



BETHANY CHURCH

BELONG | BELIEVE | BECOME

The 29th Chapter of Acts...*The Ancient Story Continues*

January 2025

Read About:

- 2025 Financial Mission
- Children's Ministry News
- Daily Bible Readings
- Book-of-the-Month
- Daily Devotionals
- Music Ministries News
- Small Group Opportunities
- Grab 'n Go Sub/Sandwich Sale
- Knitting/Crocheting Ministry
- Apple Dumplings
- Operation Christmas Child

O Lord, let my
New Year's resolution
be to
follow you
more closely
and to
trust in your
loving guidance.

This month's newsletter is sponsored by Brian & Lori Overmiller in honor of our granddaughters, Margaret, Gianna, Beatrice, Nina, and Daniella.

Bowling Night!



Saturday,

January 25th

5 - 7 PM

Lion Bowling Center

\$16 per person includes:

- Pizza
- One drink
- Two Hours of Bowling

Registration deadline is January 19th! See Rachel zelger with any questions or to register!



January Meetings

No meetings this month.



Praying Toward Easter -

Over the last six weeks, from November 3rd through December 15th, we focused on Jesus' teaching in Luke 16, 17, and 18. In these chapters, the commitment level that Jesus is asking for has ramped up. Jesus is headed toward the cross, and He knows that His disciples need to be all in! Jesus doesn't mince words; He asks for a huge commitment. As we head toward Easter as a church family, as a people of faith, I am asking that you commit with me every day at noon, or there about, to pray for these five things for yourself and for us as a church family.

As we Believe, Belong, and Become all that a relationship with Jesus delivers, I am excited to see what God is going to do in the hearts and minds and life of our congregation.

As a church, we are committing to pray each day at noon for these five purposes of Jesus.

1. Live for God Now - Luke 16:13
2. Consistently—always—no matter what, we are going to follow Jesus' commands. Luke 16:29
3. We are going to practice Obedience even when it's difficult. Luke 17:3-4
4. We are going to take on the roll of servanthood—doing our duty as followers of Jesus. Luke 17:10
5. We are going to be a Praying people who never give up praying. Luke 18:1

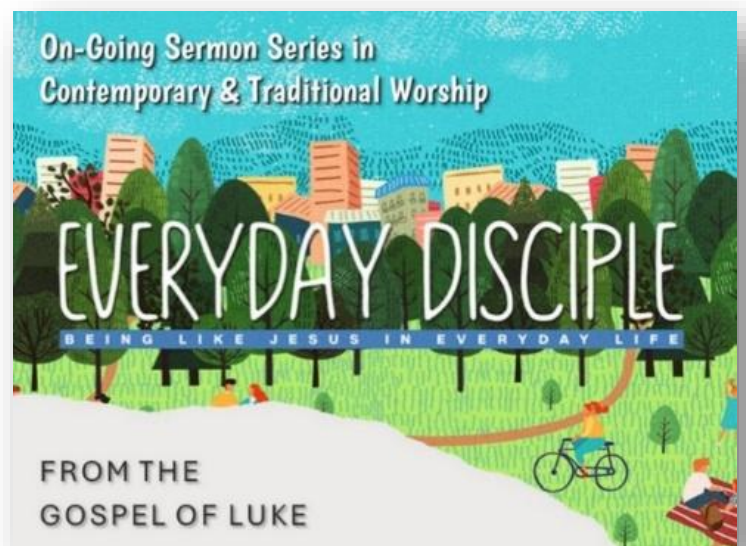
If you are ever at the church at noon, Monday through Thursday, I invite you come up to my office so we can pray these purposes together!

Blessings,

Pastor Don

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.



Children's Ministry NEWSLETTER

Throughout December, the children engaged in meaningful activities that helped them to understand the significance of Advent and the Christmas season. Each week, we lit the Advent candles, and discussed ways in which the children were "lighting up the season with kindness." The children then participated in interactive lessons, crafts, and songs that brought these concepts to life. Our Acolytes had the special honor of lighting the Advent wreath during the Traditional worship service. The children also spent time preparing for their performance during the Christmas Eve service!



PARENTS NIGHT OUT RECAP!!

The children had a wonderful time at our Christmas Pajama Party for Parents Night Out! With 36 children in attendance, 15 of whom were from the community, the atmosphere was filled with festive cheer and holiday spirit, while also being reminded of the real reason for the season. We were also blessed with an amazing team of volunteers who dedicated their time and energy to help make this event possible and run as smoothly as it did!

Thank you all!!



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!



