BETHANY CHURCH

BELONG | BELIEVE | BECOME

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

November 2026

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This month's newsletter is sponsored in loving memory of my husband, Milton, by Vonetta Grove.

Baptisms

Baptism is a sacred gift of God's grace, marking our welcome into the family of Christ and life of the Church. Through the waters of baptism, we celebrate God's love that reaches out to us before we can even respond, inviting us into a lifelong journey of faith and discipleship. Baptism is not simply a moment in our lives, but the beginning of a lifelong relationship with God, who promises to remain faithful to us always. On October 4th, we joyfully welcomed Cheyenne Myers and Chelsea Blakney into the family of God as they publicly declared their faith and were baptized. We also helped Lynda Wilt and Leslie Strayer remember their baptism as they reaffirmed their commitment to God and His family. What an amazing blessing this day was, thanks be to God!

November Meeting

Connecting People with People, Monday, November 23rd, 7 PM, Social Hall

We are excited to welcome the Praise Team back to Contemporary Worship! The Team made its debut on Sunday, October 4th, and we were grateful for the energy, talent, and spirit they brought to worship. Be sure to join us for their next appearance during the Sunday, November 8th worship service as we lift our voices together in praise and thanksgiving!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

new MEMBERS CLASS

12 - 3 PM

in Bethany House

Lunch Included

Register in the church office, w/Pastor Justin, or online under "events."

BETHANY CHURCH
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You'll become closer to God not by presenting God with your troubles, but by thanking God for your blessings.

"Thou hast given so much to me.
Give me one thing more — a grateful heart."
—George Herbert

"Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way." —Native American saying

Greetings Bethany Family!

I have a question for you. When was the last time you did something that seemed pretty insignificant at the time, only to discover later that it mattered more than you realized? Maybe you took a few minutes to talk with someone who needed a listening ear. Maybe you offered to help when it would have been easier to let someone else do it. Or perhaps someone did something for you that they probably don't even remember, but you've never forgotten. It's interesting how life works that way. Some of the things that make the greatest difference are things we barely notice when they're happening.

I wonder if the same isn't true of our faith. We live in a world that tends to celebrate the big and impressive. We notice the accomplishments, the milestones, and the moments that seem to change everything. And if we're not careful, we can begin to think that God works the same way. We start looking for something extraordinary, something unmistakable, something that makes us say, "Now that's God at work!"

But when we read the Gospels, I am struck by how often Jesus points people toward things the world would consider insignificant. A mustard seed. A cup of cold water. A few loaves of bread and a couple of fish. A widow offering two small coins.

None of these things would have attracted much attention on their own. Yet Jesus used them to teach some of the most important lessons about the kingdom of God. I especially love the image of the mustard seed. Jesus tells us that something incredibly small can grow into something large enough to provide shelter for the birds. It's a reminder that we shouldn't judge the significance of something simply by how it looks at the beginning.

And I think that's an important reminder for us as a church. Sometimes we wonder whether what we're doing really matters. Does it make a difference when we volunteer for something at church? Does it matter when we take the time to check on someone? Does our generosity really accomplish anything when the needs around us seem so much greater than what we can offer?

I believe the answer is yes.

Not because every little thing we do will produce some amazing result that we can point to, but because God has a way of working through ordinary people who are willing to be part of what He is doing.

Think about how many of us are here today because someone, somewhere along the way, took an interest in our lives. Maybe it was a Sunday School teacher who made us feel welcome. A parent or grandparent who helped us discover faith. A friend who invited us to church. Or someone whose example showed us what following Jesus could look like. They probably had no idea what their influence would mean years later. And now we can be those people for someone else.

One of the things I appreciate about Bethany is that so much of what makes this church special happens without any fanfare. It happens in conversations before and after worship. It happens when someone notices that a familiar face is missing. It happens through the quiet generosity and willingness to serve that so many of you demonstrate. We may never know the full impact of those moments. And that's okay. Jesus never told us that we needed to see all the results. He simply called us to be faithful.

There's freedom in that, isn't there? We don't have to carry the responsibility of changing the world on our own. That's God's work. We're simply invited to participate in it, trusting that God can do more with our faithfulness than we could ever accomplish by ourselves.

So, here's my encouragement for all of us: Don't underestimate what God can do through you. Don't assume that something isn't worth doing because it seems too small. And don't overlook the opportunities right in front of you while waiting for something bigger to come along. It doesn't matter your age, your physical ability level, or even how long you've been a Christian. You may never know how much that one moment matters to someone else. But God does.

