

# Bethany Church Missions & Ministries News



**July 2026**

# 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!!

An advertisement for 'cash for causes' and 'Weis' gift cards. It shows a \$50 'cash for causes' certificate and a \$25 'Weis' gift card. The text encourages shopping for groceries or using the cards as gifts to support the church. It also states that proceeds benefit the missions of Bethany Church and that several denominations are available for purchase at the church office.

**cash for causes**  
\$50 certificate

**Weis**  
\$25 GIFT CARD

Shop for your groceries or use as a gift while supporting your church!

Giant, Weis, & Jerry's Gift Cards Available!

Proceeds benefit the missions of Bethany Church.

Several denominations available. Purchase your certificates in the church office.

An advertisement for Bethany's Visitation Program, seeking volunteers. The text is white on a dark blue background with a light blue wave graphic on the right. It asks if anyone knows shut-ins who are not forgotten and offers to help. Contact information for Pastor Larry is provided.

**BETHANY'S VISITATION PROGRAM IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS!**

LET OUR SHUT-INS KNOW THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?  
CONTACT PASTOR LARRY  
(717) 244-7624.

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.

# GRAB

# GO

*Check out our options!*

9" (\$4.50) & 12" (\$5.50) Subs  
Italian, American, Turkey, & Roast Beef  
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, & Sweet Bologna (NEW!)

## 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 third Sunday of the month, Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. Order forms will be located throughout the church, order in the church office, or order through the link in the Weekly Blast. Orders may also be placed through the Giving Kiosk and Giving App (under "events"). Pick up and pay in the Kitchen as you leave church on the fourth Sunday of the month, Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Pick up also offered on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM - Noon in the kitchen. Questions? Contact Cinny Attig (717) 244-7624. Benefits the missions of Bethany Church!

Our Contemporary Worship  
Service is looking for  
volunteers to join the  
Media Team!



EMAIL:  
MEDIATEAM@BETHANYREDLION.COM

## Knitting & Crochet Ministry



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

LifePath Christian Ministries offers a great missions opportunity.



*Corners of Your Field is a partnership opportunity between local churches and LifePath Christian Ministries. Corners of Your Field encourages attendees of our partner churches to be intentional about selecting their gently used household items as a Pasation to LifePath Thrift Stores. The stores then return a portion of the value of these items in the form of gift cards to your church to help those directly in your care.*

The above statement is taken from the LifePath website. When you make a donation of gently used items to their thrift stores, you can link your name to Bethany UMC, Red Lion. By doing that, the donations, etc. are kept track of, and LifePath gift cards will be sent to the church quarterly. These can then be given to those in need of clothing, etc. Bethany Church information is already in their system. Just ask them to link your donation to Bethany Church, Red Lion. What a great and easy way to help our community. Questions? Contact Jen in the Church Office.



Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to drive for others in need. People with a ride need, or who would like to volunteer to transport folks, can call the church office or call or email Pastor Larry.

We're collecting....

**Aluminum Tabs**

(for Ronald  
McDonald House)

Contact:

Jane Wiertel  
(717) 244-7624

**Cell Phones**

(for ACCESS-York)

Contact:

Jessica Castle  
(717) 244-7624



You can still send us your prayer requests. Call Jen in the Church Office, complete the prayer section of the Connections Card in your weekly bulletin, click on the "Prayer Requests" picture in The Blast (you'll just need to complete the online form), through the Giving App under "contact us," or click on "Prayer Request" in the upper right-hand corner on our website home page ([www.bethanyredlion.com](http://www.bethanyredlion.com)). Watch your email for a special "Prayer Blast" on Tuesdays.



Our week of VBS Rainforest-themed activities also included an **OCC Change Challenge!** The children were divided into five groups: the Mini Monkeys (11 Preschoolers), the Mighty Macaws, the Brilliant Butterflies, the Super Sloths, and the Friendly Frogs! All groups (except the preschoolers) had a container with their name on it to try and fill with their change for the Shoebox Ministry. The team with the highest monetary amount got the opportunity, after supper on our Family Night, to cover Justin Zelger in Silly String. This year's winning group was **the Mighty Macaws!** Hats off to all our children and adults who participated in this fun challenge! **Together, \$563.65 was raised!** What a tremendous blessing! Thank You to each of you for your continued support of our OCC ministry!

