

MARCH 2022

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Monthly Updates from Bethany Presbyterian Church

Pastor Update

"In like a lion, out like a lamb." That is the old adage about the month of March, or at least March in Pennsylvania. March has much to offer us as a country and culture. We see the first stirrings of Spring; we begin to dust off our golf clubs in the hopes that this year will be the year when our game finally comes together (I say this as the proud owner of new golf clubs that will no doubt send most of the balls I hit into one body of water or another.) These things are experienced by the whole of the people in our neighborhoods, and by us as well. For the church, March brings the season of Lent. Lent is, in the main, a word that comes from a whole bunch of other words that all basically refer to the lengthening of days as the year progresses.

For the church it is a season where we walk with Jesus in a very real sense. The church has long broken its life into seasons. We do not do this simply to mark the passage of time. We do this to allow certain theological realities to take hold of our lives. As the reality of God has faded more and more from the lives of those in the west, there has been a corresponding increase in the pressure we place as individuals on others to provide us with what only God can give. The grace we receive in Jesus Christ is marked out in history because he is for us the supreme reality. It is in Jesus Christ that we see not only God's kingdom being ushered in, but also what God's kingdom will look like.

The irony of Lent for Christians is that we see all around us the days lengthening, but our time with Jesus runs short as we walk toward the cross with him. Many churches these days ignore the season of Lent. Unlike Advent with its hope of Christmas presents, there is not much commending a 46 day journey to a place of crucifixion. Lent may also seem a little old fashioned, conjuring images of people who say they believe in Jesus telling everyone else what they ought to be doing. They may be right. But something has happened in the time that I have been a pastor that suggests something is afoot and maybe we should pay attention. Religious or not, more and more people are giving things up, or taking things on for Lent. A cursory view of your preferred social media account will show you this. This is an ancient practice. People may not know why they are doing but it seems that more and more people have a sense that they need God in their lives. This needs to be celebrated by the church. It will make celebrating the reality of the resurrection so much more wonderful. Invite someone to celebrate with you.

Blessings to You and Yours, Pastor Brian Janssen

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

2 - PASTORAL UPDATES UPCOMING EVENTS

3 - BIRTHDAYS

5 - CALENDAR

6 - MISSION NEWS

Pastoral Care

Did you know that Bethany has a Pastoral Care team? The team regularly meets with shut-ins and handles a variety of concerns for the broader congregation. If you or someone you know has a concern or needs help, please let us know by calling the church office at 412-221-5132 or email prayers@bethanypresby.org.

CONDOLENCES

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to

- The family of Cindy O'Korn on the death of Ronald O'Korn on February 7, 2022
- The family of Jenna and Greg Price on the death of Jenna's grandmother, Joan Williams, on February 12, 2022.
- The family of Karen Harkins, on the death of her sister, Norma Fay Tellman, on February 12, 2022
- The family of Lietta Danilo, who passed away on February 25, 2022.

Upcoming Events

MEANS OF GRACE: LEARNING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES - March 19, 26 and April 2, 9 from 10:00am - 11:15am

Theologian Richard Foster once wrote, "God has given us the Disciplines of the spiritual life as a means of receiving His grace. The Disciplines allow us to place ourselves before God so that He can transform us. They are God's means of grace."

As we enter into the season of Lent, the Discipleship Team invites you to join us as we learn about a variety of Spiritual Disciplines on Saturday Mornings from 10:00-11:15am. Lent, after all, isn't just about giving up chocolate or not eating meat. We hope you'll consider taking on a new spiritual practice, keeping in mind that different disciplines work for different people! Each Saturday, 2 instructors will do a short introduction to a discipline -- a type of prayer, a way to study scripture, or even the more traditional practices like sabbath and fasting. Students will then choose to go to a breakout group to learn more about that particular discipline. Stay tuned for more information about what practices we will study.

We do encourage everyone to register, especially if you are in need of childcare.