And who knows? Something you do today that seems completely ordinary might become part of someone else's story of how they experienced the love of Jesus.

On this journey with you,

Pastor Justin

What if lasting change does not begin with a dramatic resolution, but with one small act of faithfulness?

November 1st – Your One Word (Zechariah 4:6-10)
November 8th – Words (James 3:1-12)
November 15th – Thoughts (Romans 12:1-2)
November 22nd – Habits (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

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 Jen in the Church Office.

On November 15th, please come early to your services or stop by afterward to join us in committing to focused prayer for one another. You'll find our table located outside the church office. 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.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

PUMPKIN

LOOK WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO!

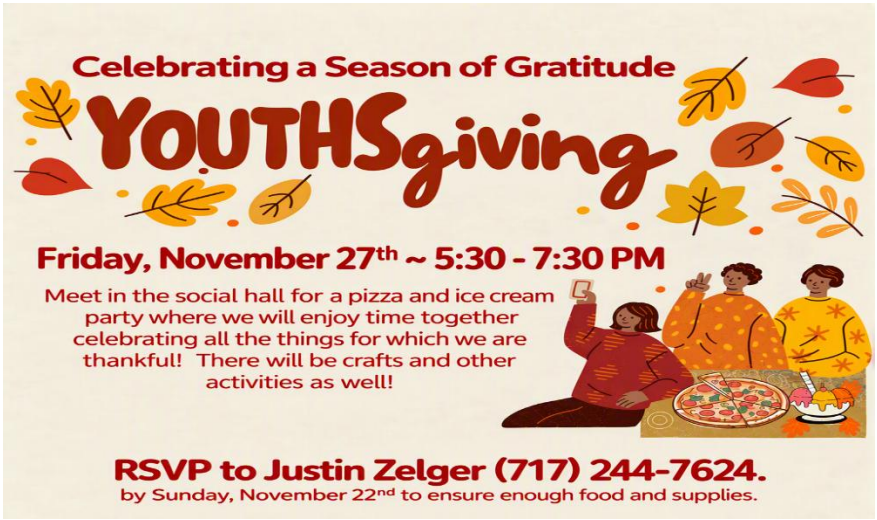
The children have been taking full advantage of Fall and the change of season this past month! A few spent time together hiking and playing in God's beautiful creation, while other families gathered for our Fall Family Fun Day to enjoy corn mazes, games, tractor rides, and the petting zoo! Our Wednesday Night Kid's Connections also kicked off a new series called "Pumpkin Patch," where the kids are discovering how pumpkins can teach us big truths about God's love for us!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT 2026!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

5:30 - 8 PM

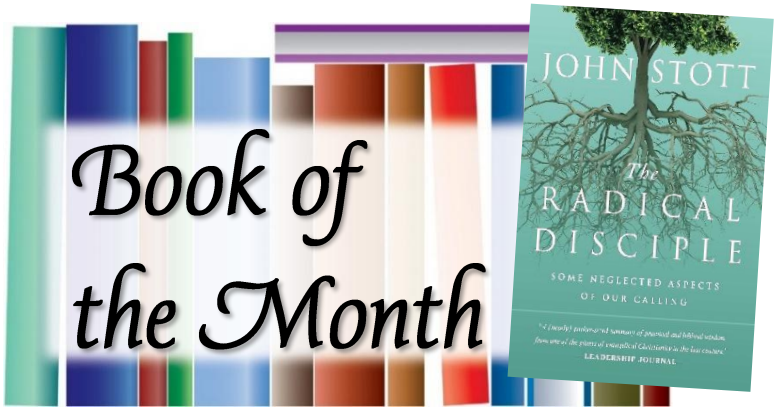


Youth - Sunday Mornings

10 – 10:20 AM in the Youth Room (3rd Floor)
Please encourage your youth to stop in the Youth Room on Sunday mornings to chat about the sermon they just heard or are about to hear and make connections to their daily lives.

Youth Connections

Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM
in the Youth Room (3rd Floor)
Join us for a fellowship meal in the Social Hall at 5:30 PM.
Will not meet on November 25th.