Many **thanks** to Kim Farmer and Mary Hake for allowing our OCC program to have items in their recent Yard Sale! Their hard work in putting this together is greatly appreciated!

**Summer Workdays** have begun!

Please plan to join us on **Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 AM** for our next scheduled Workday!



Thank you to everyone who sent cards, notes, etc., wishing us congratulations and well wishes on baby Logan's birth! We certainly feel loved and know that Logan will be in good hands with his church family going forward! -Pastor Justin, Sarah, & Logan

Thank you for the cards and good wishes and on-going prayers for Zachary Sechrist—especially for his birthday on April 10<sup>th</sup>. His Bethany family means a great deal to him. - Pastor Stephany Sechrist (for Zachary)

Dearest Bethany Family, Your expressions of love have touched our hearts! Sarah, Micah, and I are so grateful and moved beyond words to tears! From the gifts, to the cookies, to the amazing meal, to cards, to the Chex Mix, all of it says we love each other. Please know that our time of ministry here was one of rich blessings that are forever treasured! We are so grateful to God for allowing us to journey in faith together! May your continued journey with Pastor Justin, Sarah, and Logan be as rich and deep and high and wide as the love of God is for all of us in Jesus! -Pastor Don

CARING  
MINISTRIES

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

The Bells of  
Bethany are  
looking for some  
ringers...  
no experience  
necessary!

Questions?  
See Julie Beard

### **Do You Like Technology?**

We need you! If you like technology and would like a way to give back to your church, call or email Pastor Justin (717-244-7624). An IT crew assists in running Sunday morning media presentations for the Traditional worship service.



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?

## Meal Ministry

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.



Liturgists, Communion Stewards, and Ushers needed! Can you help lead worship? Can you help pass out bulletins and direct people, if needed? Can you carry a tray of communion elements? Can you help prepare the communion elements? The answer is yes. The real question is, will you? Pastor Justin is looking for a team of people who will help in the laity's role of leading worship. If you will serve the body of Christ in any or all of these ways, please contact Pastor Justin as soon as possible or add a note to your connections card in the bulletin.



Red Lion's Street Fair is fast approaching (August 8<sup>th</sup>). The Street Fair Committee is working on finalizing plans for the day. Many volunteers will be needed. Please touch base with Ron Nickey if you would like to be involved in this outreach to our community.

# Turkey Pies Fundraiser



This year, a group of five energetic gals from our kitchen



committee made turkey pies to sell to help benefit our missions of Bethany. We had a great time and were able to raise \$439.95. We made 43 eight-inch and nine-inch pies and 22 individual mini-pies. We sold out very quickly and



plan to make them again next year. Thanks to everyone who bought them or donated money toward making them. Hope everyone enjoyed them!



There is a free, seven-part Mental Health Series titled "Mental Illness, Despair, and the Crisis of Meaning" offered online through Focus on the Family (<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/mental-illness-despair-crisis-of-meaning-sign/>). The format of each session is as follows: seven-minute video presentation, reading and meditating on scripture, questions for discussion, prayer, and additional resources. Topics include: The Restorative Mission of Jesus Christ; The Recent Decline in Life Expectancy; The Problem (and deals

with some alarming mental health statistics); Our Understanding; Redeeming Life Lost; People, Place, Purpose; and The Solution. Throughout the presentations, the speaker constantly reiterates the need for the church to play an important role in finding help and healing for ourselves and others. The presenter points out that the only category of people who did not experience a decline in their mental health during the Pandemic were the ones who attended a church service weekly either in person or online.

