessories
- LOL Dolls
- Barbie Dolls and accessories
- Animal/dinosaur figurines
- Remote Control Cars
- Funko Pop figurines
- Super Hero figurines
- Science kits
- Nerf Guns
- Kids Crafts
- Lego
- Sport balls/bats
- Books/Puzzles/Games
- Educational toys
- Squishmallows

All unwrapped gifts will need to be dropped off in the Children's Department no later than Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Donations of wrapping paper and tape are also needed!

**All gifts will be distributed to Red Lion area families.**




POINSETTIAS will again grace our Sanctuary for the Christmas season. We will be filling a

"Poinsettia tree" this year. You may order a plant in memory of or in honor of a person, class, or loved ones. The cost of a plant will be \$9.50 and MUST BE PAID when ordering. In addition to the traditional red, you may also order white and pink. Poinsettia Order Envelopes may be found at all entrances to the Sanctuary, in the Information Cubby in the Contemporary Worship Area, in the church office, and on the Information Centers in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Contemporary worship area in which you may place your \$9.50. Please indicate on the envelope what you would want included in the bulletin. Please place the envelope in the church offering plate or drop off in or mail to the church office. You may also place your order online using the link in the weekly Blast or through the Giving Kiosk or App (under "events"). Be sure to note your choice of poinsettia color! DEADLINE FOR ORDERING POINSETTIAS WILL BE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>. If you would like to do something other than contribute a flower, you may make a donation to the work of our Missions Ministry in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

Who was governor of Syria when Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem for a mandated registration, or census?

- A. Theophilus
- B. Herod Antipas
- C. Pontius Pilate
- D. Quirinius



Answer: D (See Luke 2:1-7)



## **"The Silent Night – Blue Christmas"**

**A Service of  
Grace and Healing, Rest and Renewal**

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM  
in the Sanctuary**

Are you in mourning and grief this year, while others are celebrating a "Merry Christmas?" On Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM in the Sanctuary, we will have a worship service for those who are having a difficult time celebrating the Christmas Season. We will recognize the grief that we are going through, yet we do not grieve as those who have no hope—1 Thessalonians 4:13. Come to experience the sorrow and joy that Christmas can bring this year.



**in the  
Contemporary  
Worship Area  
All are welcome!**

open before Sunday School & the 9 AM Contemporary service; after the 9 AM service; and before & after the 10:30 AM Traditional Service. Books are priced at cost; please pay in the church office.

## **Online Sunday Morning Worship**

In addition to in-person worship, we are also providing two streams to watch online services, both live and archived. All online watching happens through our website. For further information, please contact Pastor Don.



Join us the first Sunday of every month.



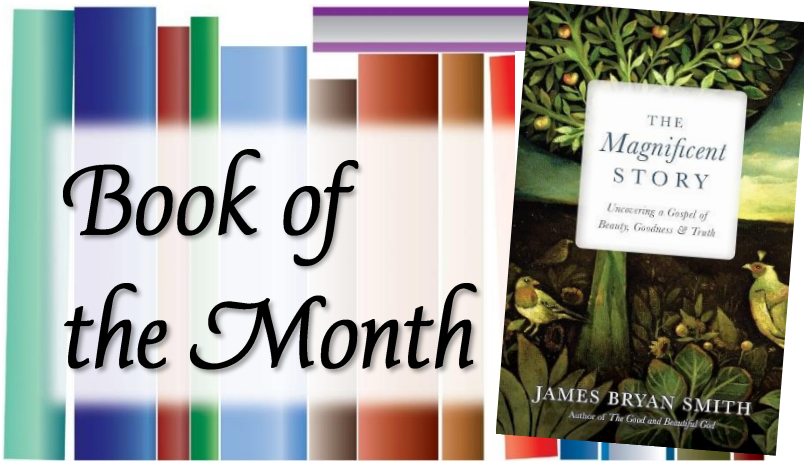
## **Church Staff Openings**

The Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is looking to hire a Youth Ministry