Note: You do not need to attend every class as each week is different. However, if you attend the entire series, you'll be introduced to a wide range of disciplines.

GOLDEN OLDIES - MARCH 17

Golden Oldies will be meeting again on Thursday, March 17th. They will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with special, very enjoyable, entertainment that you won't want to miss. And don't forget to wear green!



March Birthdays

03/01 Peggy Patterson	03/10 Alec Heiskell	03/21 Richard Pyle	03/27 Jordan Krieger
03/01 Molly Regan	03/10 Lori Jablonski	03/21 Sarah Verduci	03/27 Jake Hanich
03/02 Darcie Biancini	03/11 Roman Baronio	03/21 Marlene Brown	03/27 Jesse Wilhelm
03/02 Lorelei Smith	03/12 Angelo Poiche	03/21 Kelly Kain	03/27 Millie Wolstoncroft
03/02 Brandon Postler	03/12 Amelia Smith	03/21 Taylor Barbaryka	03/27 Tanner Lacher
03/02 Amy Ramage	03/13 Victoria Beattie	03/21 Bob Joesbury	03/27 Darren Deemer
03/03 Nicklaus Lytle	03/15 Chuck Lacher	03/21 Mason Tumulty	03/27 Al Heaps
03/03 Joann Johnston	03/16 Wilma Zavodnik	03/22 Thomas Clarke	03/28 Tommy Gilmore
03/04 Casey Jackson	03/16 Dominic DiDomenico	03/22 Casey Sisk	03/28 Eli Franchi
03/05 Anthony Naples	03/17 Marlene Knapp	03/22 Adriana Romanelli	03/28 Kylie Turner
03/05 Janice Teller	03/17 Kristin Gricar	03/23 Ruth Bedner	03/28 Bill Paviol
03/05 Madelyn Rutkowski	03/17 Pat Mishizen	03/23 Dawn Dunlap	03/28 Niki Ciaramella
03/05 Jack Ramage	03/17 Scott Trimmer	03/24 Andrew Sommerfield	03/29 John Crawford
03/05 Kelly Gilmore	03/17 Allison Galbraith	03/24 John Hunter Jr.	03/29 Edward Stewart
03/06 Laura Dugan	03/18 Ann Griffin	03/24 Annabelle Fulton	03/30 Connor Gricar
03/07 Bruce Carman	03/18 Dianne Fiorentini	03/25 Carl Suppo	03/31 Steve Smith
03/07 Anita Myers	03/18 Robert Rahr	03/25 Jeff Nowak	03/31 Arthur Wells
03/07 Mary Bressanelli	03/18 Madison Turnbull	03/26 Casey McCaffrey	03/31 Presley Venum
03/07 Meredith Stewart	03/19 Camden Gullo	03/26 Robert Grossi	03/31 Randall Rastetter
03/09 Kelli Watson	03/19 Elise Ramous	03/26 Carrie Emerson	
03/09 Barbara Crawford	03/19 Hailey Sabin		
03/09 Sarah Paviol	03/19 James Jenkins		
03/09 Kerri Kane	03/20 Brad Bowman		



Congratulations to Caity and Nathan Gibson on the birth of their son, Rowan Nathias Gibson, on February 25th.

MARCH SPECIAL OFFERING - ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The special offering envelope for March supports the PC (USA) One Great Hour of Sharing Collection. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Donate online, in-person or via the mail. Please select "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the giving portal or note it on any checks. Thank you for your contribution *Give Online:* www.bethanypresby.org/giving

BRIDGEVILLE AREA FOOD BANK

At the Feb 19th distribution, the Bridgeville Area Food Bank provided food to 116 families, which included 44 children, 89 adults and 77 elderly.