Like the Magi, we can respond with our best gifts — our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ's tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person.

Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches, and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.

—Michael Simone

DAILY BIBLE READINGS JANUARY

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. The child is named Jesus | Luke 2:15-21 |
| 2. Grow in wisdom and knowledge | Proverbs 1:1-7 |
| 3. Prayers for the king | Psalms 72 |
| 4. The Lord high and lofty | Isaiah 6:1-5 |
| 5. God with us | John 1:[1-9] 10-18 |
| 6. Christ revealed to the nations | Matthew 2:1-12 |
| 7. Life lived in Christ | Ephesians 4:17 - 5:1 |
| 8. Wise living in evil days | Ephesians 5:15-20 |
| 9. The power and wisdom of God | 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 |
| 10. The voice of God upon the waters | Psalms 29 |
| 11. All that is, is God's doing | Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 |
| 12. The baptism of Jesus | Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 |
| 13. God saves through water | Psalms 106:1-12 |
| 14. The life of those born of God | 1 John 5:13-21 |
| 15. Daughters also promised inheritance | Numbers 27:1-11 |
| 16. We feast on the abundance of God's house | Psalms 36:5-10 |
| 17. Guidance for the married | 1 Corinthians 7:1-7 |
| 18. Peter confesses: You are the Messiah | Matthew 16:13-19 |
| 19. The wedding at Cana | John 2:1-11 |
| 20. Praise God's faithfulness | Psalms 145 |
| 21. Appeal for unity | 1 Corinthians 1:3-17 |
| 22. Christ the bridegroom | Luke 5:33-39 |
| 23. The law revives the soul | Psalms 19 |
| 24. One body in Christ | Romans 12:1-8 |
| 25. Paul receives a revelation of Christ | Galatians 1:11-24 |
| 26. Jesus reads the prophet Isaiah | Luke 4:14-21 |
| 27. The law of God gives life | Psalms 119:89-96 |
| 28. Grief leads to repentance | 2 Corinthians 7:2-12 |
| 29. Jeremiah dictates a second scroll | Jeremiah 36:27-32 |
| 30. You have been my strength | Psalms 71:1-6 |
| 31. Jeremiah laments the death of Josiah | 2 Chronicles 35:20-27 |

Articles for the February

Newsletter are due in the Church Office by January 15th.



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!

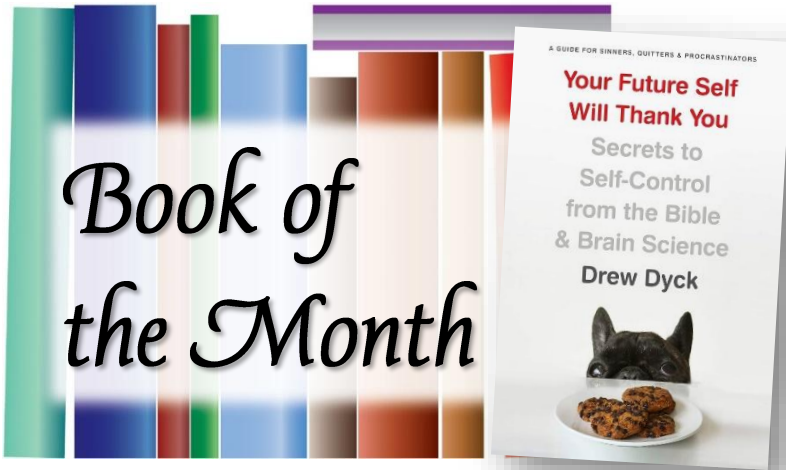
Gift Cards

are not

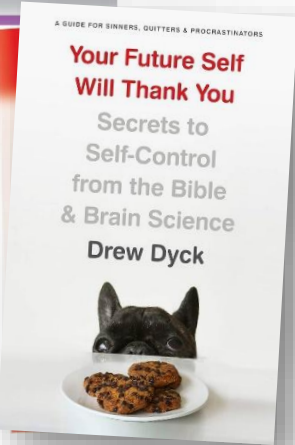
just for

GIFTS





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 is *Your Future Self Will Thank You: Secrets to Self-Control from the Bible and Brain Science (a guide for sinners, quitters, and procrastinators)* by Drew Dyck (copies are available in the church bookstore). It is great to see that the Bible has

many things to speak into our lives today; and so in January as many are thinking about resolutions, this book can help connect them to God's word. If you have any suggestions to add to our list, please let Justin Zelger know.