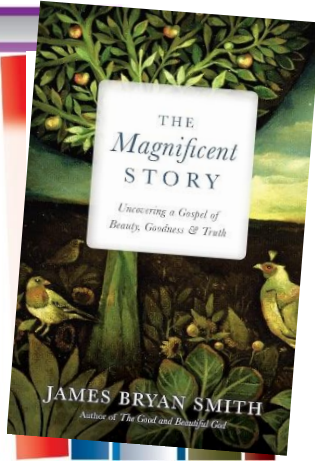
Director for 10 – 15 hour per week. For a copy of the position description or questions, please contact Pastor Don at 717-244-7624, ext. 101.







# Book of the Month



The "Connecting People with God" Committee is asking various people in our church what books they have read that have helped them in their walk with God or their understanding of scriptures. Of course, our first recommendation is always the Bible, but we hope you find these others helpful as well. This month's Book of the Month recommended by Pastor Don is *The Magnificent Story* by James Bryan Smith. What is the story you have been told about the gospel? About God? About the Christian faith? About Jesus? About the cross?

About yourself? About heaven? Your answers to these questions will form a story that will determine how your life will go. The answers reveal your ability to trust, to love, to hope—and even the capacity for joy. Any story worth giving the power to shape our lives must pass a simple test: Is it beautiful, good, and true? If it is, then it is a magnificent story—and that is where transformation takes place. Copies of the book of the month are available in the Church Bookstore. If you have any suggestions to add to our list, please let Justin Zelger know.

## Praying Hands Day



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Each Month (December 15<sup>th</sup>)**  
**8:30 – 8:55 AM, 10 – 10:25 AM,**  
**and 11:30 – 11:45 AM**  
 in the hall between  
 Contemporary & Traditional

Please come early to your services or stop by afterward to join us in committing to focused prayer for one another. Prayer is a very important part of our lives together, and we want to highlight it with a nice, welcoming activity that will only take a few minutes. All ages are encouraged to participate.



This month, the following devotionals can be accessed through YouVersion (<https://my.bible.com/reading-plans>/insert the number listed at the devotional) or click on the link in the Special Bethany Blast on Sundays:

**Advent (17312) –**  
 December 1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

**The Most Powerful Words on Earth (22791) –** December 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

**Capturing Glory Again (34434) –**  
 December 29<sup>th</sup> – January 2<sup>nd</sup>

## YOUVERSION BIBLE APP



Download the YouVersion Bible app (or go to our website and click the link on the home page) and join with us as we explore different reading plans and Bible studies throughout the year together as a church. Create an account in the app, go to friends, search for Bethany Church Red Lion, and send the friend request. Once accepted, you're ready to go. Contact Justin Zelger or Pastor Don with any questions or for additional details.



Let us today go down to Bethlehem, and in company with wondering shepherds and adoring Magi, let us see him who was born King of the Jews, for we by faith can claim an interest in him, and can sing, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." Jesus is Jehovah incarnate, our Lord and our God, and yet our brother and friend; let us adore and admire. ...Let us reverently bow before the holy Child whose innocence restores to [humankind] its ancient glory; and let us pray that he may be formed in us, the hope of glory.