Following is list of phone numbers that may be of help during a mental health emergency:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	1-800-273-8255
Substance Abuse	1-800-662-HELP(4357)
Crisis Text Line	Text "MHFA" to 741741
Veterans Crisis	1-800-273-8255 (Select #1)
Disaster Distress	1-800-985-5990
Domestic Violence	1-800-799-7233
Sexual Assault	1-800-656-4673



## Susquehanna Annual

### Conference Highlights

The Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church's Susquehanna Conference was held June 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> in Williamsport, PA. Bethany was represented by Jane Matthews and Jen Daugherty, who served as our Lay Members at this meaningful gathering. When asked to describe the experience in just a couple of words, they agreed: **AWESOME—and EXHAUSTING!** In fact, by the end, it proved more Awesome than Exhausting. A total of **741 individuals attended**, with **52% laity** and **41% clergy**, along with at least **ten youth** who participated by leading prayer and sharing scripture. Their involvement was an inspiring reminder of the future of the church. The conference theme, **"Rise Up,"** was woven

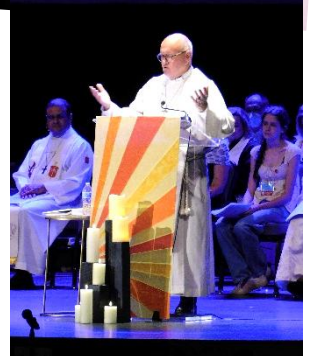
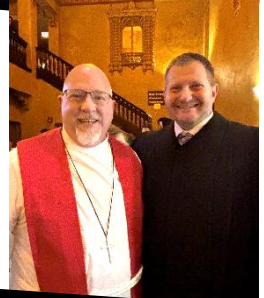




throughout the event, supported by a powerful vision: **Love Boldly. Serve Joyfully. Lead Courageously.** The days were full, with worship services, singing, statistical reports on church trends, subgroup presentations, and inspiring stories from congregations making a difference. Churches doubling their attending and reaching out to young people in creative ways (one at a bowling alley).

One of the standout leaders of the conference was **Bishop Héctor**, who moderated the proceedings with both strength and grace. He proved to be a dynamic speaker with a gentle and steady demeanor, especially when guiding discussions, resolutions, and challenges. There were also deeply moving moments as attendees learned about the accomplishments of **Africa University** and heard a powerful story of a youth bringing another young person to Christ. One of Bishop Héctor's statements especially resonated: **"Nostalgia paralyzes us."** This message struck a chord with many, reminding us to focus not on what was, but on what God is calling us to do today and in the future.

Despite a full agenda—including evening sessions we hadn't anticipated—there were opportunities for connection through **Lunch & Learn sessions** and a brief two-hour dinner break. Jane and Jen made the most of every moment, soaking in both information and inspiration. Members of the Conference took action on a series of resolutions during the business sessions, addressing matters ranging from strategic planning and financial stewardship to global missions, social witness, creation care, and mental health ministry. Nine resolutions were approved by the conference body, while one resolution was withdrawn. The first



resolution approved affirmed the Susquehanna Strategic Missional Path Forward. Presented by the Missional Cabinet, the resolution asked members to embrace the strategic vision and covenant together to support and live into the shared direction outlined in the plan. The action marks a significant step in the Conference's ongoing effort to align ministries, resources, and leadership around a common vision for the future. The resolution withdrawn was for the dissolution of the Sierra

Leone Initiative (which our church has been involved in) due to renewed conversations with our UMC counterparts in Sierra Leone. Taken together, the actions of the Annual Conference reflect a commitment to strategic visioning, global mission, community engagement, advocacy, stewardship, and

congregational care. The resolutions provide direction for how the Susquehanna Conference will continue to live out its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

A special highlight early in the conference came when Jane and Jen discovered they were seated directly behind **Bethany's new pastor, Pastor Justin Frear**. That connection became even more meaningful during one of the most memorable moments of the conference—the **clergy robing and processional**, where they witnessed Pastor Justin's ordination. It was truly the icing on the cake. Another meaningful connection were dinners shared with **Rev. Elizabeth Jackson**, Jen's daughter—whom

some at Bethany may remember. It was a joy-filled time of conversation, questions, and shared experiences. Throughout the conference, Jane and Jen met many people, formed new friendships, and returned with fresh energy and perspective. While the schedule was demanding, the overall experience was uplifting, inspiring, and renewing.



Bethany can be proud to have been represented at this important gathering. May we take to heart the call to **Rise Up**—loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously in our own community.



**BETHANY CHURCH**  
BELONG | BELIEVE | BECOME

121 W. Broadway, Red Lion, PA 17356

[www.bethanyredlion.com](http://www.bethanyredlion.com)

717-244-7624