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:

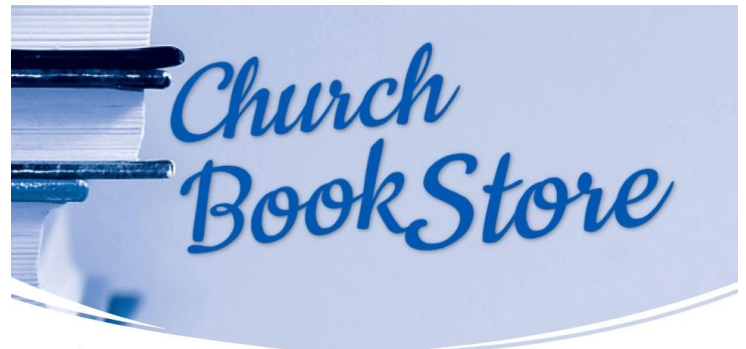
Capturing Glory Again (34434) –
December 29th - January 2nd

How to Seek the Kingdom of God (14702) –
January 5th – 11th

I Once Was Blind, but Now I See (47086) –
January 12th – 16th

Lost: The Story of Zacchaeus (43328) –
January 19th – 23rd

Parable of the 10 Minas (50409) –
January 26th – February 1st



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.



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.

Praying Hands Day



3rd Sunday of Each Month (January 19th)

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.



Church Staff Openings

The Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is looking to hire a Youth Ministry Director for 10 – 15 hours per week. For a copy of the position description or questions, please contact Pastor Don at 717-244-7624, ext. 101.

COMMUNION Sunday

Join us the first Sunday of every month.



BETHANY CHURCH
BELONG | BELIEVE | BECOME

PLAN A VISIT

Check Out Our Website!

www.bethanyredlion.com

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.



"He's today's greeter."



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



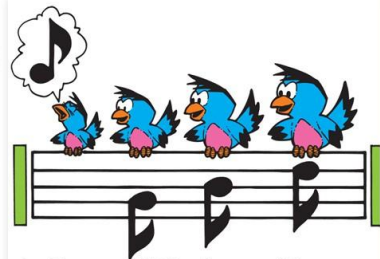
Destiny, a local quartet, shared some original music in Sunday School and church on December 15th and at our 5 PM Christmas Eve service. The late Dale Sprenkle (Cinny Attig's brother) was an original member, who composed many selections. L to R, we see Gwen Pritchard, Lynne Gohn, Mike Gibbs, and Tim Pritchard.



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 (jbeard@bethanyredlion.com)



Calling all Bethany Singers to **ADD YOUR VOICE!**



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!

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



Musicians & Vocalists needed

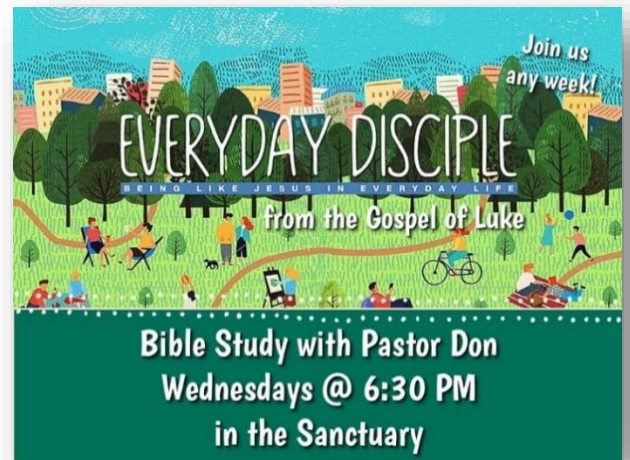


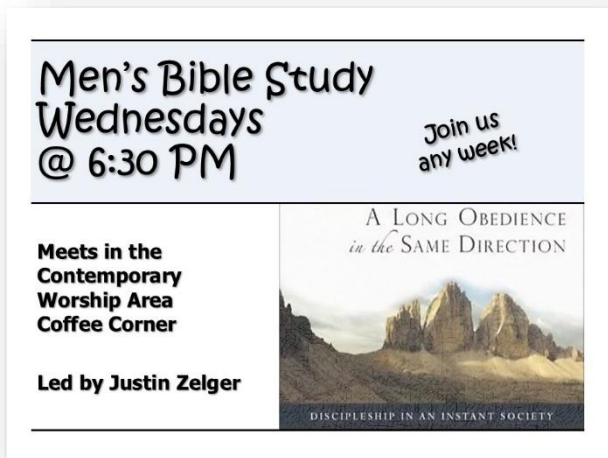
Everyday Disciple – Being Like Jesus in Everyday Life