—C.H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening*



# DAILY BIBLE READINGS DECEMBER

1. Watch for the coming of the Son of Man Luke 21:25-36
2. Prayer for life from God Psalm 90
3. Jesus as the fulfillment of David's line Revelation 22:12-16
4. The coming of the Son of Man Luke 11:29-32
5. God's tender compassion Luke 1:68-79
6. Those who serve God Malachi 3:13-18
7. The mission of the twelve Luke 9:1-6
8. Prepare the way of the Lord Luke 3:1-6
9. Prayer for restoration Psalm 126
10. All nations shall praise God Isaiah 19:18-25
11. God's advent will change everything Isaiah 35:3-7
12. In your midst is the Holy One of Israel Isaiah 12:2-6
13. Do not trample the needy Amos 8:4-12
14. God will set things right Amos 9:8-15
15. One more powerful is coming Luke 3:7-18
16. A ruler brings justice and peace Isaiah 11:1-9
17. God destroys Korah's company Numbers 16:20-35
18. The Messiah and John the Baptist Luke 7:31-35
19. Show the light of your countenance Psalm 80:1-7
20. Confidence that rewards Hebrews 10:32-39
21. God as a nursing mother Isaiah 66:7-11
22. Blessed are you among women Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]
23. Praise to God, who lifts up the lowly Psalm 113
24. God with us Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
25. The Word became flesh John 1:1-14
26. Jesus laments that Jerusalem kills her prophets Matthew 23:34-39
27. The beloved disciple remains with Jesus John 21:20-25
28. Herod kills innocent children Matthew 2:13-18
29. Jesus increased in favor with all Luke 2:41-52
30. Praise God in Zion Psalm 147:12-20
31. God grants a discerning mind 1 Kings 3:5-14

## Change of Address

If you are moving, are planning to move, or if the Post Office is changing your address, please notify the church office as soon as possible. The church must pay for all incorrect addresses. We also need the correct mailing addresses of all college students and those attending other schools of higher learning. Thank you!



## ATTENDANCE

| Date                      | Sunday School | Sunday Worship |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| November 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 40            | 138            |
| November 10 <sup>th</sup> | 39            | 108            |
| November 17 <sup>th</sup> | 40            | 127            |
| November 24 <sup>th</sup> | 41            | 128            |

Gift Cards  
are not  
just for  
GIFTS



Articles for the January Newsletter are due in the Church Office by December 15<sup>th</sup>.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

can be made on the Connections Card in your weekly bulletin, through the links in the Weekly Blast and on our website, at the Giving Kiosk or through the Giving App (under "contact us"), or call Jen in the church office 717-244-7624. Watch your email for a special "Prayer Blast" on Tuesdays!

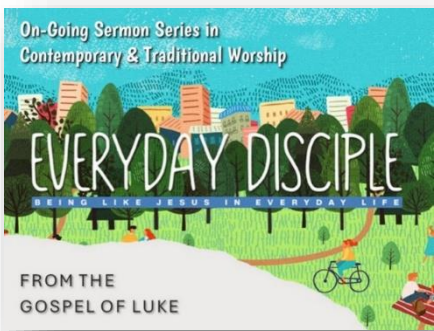


## CARING MINISTRIES



Want to be involved?  
Contact Pastor Larry Parlett (717) 244-7624





## Everyday Disciple Sermon Series in Contemporary & Traditional

Jesus wasn't looking for fans. Jesus wasn't looking for likes or followers. Jesus called us to be His disciples. Join us each Sunday morning, with your Bible, as we study together what Jesus taught about being a disciple from the Gospel of Luke.

The Group, Destiny (featuring Mike Gibbs, Lynne Gohn, Gwen Pritchard, and Tim Pritchard), will be playing during the Sunday School Service on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please join them for some original holiday music and some fun favorites. At our 5 PM Christmas Eve Service, Destiny will be providing special music, including their original "Little Baby Jesus." Joining them will be the children of Bethany. See Julie Beard or Rachel Zelger for details about this very special service.



On September 29<sup>th</sup>, a gathering was held to honor our Music Department. Karen Miller hosted the amazing luncheon, and it was enjoyed by all 30 attendees. Special thanks were given to Susan Grim, Elaine Snyder, and Ruth Ann Werking, who are taking a break after many years of serving in our Sanctuary Choir.



## Bells of Bethany



The Handbell Choir is looking for members who enjoy music and would like to be part of this melodic ministry. No experience necessary. Please see Julie Beard for the opportunity to ring the bells!

The Sanctuary  
Choir sings in the  
10:30 AM  
Traditional  
Worship Service  
Please join us!