The Book-of-the-Month for November is "The Radical Disciple" by John Stott. This book was recommended by Aaron Sprenkel. He found that this book was a really good read for us as disciples, as it dives deeper into the characteristics of those who desire to follow Jesus. It opened his eyes to some areas he knows many of us forget about or try to pick and choose which parameters of discipleship we will follow. *The Radical Disciple* covered eight key areas of discipleship: Nonconformity, Christlikeness, Maturity, Creation Care, Simplicity, Balance, Dependence, and Death. You will find, as Aaron did, that there are some neglected aspects of our calling as disciples, what you need to think about and change, and what it takes to become a radical disciple. This book is a great way for us all to learn what each is missing in our calling, pray for transformation through this knowledge and the help of the Holy Spirit, and become "Radical Disciples" together. Copies are available in the church Bookstore. You can pay for your books in the church office. If you have any suggestions to add to our list, please let Justin Zelger know.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS
NOVEMBER 2026

1.	Blessed are the poor in spirit	Matthew 5:1-12
2.	God blesses the righteous	Psalm 5
3.	When prophets see false visions	Lamentations 2:13-17
4.	The wise heart and persuasive lips	Proverbs 16:21-33
5.	You are my helper and deliverer	Psalm 70
6.	Israel's guilt and punishment	Amos 3:1-12
7.	Jesus foretells the end	Matthew 24:1-14
8.	Wise and foolish bridesmaids	Matthew 25:1-13
9.	God is a rich feast	Psalm 63
10.	Stand firm in the faith	1 Thessalonians 3:6-13
11.	My words will not pass away	Matthew 24:29-35
12.	Number your days	Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
13.	The end is upon us	Ezekiel 7:1-9
14.	From bad to worse	Matthew 12:43-45
15.	The story of the slaves entrusted with talents	Matthew 25:14-30
16.	God's reward for the righteous	Psalm 9:1-14
17.	Visions of mercy and judgment	Zechariah 2:1-5; 5:1-4
18.	Parable of the unfaithful slave	Matthew 24:45-51
19.	We are the people of God's pasture	Psalm 95:1-7a
20.	Worship God alone	Revelation 22:1-9
21.	The true kindred of Jesus	Matthew 12:46-50
22.	The separation of sheep and goats	Matthew 25:31-46
23.	God the righteous judge	Psalm 7
24.	Queen Esther saves her people	Esther 8:3-17
25.	The judgment of the Son	John 5:19-40
26.	We shall be saved	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
27.	A life pleasing God to the end	1 Thessalonians 4:1-18
28.	God will gather all	Micah 2:1-13
29.	The coming of the Son of Man	Mark 13:24-37
30.	Jesus calls Andrew	John 1:35-42

can be made on the Connections Card in your weekly bulletin, through the links in the Weekly Blast and on our website 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!

Faith Sees the Promise

Charles Wesley offered this powerful affirmation of faith:

"Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees
And looks to God alone;
Laughs at impossibilities
And cries, 'It shall be done!'"

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!

Church Directories (July 2026) are available and are located at various locations around the church and can be picked up at your convenience. Please doublecheck your information and let Jen in the church office know if there are corrections/ additions (address, cell phone, email, etc.) that need to be made.

Articles for the December 2026 Newsletter are due in the Church Office by November 15th.

A Reason to Give Thanks

After Eddie Rickenbacker and his companions were rescued after more than three weeks adrift in life rafts in the Pacific, he was asked what lesson he had learned from the ordeal. He answered that anyone with plenty of fresh water to drink and enough food to eat should never complain. His words still speak clearly today. Many blessings can become so familiar that we barely notice them. This Thanksgiving, pause to give thanks for clean water, nourishing food, a safe place to rest, and the people God has placed in your life. Let gratitude continue long after the holiday table is cleared.

ATTENDANCE

Date	Sunday School	Sunday Worship
October 4th	47	121
October 11th	32	96
October 18th	33	101
October 25th	44	102

MUSIC MINISTRIES NEWS

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

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 at 9:30 AM in the Music Room except for November 26th.

Poinsettia plants will again grace our Sanctuary and Contemporary Worship Area for the Christmas season. 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 $10 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 center outside the church office in which you may place your $10. 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 App or Giving Kiosk under "Events." Be sure to note your choice of poinsettia color! DEADLINE FOR ORDERING POINSETTIAS WILL BE Sunday, November 22nd. 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.

