

Bethany Church **Missions &** **Ministries News**



November 2026

Bethany Church together with the Salvation Army

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

**Our Angel Tree will be available beginning November 8th!
We invite our church family to select an angel and help
make Christmas special for a child in need.**

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR UNWRAPPED GIFT
WITH THE ANGEL TAG ATTACHED BY
DECEMBER 2ND.**

Contact Rachel Zelger at 717-244-7624 for more
information or with any questions!

ANGEL TREE



TRANSPORTATION
Ministry

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 at 717-244-7624.

The cost of groceries is rising, but it does have one positive effect. As you spend more at the store, you are contributing more to the missions we support in Red Lion. If you spend \$50 a week for groceries (using the gift cards), after 50 weeks, you will have contributed \$125 to missions. The store you use reimburses 5% to the church for every dollar you spend. Maybe we should say if you spend \$75 a week for 50 weeks, you will contribute \$187.50 to missions. If life hands you lemons, make lemonade. Just remember to use gift cards purchased at Bethany Church (for Giant, Weis, or Jerry's Great Valu) to buy the lemons. 😊



God's Light Grows in a Dark Place

In 2007, I felt called to serve God in a place of deep darkness—though I did not understand its full extent until recently. The place was western Kenya, near Lake Victoria, a remote region that was difficult to reach. Centuries-old tribal traditions shaped daily life. The area was also at the center of one of the world's worst AIDS crises and was affected by corruption, including dishonest officials and a con man posing as a pastor. Christianity was present but often blended with tribal beliefs, including trust in witch doctors and potions. Poverty and desperation reinforced these conditions. I also learned that some families had trafficked their own children for labor or sex across generations. Most residents were poor rural farmers or fishermen living in mud huts.



Bethany Church and several church members joined me in this work, helping bring God's light to this part of the world. In 2005, my sister Gaye traveled to Kenya to visit a church connected with her congregation in York. There, she met a pastor from another region who said he was opening a children's shelter in the village of Magunga. She returned in 2007 to help, first by learning about the children and then by seeking a mission organization that could relocate them and give them a better chance in life. That trip brought Bethany Church and me into the effort. The one-room shelter housed 16 young orphans, and a makeshift school offered preschool and a few elementary grades in two

additional rooms. With almost no supplies, children knelt on the floor and used the bench they sat on as a desk while teachers wrote lessons in chalk on the concrete walls.

Part of Bethany's contribution paid for lumber, paint, and stain. We used these materials to build school desks that also served as beds for the children in the shelter.

We also built several blackboards for the school. Because there was no electricity, we completed every project by hand using only hand tools. Until then, the children had slept together on three-inch-thick foam pads on the concrete floor. We used more of our funds to buy new foam mattresses, which would be placed on the desks at night to create the first beds the children had ever had.

After we returned home, Gaye and her husband, John, contacted every organization they could find, but none could help because the location was too remote. They then realized that God was calling them to take on the work themselves.



This marked the beginning of Shalom Christian Missions and the New Beginnings Christian School and Children's Shelter—and changed their lives forever. Gaye soon began spending at least six months each year in Kenya. Today, the shelter houses more than 200 orphans, and the Kenyan-accredited school serves over 400 students from preschool through 12th grade. It also offers a one-year internship program

in life skills, money management, business relationships, and other practical subjects. The program counts as the first year of university, enabling eligible students to apply for government grants to continue their education. The school has graduated more than 250 high school students, many of whom have attended university. Two children from my first visit—John (see picture below) and his sister—earned degrees in social work and business. Eight former students have returned to work at the school, including teachers, finance staff, a kitchen worker, and a groundskeeper. Others have started businesses or learned trades such as carpentry, electrical work, and plumbing.

Over the years, God's presence has transformed the local community by changing harmful customs, challenging the influence of witch doctors, rescuing children from trafficking, and much more.