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 January 1st, 15th, 22nd, and 29th; will meet January 8th.**





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

Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM
in the Contemporary Worship Area
Coffee Corner

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 January 1st.**

Women's Bible Study The Well-Watered Woman

Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM
in the Church Bookstore Area
Resumes January 8th

Discover the bottomless, refreshing Well of God's word—and experience a fullness and peace beyond your circumstances. In the chaos of our everyday, it can be difficult to live out and apply the truths of Scripture. We

want more of Jesus, but we find ourselves looking to our own lives and accomplishments for our worth and identity. And while that may buoy us for a time, we're often left feeling dried up, discouraged, and longing for more. Gretchen Saffles knows what it's like to feel overwhelmed and unable to flourish. In *The Well-Watered Woman*, Gretchen leads us to the Well of fullness, the Word of freedom, and the Way of fruitfulness. She teaches that God's Word will satisfy us for all eternity. Using Scripture and her own personal story of surrender, Gretchen offers spiritually hungry women tangible tools to not only know Jesus more but to live a life that thoroughly enjoys Him, seeks Him, and follows Him into freedom. Devotional Journal available in the Church Bookstore.



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, January 1st.**

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.

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.



God's Constant New Work

From the beginning of time, God's pattern has been to continually do new things and make things new. Though we can celebrate this every day, the New Year's season is especially fitting to pause and recognize God's work of renewal. Consider the following scriptures (all NIV) and how God is making them real in your own life right now.

- [God] has granted us new life to rebuild ... and repair (Ezra 9:9)
- If [a tree] is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail. (Job 14:7)
- He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. (Psalm 40:3)
- See, I am doing a new thing! ... I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:19)

- You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. (Isaiah 62:2)
- [God's] compassions ... are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. (Ezekiel 36:26)
- [Jesus] took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:20)
- Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

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.

Knitting & Crochet Ministry

1st & 3rd Mondays
2:30 - 4 PM
in Bethany House

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.

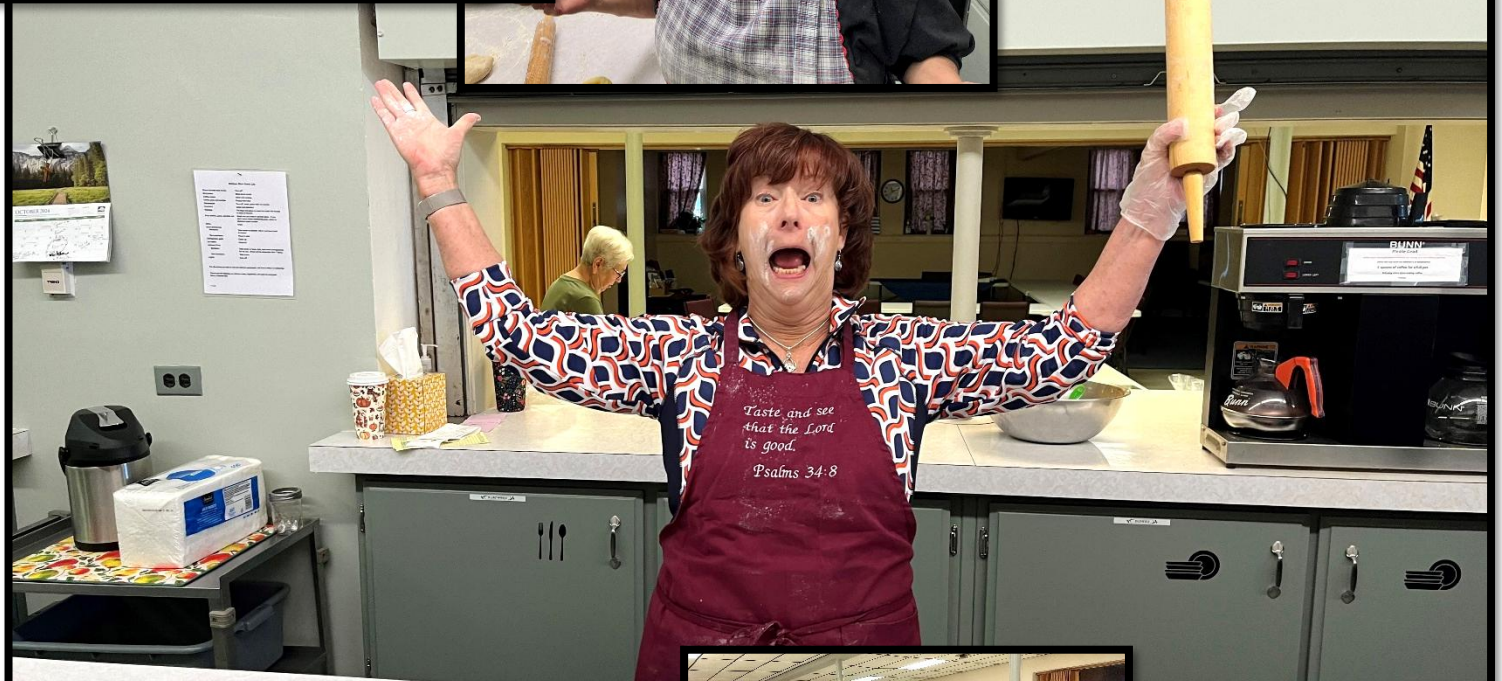
Are you or a loved one experiencing a short-term illness, injury, or convalescence and are in need of a piece of medical equipment? The Medical Equipment Warehouse continues to be of service to Red Lion and surrounding areas. The Lord has helped us to serve others by lending out Wheelchairs, Scooters, 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.