We rehearse Sunday  
mornings at 10 AM in  
the Choir Room. Come  
see what it's all about!  
Questions?  
See Julie Beard  
(717-244-7624)





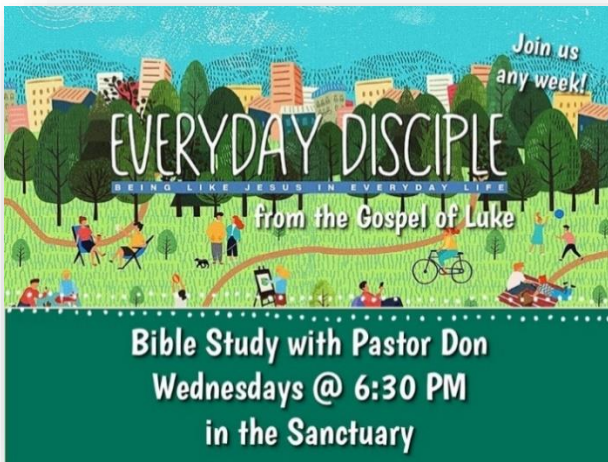


**Sunday Mornings in the Contemporary Worship Area at the Coffee Bar - All are welcome!**

before Sunday School & the 9 AM Contemporary service; after 9 AM service & before the 10:30 AM Traditional Service



See Pastor Don if you are interested in being part of Bethany's Praise Team



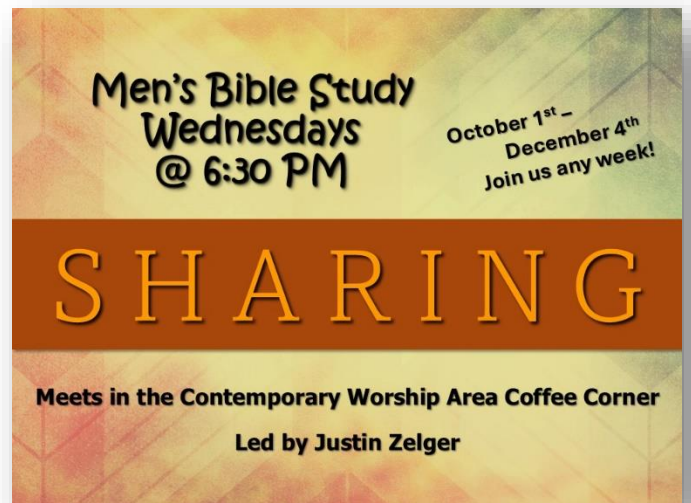
**Everyday Disciple - Being Like Jesus in Everyday Life Bible Study with Pastor Don**  
Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Join us for Bible Study in the sanctuary with Pastor Don. Everyday Disciple will focus on a verse-by-verse method. We will go in depth each week looking at the passage of scripture that will be used for the coming Sunday's sermon in both services. As disciples, we are to grow in our Christlikeness each and every day. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we peel off layers of this world, and we put on the mind of Jesus. Our study of Luke will be just that, an exposure of our worldliness and the call to be more like Jesus. Please bring your Bibles and something to write with. Study notes will be provided. **Will not meet December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Men's Bible Study Sharing**

Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM  
in the Contemporary Worship Area  
Coffee Corner  
Through December 4<sup>th</sup>

This Bible Study will explore the ways in which we share the gospel, facilitate conversation, and foster discipleship as individuals and the church.

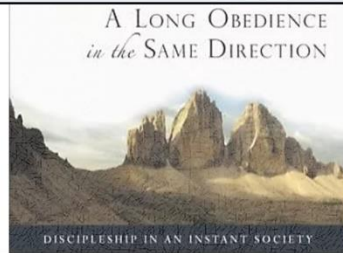


Men's Bible Study  
Wednesdays  
@ 6:30 PM

Begins  
December 11<sup>th</sup>

Meets in the  
Contemporary  
Worship Area  
Coffee Corner

Led by Justin Zelger



## Men's Bible Study A Long Obedience in the Same Direction

Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM  
in the Contemporary Worship Area  
Coffee Corner  
Begins December 11<sup>th</sup>