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

Yes and Amen (37761)
November 1st – 5th

Mastermind (12614)
November 8th – 14th

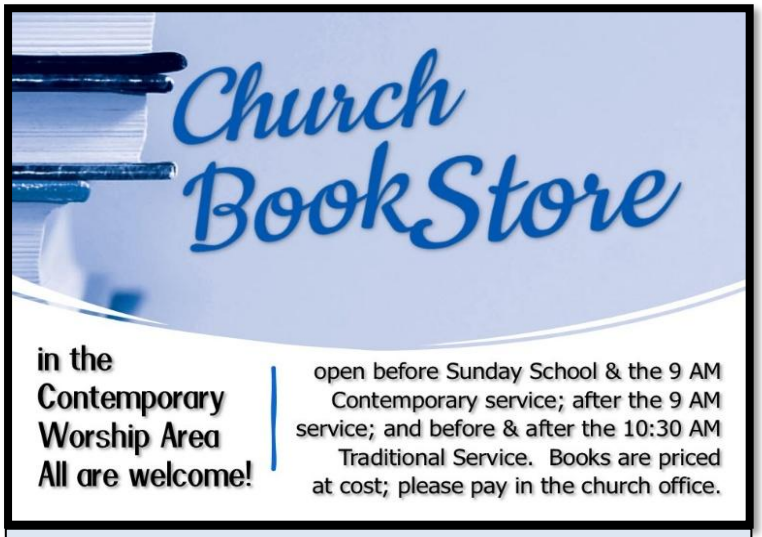
Watching the Tongue (12701)
November 15th – 19th

Grace and Gratitude (16227)
November 22nd – 28th

O Holy Night (41909)
November 29th – December 3rd

HOLY BIBLE **YouVersion**

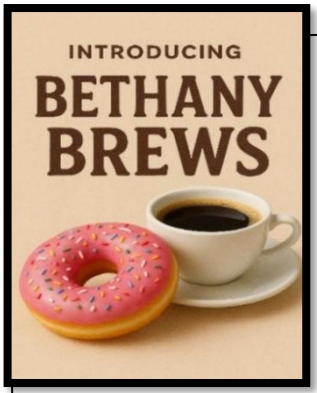
Download the YouVersion Bible app (or go to our website under "Believe," "Discipleship Tools," and click on the "Holy Bible" picture) and join with us as we explore different reading plans and Bible studies throughout the year together as a church. Create an account in the app, go to friends, search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



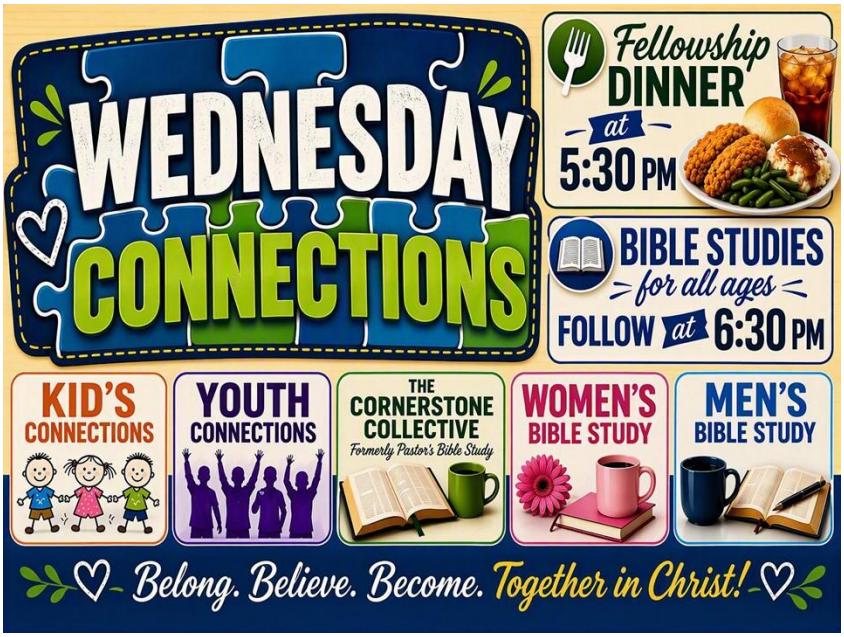
The Church Bookstore is getting a new home just outside the church office, providing greater visibility and accessibility for all. We extend our sincere thanks to **Ron Nickey** for the many hours of hard work and commitment he invested in this project.

The Sound in His Heart

During an examination, a doctor thought a 4-year-old boy might enjoy hearing his own heartbeat. He placed the stethoscope in the boy's ears and held it over the boy's heart. "What do you hear?" the doctor asked. The little boy, who attended Sunday School regularly, listened carefully and replied, "Is that Jesus knocking?"