The Goodness of God

BY: DOUG BOVARD

God the Father has not only given us all that we have and see before our eyes, but daily preserves and defends us against all evil and misfortune, averts all sorts of danger and calamity; and that He does all this out of pure love and goodness, without our merit, as a benevolent Father, who cares for us that no evil befall us. – Martin Luther

Scripture Readings: Psalm 145:8-17, 136:25; James 1:16-18; Matt. 5:44-45, 6:26, 7:7; Job 38:41; Acts 14:17; James 1:17; Rom. 12:2, 8:28; Jer. 29:11; Eph. 2:10 and Nah. 1:7

In this article, I hope to explain the nature and extent of God's goodness. We worship a good God and we should turn toward Him particularly when struggling with adversity. God's amazing 'goodness' fills the entire created order. Scripture is clear that God is uniquely good and He is the measure for everything we call good. We can be certain that He will accomplish His good plan in the best possible way. God's goodness extends to all people and even to the animal kingdom. God is good to unbelievers. In the protestant tradition, we say God's goodness to all people is "common grace" – a general goodness that is not redemptive (Matt. 5:44-45). Unbelievers marry, have children, work, achieve fame and wealth. They enjoy God's creation and sometimes it seems like God is better to them than to His own children (Psalm 73).

God delights in meeting the needs of His children. His goodness is not always in the form of material abundance, but any abundance comes from Him. There are important aspects of God's goodness provided to His children.

- God has a very good plan for believers (Rom. 12:2; Jer. 29:11 and Eph. 2:10).
- God is good toward believers with respect to His providence (Rom. 8:28). Even trials can be used to conform believers to the image of Christ.
- God is good in His protection of believers.
- God is good in His patience toward believers.
- God is good in His forgiveness of believers.

As believers, we should never doubt God's goodness toward us. Getting believers to doubt God's goodness is one of Satan's most infamous ploys.

If circumstances in life cause you to doubt God's goodness, where in Scripture can you turn for reassurance and confidence? Romans 8:28 says, "all things work together for good to those who love God..." Can you think of difficult circumstances in life where you doubted the goodness of God's plan, but which turned out for good? How could you help unbelievers see that their lives have been affected by the goodness of God? What a wonderful evangelistic effort that could become!

March 2022

Ash Wednesday – March 2

Palm Sunday- April 10

Maundy Thursday- April 14 Good Friday- April 15 Easter Sunday- April 17

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – Coed Dart ball	2 ASH WEDNESDAY 10AM – Fellowship of Prayer 5:30PM-Fish Dinner 7PM - Worship	3 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 6:30PM – MOPS 7PM – Beth Moore Class 8PM – AA	4	5 Upward Game Day
6 Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School & Confirmation Class 4PM - BYG	7 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout 7PM – Deacon meeting	8 10AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – Coed Dart ball	9 7PM – Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts	10 9AM – Quilters 9:15AM – MOPS 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 7PM – Beth Moore Class 7PM – Dart ball 8PM – AA	11 10AM -MOPS Steering Committee	12 Upward Game Day 11:30AM - Knitters
13 Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School & Confirmation Class 4PM - BYG	14 7pm – Session Teams 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	15 10AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 6:30PM – PW CT Mtg 7PM – Coed Dart ball	16 7PM – Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts	17 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Golden Oldies 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 6:30PM – MOPS 7PM – Beth Moore Class 7PM – Dart ball	18	19 FOOD BANK 10AM-Means of Grace Lent Class
20 Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School & Confirmation Class 4PM - BYG	21 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout	22 10AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – Coed Dart ball	23 7PM – Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts	24 9AM – Quilters 9:15AM – MOPS 12PM – Rotary Meeting 12PM – Knitters 7PM – Beth Moore Class 7PM – Dart ball 8PM – AA	25 6PM – MOPS Mom's Night Out	26 DIAPER BANK 10AM-Means of Grace Lent Class 11:30AM - Knitters
27 Worship at 8:15am & 10:45am 9:30AM -Sunday School & Confirmation Class 4PM - BYG	28 7PM – Body Carpenter Workout 7PM - Session	29 10AM – PW Seated Workout 6:30PM – Men's Huddle 7PM – Coed Dart ball	30 7PM - Choir 7PM- Boy Scouts	31 9AM – Quilters 12PM – Knitters 12PM – Rotary Meeting 7PM – Beth Moore Class 7PM – Dart ball 8PM – AA	1	2 10AM-Means of Grace Lent Class

* All events subject to change. Please look on the Bethany website (www.bethanypresby.org/events) for the most up to date calendar of events.