As a society, we are obsessed with the immediate, but Eugene Peterson's time-tested prescription for discipleship remains the same—a long obedience in the same direction. Long obedience requires a deepening life of prayer. Peterson finds

encouragement for today's pilgrims in the Songs of Ascents (Psalm 120 – 134) and shows how the psalms teach us to grow in worship, service, joy, work, happiness, humility, community, and blessing. The book is available in our church Bookstore, but not necessary for this study. **Will not meet December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## Women's Bible Study O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM in the Church Bookstore Area

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: An Advent Study* explores Jesus' work on our behalf in the message of Christmas. This study will not only fuel our worship of Jesus, but help the reader foster steadfast love anchored in biblical truth now and all year long. Readers will more fully understand the anticipation and waiting that the Old Testament world endured, the light and life Jesus came to bring us, and the eternal promise that Jesus is yet ushering us into. **Will not meet December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

November 20<sup>th</sup>  
- January 8<sup>th</sup>

Women's  
Bible Study  
Wednesdays  
6:30 PM  
Church  
Bookstore  
Area  
Led by  
Vickie Petit

o come, o come,  
**emmanuel**  
AN ADVENT STUDY



Please register for the meal by the Sunday before on the Connections card in your bulletin, at the Giving Kiosk, in the Giving App (under "events"), or call Jen in the church office. **There will be no Fellowship Meal on Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

5:30 PM  
\$5 Adult  
(ages 13 & Older)  
\$2.50 Child  
(ages 2 – 12)





# CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Thursdays | 6:30 PM

Dinner at 6 PM

## Is Celebrate Recovery for me or someone I know?

Living in a broken world, we all deal with life's hurts, hang-ups, and habits. No one has the ability, nor should they attempt to face their hurts on their own. Celebrate Recovery is a beautiful community of strugglers that courageously enter this safe and beautiful space to get honest about our pain, and the negative ways we may see ourselves, God, and others.

In this process, we come to accept that some of the habits we may have developed to escape our pain have caused destruction in our life and those close to us. Celebrate Recovery is a biblically balanced approach to help bring sustainable recovery and healing to our hurts. It guides us toward new healthy truths and life-giving habits as we repair our broken relationships. Join more than seven million hurting people across the globe who now walk in freedom through the power of Jesus Christ as we walk through the eight principles of Celebrate Recovery based on the Beatitudes in Matthew 5. These are some of the issues people find freedom from in Celebrate Recovery: Anger ~ Codependency ~ Eating Disorder ~ Love & Relationship Addiction ~ Physical, Sexual, and/or Emotional Abuse ~ Drug Addiction ~ Alcoholism ~ Sexual Addiction ~ Gambling Addiction ~ Grief ~ Mental Health ~ and many other issues we may struggle with. **Will not meet Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.**



Bethany Church has purchased a subscription for RightNow Media for the purpose of training leadership and volunteers and providing on-going Bible Study materials. What is really exciting is that the whole congregation (members, attendees, and anyone associated with Bethany) will have access to the RightNow Media website. There are literally more than

10,000 videos to choose from. It works much like Netflix, and there is no additional cost to you. Some of what it includes: training videos, children's TV programs, Bible Studies, Christian Conferences, Leadership Material, and so much more. We can use these online Bible Study courses here at the church; and if a person misses a class, they can view it at home any time they want. You can also use the Bible Studies as an individual, couple, family, or Bible Study group in your own home. Please visit <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/BETHANYUMC> and complete your profile to sign up. You can also text "BETHANYUMC" to 49775 to register. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



## Check out our options!

9" (\$4.50) & 12" (\$5.50) Subs  
Italian, American, Turkey, Roast Beef, & Sweet Bologna (9" only)  
Pretzel Sandwiches - \$4.50  
Ham & Cheese, Sweet Bologna, Roast Beef, Turkey, & Chicken Salad  
Kaiser Roll Sandwiches - \$3.75  
Turkey, Roast Beef, Chicken Salad, Ham Salad, Egg Salad, & Tuna Salad