Visit our Coffee Bar, *Bethany Brews*, located outside the east sanctuary doors at the Ramp entrance, creating a welcoming space for fellowship and connection. We invite you to start a new tradition or rekindle an old one and stop by grab a cup, and enjoy the warmth of time spent with your church family! The coffee will be "make your own" using Keurig coffee makers. Tea is also available for non-coffee drinkers. All we ask is for a $1 donation. If you have any questions about the coffee area or any suggestions, please contact Rachel Zelger, Julie Beard, or Ron Nickey.



5:30 PM Fellowship Meal

Adults $5 • Children (2-12) $2.50 • Under 2 Free

There will be no Fellowship Meal on Wednesday, November 25th.

Stay after dinner and grow in God's Word by joining one of our Bible studies at **6:30 PM**:

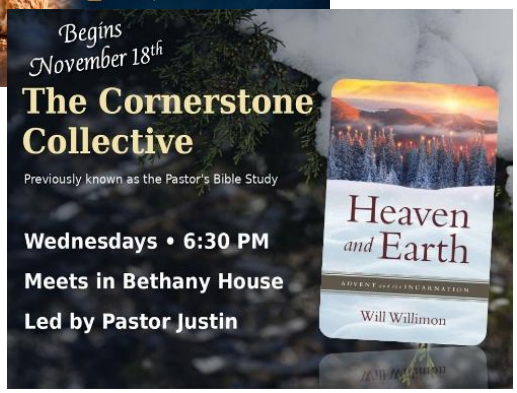
Kid's Connections ~ Meets in the Children's Chapel

Kid's Connections & Youth Connections will not meet on Wednesday, November 25th.

Youth Connections ~
Meets in the Youth Room (3rd floor)

The Cornerstone Collective

(formerly the Pastor's Bible Study)
Meets in Bethany House
Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM
This study <u>only</u> will not meet on November 4th.
Also, will not meet on November 25th.



On November 11th, we'll explore the sacred tradition of Holy Communion, its role in worship, and how we understand Communion as a means of grace. No book is required for this session, but copies are available in the Church Bookstore for $4. **On November 18th,** we'll begin our Advent study, *Heaven and Earth* by Will Willimon. In this inspiring study, Willimon invites us to encounter the God who brings heaven to earth and changes everything. During Advent, we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God comes to us in Jesus Christ. So watch, prepare, and be ready... God is on the way! Books are available in the church office for $7.50.

Men's Bible Study ~ *They Walked with God*

Meets in the Contemporary Worship Area East Corner
Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM
Will not meet Wednesday, November 25th

The characters we meet in the Bible play a huge role in our lives. Whether we personally relate to Joseph's dedication to serving the Lord even when he was confused or we understand when Mary Magdalene mourns in front of the vacant tomb, the timeless stories we find in the Bible influence and inspire us to learn to be more like Christ. But how can we apply these lessons to our everyday lives? In *They Walked with God,* pastor and *New York Times* bestselling author Max Lucado takes a closer look at 40 of the most inspirational and influential characters in the Bible and shares a powerful message: *if God can find a place for each character in the Bible, we can rest assured that he's carved out a spot for us too*. *They Walked with God* weaves together stories from Scripture with stories that offer a modern perspective, bringing each of these men and women to life for you. Whether you are a seasoned follower of Christ or a new believer, *They Walked with God* will inspire your walk of faith as it adds dimension and depth to 40 incredible people who had the chance to walk alongside God, reminding you that you are invited to walk alongside him too.

Women's Bible Study ~

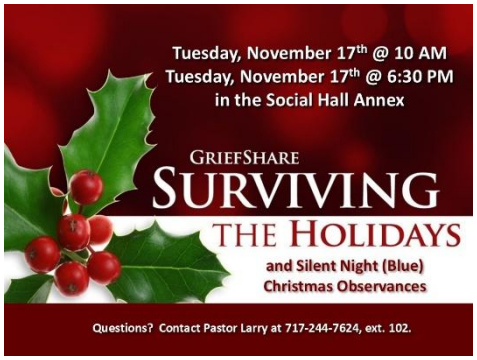
Experiencing the Heart of Jesus for 52 Weeks

Meets in the Social Hall Annex
Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM
We will be continuing with our study of EXPERIENCING THE HEART OF JESUS by Max Lucado with Unit 9 EXPERIENCING THE PRAYER OF JESUS ~ MEMORY VERSE – EPHESIANS 6:18
****Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.****

11/4 ~ Week 42 ~ Touching the King's Heart
11/11 ~ Week 43 ~ Because Someone Prayed
11/18 ~ Week 44 ~ God's Abundant Table

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Always remember just how much He blesses us with in our lives. Count your blessings each day. Even in the tough times, He is still with us. **The Women's Bible Study will not meet on November 25th** but will resume on December 2nd where we will be observing Advent along with our weekly sessions. See you then!