Thank you to everyone at Bethany who helped make this work possible. In January 2027, my wife, Kim, and I will return to create several videos that will help the ministry raise funds for its ongoing work. Anyone who wishes to partner with us can begin by praying for our team and the ministry. The importance of prayer cannot be overstated.

You can also support the ministry through a donation as God leads you. Jen in the church office can help forward your gift to the mission.

This ministry began as a candle in a vast darkness and has grown brighter each day. Help strengthen Christ's influence in these communities and in the lives of their children, overcoming the darkness of poverty, limited education, harmful traditions, child trafficking, and Satan's presence.



Above, first visit ~ John & Dan in 2007; below, John at his graduation.





OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE

In Cambodia, Chea had an abusive and drunk father, who would beat Chea if he talked about going to “church.” Church made

this young man feel safe. When he was about 8 - 9 years old, he received a shoebox. Chea learned about Jesus and it changed his life. He learned from the 12 Bible Stories included in **The Greatest Journey** booklet that each child receives when he enrolls in offered classes, after a shoebox is given to the child. He learned that God gives strength. He has now become a teacher, using **The Greatest Journey** to teach other children about Jesus. (Part of the \$10 “shipping costs” also goes to the production of **The Greatest Journey** in the native language of the area being served.)

PERU: Here’s an example of how a shoebox travels to its destination: The shoeboxes leave Boone, NC and head to Charleston, SC. The shoebox is loaded onto a ship that travels through the Panama Canal. Upon arrival in Peru, it takes a 20-day truck ride from the ship to a river. Once loaded onto the boat, it travels for five days. It is then placed on a smaller boat that makes a 12-hour trip to remote areas, where, once again, it travels two - three days to an even more remote area, and eventually into the hands of God’s children! God’s Hand of Safety for this box is apparent! The Chopra people of Peru have no books written in their indigenous language. **The Greatest Journey** Booklet is being used to create the first written language, which is used in their schools, and it clearly gives a Gospel message.

Ethiopia is also currently translating the Gospel into their languages. **The Greatest Journey has thus far been translated into 100 languages, including Braille.** Many **Pacific islands** are now being reached with the Shoebox Ministry as well as in **Turka (Africa)**, where God has provided a way to reach the tribal villages there.

Every box is like a snowflake...each one is different. Each one is designed for a specific child and has been prayed over many times on its journey to that child. One little girl had just lost her pet dog. When she opened her shoebox, there was a stuffed Golden Retriever dog. She was speechless! **God knew just what she needed!**

From DATA collected at the end of the 2024 - 2025 reporting, the following was an average for **every 24-hour period: 32,656** children **HEAR** the Gospel. **16,538** children **ENROLL** in The Greatest Journey. **9,737** children **ACCEPT** Jesus. **12,660** children **GRADUATE** from The Greatest Journey. **9,389** children **COMMIT TO PRAY** and **SHARE! THIS IS EXCITING!**

In 2025, York County packed 18,480 shoeboxes!! How Amazing is that?! The goal for 2026 is 19,501! Always pack one more so no child gets left out of receiving a shoebox gift!

COME...Be a Part of two very special Packing Nights on Sunday, November 1st and November 8th at 6:30 PM in our Social Hall! We take a year's worth of making, buying, assembling, creating, and organizing for you to pack into our boxes for God's children! It's fun, exciting, and heartwarming as it all comes together because of you! It takes about an hour each night to pack approximately 150 shoeboxes. A few "sit down" jobs are available those nights also. You don't want to miss this opportunity to **share God's LOVE** with a child, one that you can specifically pray for as you pack that box!



FUDGE FOR CHRISTMAS!

Just in time for Christmas, the Missions Committee will again be having a Homemade Fudge Sale as a fundraiser. You can place your order on the order forms (available at



various locations around the church), through the link in the weekly Blast, or through the Giving Kiosk or the Giving App (under “events”). Fudge will sell for \$10 per pound (sorry no ½ pound sales). REMEMBER: It is delicious, and it freezes well, too! Fudge may be picked up on Friday, December 4th from Noon – 4 PM or on Sunday, December 6th (between and after services) in the Social Hall. Orders will be due in the church office on Sunday, November 29th. 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.