## Subs & Sandwiches Sponsored by the Missions Committee

Make Sundays less hectic as you head out of church for the day. If you like to "eat out" after church, then grab a sandwich for supper. The fixings are wrapped separately; no soggy sandwiches! Place your order by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month (December 15<sup>th</sup>). Order forms will be located throughout the church, order in the church office, or order at the Giving Kiosk. Orders may also be placed online using the link in the Weekly Blast or the Giving App (under "events"). Pick up and pay in the Kitchen as you leave church on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (December 22<sup>nd</sup>). Pick up also offered on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 11 AM - Noon in the kitchen. Questions? Contact Cinny Attig (717) 244-7624. Benefits the missions of Bethany Church!



## Get your Apple Dumplings before they are gone!

\$7/pack of two

See Karen Miller in the Children's Department or Jen in the Church Office. Available on Sundays and during the week!

## FUDGE FOR CHRISTMAS!

Just in time for Christmas, the Missions Committee will again be having a Homemade Fudge Sale as a fundraiser, and WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP MAKING THE FUDGE!! Please consider helping us on Thursday & Friday (December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>) from 9 AM – 1 PM on Thursday (lunch will be provided) and 9 – 11 AM on Friday. You can sign up on the forms around the church, through the link in the Weekly Blast or Giving App (under "events"), or with Jen in the church office. One of the perks is all the fudge you can eat from the scrapings out of the pan! Fudge may be picked up on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from Noon – 3 PM or on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> (between and after services) in the Social Hall. We will be making Peanut Butter, Chocolate, and Chocolate-Peanut Butter fudge. A limited number of extras will be available for sale on Sundays in the church office until the fudge is gone. The Missions Committee thanks you for your support!





# Visitation Program

Bethany Church's Visitation Program is just one way of staying connected to members who have difficulty getting to services but still want to be a part of the Bethany family.

By visiting them, we let them know they are not forgotten

and that as God cares, we care. To do this, though, we need faithful visitors who are willing to commit to one visit or contact a month. If this is something you feel called to do, please contact Carol Urey (717) 244-7624. It is with grateful hearts that we thank both visitors and those being visited for this on-going ministry.



The Transportation Ministry is looking for additional volunteers to help

with transportation to church, appointments, and grocery shopping for those who are unable to drive. If you are willing to be on our availability list, please contact Pastor Larry at 717/244-7624.

## Knitting & Crochet Ministry



**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays**  
**2:30 - 4 PM**  
**in Bethany House**

## SHINE YOUR LIGHT



Hey Bethany, show us where you are "shining your light." You've shared great photos of your vacations and summer fun, now we'd like to see where and how you are impacting our community. Please send in pictures (to Jen in the church office)

and share a bit about the organizations where you shine!! Can't wait to see where the light of Christ is shining!! -Sally Roberts

Pastor Pat Beckum volunteers for Hospice visiting Veterans under their care. While there, the Veteran is presented with gifts either made or donated. In the picture is a quilt handmade for the Veteran. While visiting, Pastor Pat does what is called a "pinning." Two of the gifts are very special recognizing their service to our country. One is a pin especially designed for them and a certificate recognizing their contributions.





Did you know that Bethany's Meal Ministry consists of a group of volunteers who pitch in to help our fellow parishioners during challenging times?

If you are in a situation that could be eased by having a meal prepared, please contact us for help.

If you are looking for a way to help serve the church and spread the faith, we invite you to join our ministry.

Please know our meals do not require "top chef" quality but rather your favorite recipe for someone to enjoy from your kitchen.

Questions? Please contact Jill Thompson at 717/244-7624.

# Meal Ministry

Are you or a loved one experiencing a short-term illness, injury, or convalescence and are in need of a piece of medical equipment? The Medical Equipment Warehouse continues to be of service to Red Lion and surrounding areas. The Lord has helped us to serve others by lending out Wheelchairs, Scooters, Walkers, Rollators, Canes, Crutches, and other items for long or short-term use. Just contact Brian Overmiller with your medical equipment needs.

## MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LENDING WAREHOUSE

Would you like to feel the joy of serving both your church family and your community while taking only a small amount of your time? Please consider joining our group. To learn more, contact Brian Overmiller (717) 244-7624.



Is it time to replace your Dishcloths (\$4), Scrubbies (\$1.50), or Wool Dryer Balls (\$6/each or 3/\$15)?

A portion of the proceeds benefits Bethany's Missions Committee.

Contact Becky Hickey to order  
717/244-7624

**Bethany Church collects items for the following organizations. Collection containers are located outside the church office and inside the back door. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!**



**Cell Phones**  
(for ACCESS-York)  
Contact: Jessica Castle  
(717) 244-7624



**Aluminum Tabs**  
(for Ronald McDonald House)  
Contact: Jane Wiertel  
(717) 244-7624

### Inkjet Cartridges

This program has been discontinued.

**We no longer collect aluminum cans.**

## CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



**Advent Colors** – One of the season's symbolic colors is blue, representing hope. During Advent, we wait in hope to celebrate again God's coming in human form. We also look forward in hope to Christ's coming in glory at the end of the age. Purple symbolizes the royalty of Jesus, the coming Prince of Peace, and the penitence with which we receive him. Some congregations also use pink or white candles in Advent wreaths, with pink symbolizing joy and white symbolizing the Christ Child.





Friends at Bethany, This morning, October 28, 2024, my church group said a prayer of Thanksgiving, particularly for the people God has put around us—people who care for others and show us how. Near noon, I visited Zach at the nursing home. Many times, Zach has very little to say. Today was better. He said "Hi, Cecil" when I entered, and he said "No, thank you" when I offered to bring Orange Gatorade from my car. When awake, Zach looks around a lot without much extended gaze

except at his silent TV. He has a bit of trouble staying dressed and keeping the bedclothes on his bed. His sweet nurse, Salina, says that he ate breakfast, but only because she fed it to him. Another nurse came in and said that Zach was to get a shower today. As I saw the care from the nurses—God again focused me on my earlier gratitude filled prayer. In the 20 minutes before Zach's shower, I opened the package that Bethany Church sent. I saw the hand-made blue letter holder and placed his hand on the cross. I told him that the cross reminds me how much that Jesus has cared for Zach and that the letters inside the carrier also show care from the people at Zach's church back in PA. Once again, I praise God for showing me people who care for others and help me to learn. I couldn't keep my voice bold, but I read the letters aloud. Zach nodded several times when I asked if he recognized the signature names. I read the introduction, a couple of prayers, and the first chapter from the book that you sent ("This, Too, Shall Pass"). Recently, I have read some academic articles on the associated topic of pain and trials. I think of God's power to "refine" us, in his service, through trials. God has been using our care for Zach in just exactly that way. Referring to 1 Peter 6:7 and the chapter context, the result is "praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." Simply put, Bethany Church, Thanks for the caring that you have shown. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. -Cecil Stuerke

Special thanks to Pastor Larry. He has been such a Godsend during this year with the loss of my son, Robert. -Edna Adams

Dear Friends in Mission, Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR (for US Disaster Response and Recovery) may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be—Thank you! Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through our financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms—sharing 100% of the donated funds with those in need! Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors. Grace and Peace, Roland Fernandes, General Secretary, Global Ministries/UMCOR



# Our Mobile App for Giving Has Changed

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, our easyTithe Giving App was replaced with the “My Church Home” app by Ministry Brands Amplify (see below). Search for zip code, 17356, and Bethany UMC should pop us. Choose as your church. Unfortunately, we’ve been told, you will have to enter all your information again to register on the app. Online, Text, and Giving Kiosk giving saw no change. If you have any questions, please see Jen in the church office.



**My Church Home**

by Ministry Brands Amplify

[Open](#)

★★★★☆ 7

Ministry Brands

Lifestyle