Bethany Missions - Fidget Blanket Delivery

On Saturday, February 12th, Barb Crawford, Laura Dugan, Darlene Anderson, Nikki O'Brien, Lynne Suchoza, and myself (Connie Segeleon) visited Country Meadows Memory Unit. What a wonderful day it was. Truly, we were all blessed to be a blessing. We went 2 at a time and were able to take the Fidget Blankets and Muffs as well as the Little Debbie treats (which seem to be the favorite) to the residents.

We were greeted with lots of smiles, thank yous, as well as plenty of oohs and ahhs over the muffs and blankets.

Barb Crawford was very pleased to see how well Vivian Lesnett (a long time member of our church) was doing. Vivian had actually received a pink blanket that I had made and I was so happy to see how much she loved it. We were not able to take pictures of the residents except Vivian since Vivian is a member of Bethany. The residents also loved the extra Little Debbie snacks that were brought. What an absolute joy this was to see so many smiles there were to receive the muffs and blankets. We can't thank everyone enough for this labor of love. This was truly a God moment. Once again, a great big thank you to everyone who participated in every way, for this wonderful mission project at County Meadows Memory Unit.



MISSION TEAM SARRIS CANDY SALES FOR MARCH

Proceeds from the sale of Sarris Candy for the month of March will benefit Camp Crestfield and Avis Arbor. Stop by the Welcome Center on Sundays to get your chocolate and learn more about these ministries.

An update from Malawi The roof is complete!

"Good evening achimwene.

How are you doing and the entire Bethany family?

Chiradzulu CCAP is doing fine. Receive the updates of the roofed block below:

We received 2,796,631 Malawi Kwacha. And this is how we have used the cash; 96 iron sheets@ MK16200 each= 1,555,200. 112 timbers (2by3inch and 2by6 inch)=806,000. Roofing nails and soft wires=105,000. Transportation=110,000. Roofing labour= 200,000.

Therefore, 1,555,200+806,000+105,000+110,000+200,000= 2,776,200. So 2,796,631 minus 2,776,200= 20,431MK. This is the balance we are remaining with. As of now brothers, We are planning to raise funds amounting to 250,000MK for cement, sand and labour charges for the builder. We want to fill the gap between the roof and walls to prevent heavy winds from blowing off this roof. We are experiencing heavy winds in this rainy season. Chiradzulu CCAP appreciate your dedication in the development of this community. Remain blessed brothers and sisters."



Upward Hot Dog Day benefits our Diaper Bank

Upward sold hot dogs during their game day on February 19. \$372 was raised for our church's diaper bank.



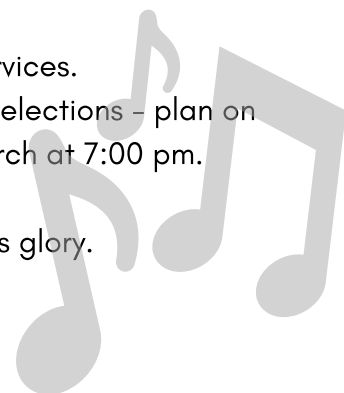
Music Notes

BY: JOHN HENNINGER

The Bethany Choir will soon be busy rehearsing music for our Holy Week and Easter worship services.

We would love to have some extra voices join us for these services. If you would like to add your voice on the "Hallelujah Chorus" and other selections – plan on coming to a few Wednesday evening rehearsals beginning in mid-March at 7:00 pm.

We'll provide the music and fellowship, just bring your voice and a desire to offer your music to God's glory.



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