Bethany's GriefShare Team is offering two choices for gatherings this fall—both on Tuesdays. The first is from 10 – 11:30 AM or you could come to the Tuesday evening gathering from 6:30 – 8 PM. Gatherings will continue through December 1st. We will meet in the church Social Hall Annex. Anyone who struggles with the loss of a loved one is welcome, whether your loss was recent or some time ago. The video presenters and other class persons who have gone through the grief journey offer good information, encouragement, and hope in a Christ-centered environment. Each participant receives a workbook that goes with each of the thirteen topics and video information. Time is given for small group discussion. We have found GriefShare to be a great benefit for many as they go through the difficult journey of grief. For more information or to register for one of the gatherings, please contact Pastor Larry at 717-244-7624. **The GriefShare gatherings will not meet on November 17th (please join us for GriefShare's Surviving the Holidays gathering) and November 24th.**



On Tuesday, November 17th at 10 AM and 6:30 PM, we will be hosting a combined GriefShare sponsored Surviving the Holidays gathering and a Silent Night Christmas observance for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one, whether recent or even years ago. The holidays, from Thanksgiving to New Year's can be an especially tough time for those who are grieving. The one-time gathering, Surviving the Holidays, provides a helpful video, time to share with others, and a participant book which has many encouraging, faith-based articles and stories from many grief survivors. There will also be a brief worship service with prayer and a time of remembrance for those who have passed from our lives. Walk-ins are welcome at each of the gatherings, but if you could let us know you will be attending ahead of time, we will be sure to have enough participant books available for each person. You may email Pastor Larry (717-244-7624, ext. 102) or let Jen in the church office know that you are planning to come.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Thursdays ~ 6:30 PM

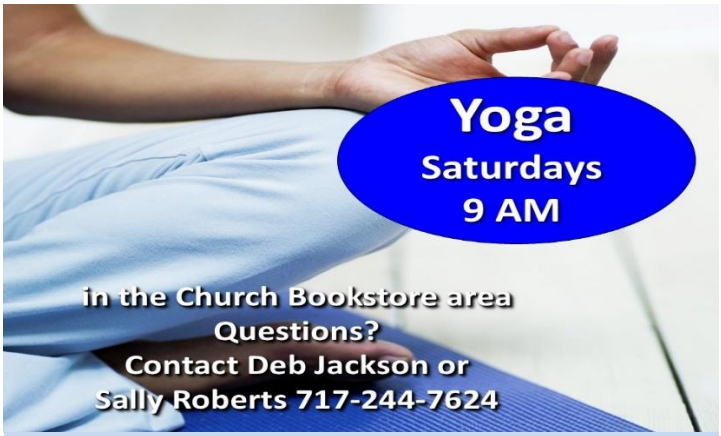
Dinner at 6 PM

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.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Scripture tells us that the righteous will live by faith. We often struggle to know exactly what that means though. Even with a strong faith, we also often find ourselves struggling to remain faithful. What is the difference between faith and faithfulness? How can these two traits shape our Christian walk? Join us this fall as we study the Book of Hebrews for answers to these questions before turning our focus on Old Testament prophets who likewise wrestled with faith and faithfulness.



Does stretching your muscles while slowing down your breath sound like a fantastic way to relax after a tough week? Join us for Yoga on Saturday mornings!

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

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 to the right) 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.

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

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.

Dan & Kim Snyder

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 Safey 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.

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?

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 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!

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. 😊

GRAB 'N GO

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

We're Collecting:

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

Meal Ministry

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.

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.

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

Our Mobile App for Giving Has Changed

Our easyTithe Giving App has been replaced with the "My Church Home" app by Ministry Brands Amplify. Once you download the App, search for zip code, 17356, and Bethany UMC should pop up. Choose as your church. Online Giving, 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