Apple Dumplings

Our Apple Dumplings Fundraiser was a great success. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and purchased our dumplings. 600 apples, 23 happy and busy volunteers, and two mornings of peeling, coring, dough making, rolling, and bagging with flour everywhere! All of our profits go to benefit our Missions Outreach.





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 3rd Sunday of the month (January 19th). 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 on the Giving App (under "events"). Pick up and pay in the Kitchen as you leave church on the 4th Sunday of the month (January 26th). Pick up also offered on Saturday, January 25th from 11 AM - Noon in the kitchen. Questions? Contact Canny 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!

CARING MINISTRIES

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



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.

Meal 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.

Knitting & Crocheting Ministry



Bethany's Knitting & Crocheting Ministry blessed 328 people in 2024 (178 with prayer pockets, baby blankets, lap robes, prayer shawls, hats, and scarves—150 with pocket crosses that were handed out at the Red Lion Street Fair)! This ministry is one way we show God's love through Bethany. We meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays in Bethany House from 2:30 – 4 PM. Please join us!

WITH
Thanks 

Thank you, Bethany family, for all the lovely cards you send! I really enjoy cards. I read them over and over and put them where I see them every day. -Barb Gingerich

Dear Bethany, Thank you so very much for helping me celebrate my 90th birthday. The decorations and food were excellent! It was great to see so many people! Can't say thank you enough to the people who put this together. It is something that I will never forget! -Sara Hannigan



Thank you for your cards and posts helping me celebrate my 104th birthday. Your greetings made this birthday extra special. Thank you for your kindness. -Betty Hickey

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.



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



Operation Christmas Child 2024 Year-End Results

WOW! 2024 OCC season here at Bethany Church produced wonderful results. We packed 350 shoeboxes and some pencil kit "filler item packs" that were then delivered to the Genesis "drop off" Church in York New Salem before they left from there for the Processing Center in the Baltimore area. York County packed 16,835 shoeboxes and that number may increase once the "online" packed boxes are counted and included. The goal for York County was 16,001, so you can see that goal was exceeded! Woo Hoo!! So many blessings and opportunities to reach others for Jesus. It certainly put a BIG smile on my face—as I hope it does yours.

Look at the Fun and Excitement of those involved in our two Packing Events. What Memorable Occasions! Thank you, Each and Every One, for you participation all throughout the year in this ministry. You make it happen!

2025 is already in the planning and buying stages! It's going to be another terrific year for our OCC ministry here at Bethany! Thank You, ever so much for your support! ~ Carol Ann Frock



Three in One

Everyday objects can serve as simple lessons about biblical truth. To illustrate the profound concept of the Trinity, for example, some teachers use an apple, an egg, or a three-leaf clover. During winter, you can point to a kid-friendly snowman to describe how God is Three in One. The ball of snow on the base represents God the Father, our Creator and strong foundation. The middle ball, with stick arms reaching to the side, reminds us of Jesus, who died on the cross. And the snowman's head stands for the Holy Spirit, our ever-present Counselor who helps us and speaks God's truth to us.



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



Our Mobile App for Giving Has Changed

On October 1st, 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 up. Choose as your church. Unfortunately, we've been told, you will have to enter all your information again to register on the app. Giving Online, Text, and the Giving Kiosk 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

ATTENDANCE

Date	Sunday School	Sunday Worship
December 1 st	34	114
December 8 th	38	128
December 15 th	48	123
December 22 nd	46	144