NOW FOR SOME REAL IMPORTANT STUFF: WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP MAKING THE FUDGE!!

Please consider helping us on Thursday & Friday (December 3rd & 4th) from



Blast from the Past ~ This young man helped make fudge in 2009. He now sings in the Choir and with the Praise Team. Can you guess who this is?

9:30 AM – 1 PM on Thursday (lunch will be provided) and 9:30 – 11 AM on Friday. You can sign up to help using the various options listed above. One of the perks is all the fudge you can eat from the scrapings out of the pan!



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.



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). Watch your email for a special "Prayer Blast" on Tuesdays.



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.



CARING
MINISTRIES

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

Knitting &
Crochet Ministry



1st & 3rd 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!!



GRAB 'N GO

There will be no Grab 'n Go Sub/Sandwich Sales in November and December. Sales will resume in January 2027.



LIFEPATH

Christian Ministries

Did you see that Bethany Church now has a collection bin for LifePath in our church parking lot? Bethany will continue to receive credit for your donations.

We're collecting....

Aluminum Tabs

(for Ronald McDonald House)

Contact:

Jane Wiertel
(717) 244-7624



Thank you to everyone who called, texted, emailed, gave cards/gifts in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month! It was an amazing outpouring of love and support! We (Sarah,

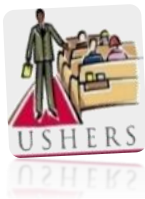
Logan, & I) feel so loved and blessed by you! Thank you again! – Pastor Justin

Thank you to all who have volunteered to provide transportation for people in the congregation and beyond who have need. Your help is vital when people are unable to drive so they can get to medical appointments and other necessary places. – Pastor Larry



We're Collecting Hat & Glove (or Mittens) Sets

for classrooms at the Community Progress Council Head Start Program in the Windsor Manor building. Prefer gender neutral colors. Please drop off your donations by November 22nd in the collection bin outside the church office. Questions? Please see Virginia Clegg.



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.

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 donation 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.

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.



For more information, please contact Aaron Sprenkel 717-244-7624



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

Join the Choir!

We sing at the **10:30 AM**
Traditional Service and rehearse
Sunday mornings at **10 AM**
in the Music Room.

Questions?
Contact Julie Beard (717-244-7624)

Calling All Musicians! If you play an instrument or sing and would like to share your gifts during the Prelude of our Traditional Worship Service, please see Julie Beard. Prelude music provides a prayerful opportunity to quiet our hearts, focus on God's presence, and prepare for worship.

Bells of Bethany will rehearse all Thursdays in November (except November 26th) at 9:30 AM in the Music Room.



**The Praise Team is
returning to
Contemporary Worship!**

**Rehearsals on Wednesdays
at 7:30 PM in the
Contemporary Worship Area**

Musicians and singers needed. We also could use help on the tech side (sound/slides~training provided). We'd love to have you join us! ☺
Contact Pastor Justin at 717-244-7624 for more information.



The Praise Team will make their next appearance on Sunday, November 8th. Come be part of this special day of worship! The Praise Team will not rehearse on Wednesday, November 25th.



**WOULD YOU
'BEE'
A VOLUNTEER?**

OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER TEACHERS TO HELP OUR CHILDREN LEARN ABOUT GOD'S LOVE! WHETHER YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE TEACHING OR SIMPLY HAVE A HEART FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN, WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN OUR TEAM!

INTERESTED IN SERVING? WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! PLEASE CONTACT RACHEL ZELGER AT 717-244-7624 FOR MORE DETAILS!

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.



BETHANY CHURCH
BELONG | BELIEVE | BECOME

121 W. Broadway, Red Lion, PA 17356

www.bethanyredlion.com

717-244-7624