



# BETHANY ROAD

## FEBRUARY 2026

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Bethany Family, It has been an exciting couple of weeks. The winter storm brought freezing temperatures and over a foot of snow. It seemed like everything shut down in Mercer. It was both fun and beautiful to watch the snow fall and pile up. Emma, our dog, and Lucy, my youngest, both got stuck in the snow, which was hilarious. I was shoveling when I suddenly heard a frantic, "Daddy, I need help!" The kids played and helped me shovel, and we even needed help getting into church that snowy morning. Big events like snowstorms have a way of getting me to stop and reflect on life. If you are anything like me, you need these intrusions into the normal routine to reflect and intentionally seek change. The Lenten season is approaching very quickly. It begins on Wednesday, February 18, with Ash Wednesday. Traditionally, this time of year is set aside by Christians to fast and reflect upon God and our faith. I want to challenge you to stop, slow down, and do just that! It is often in moments of reflection that we see God catch our attention. This can be in a whisper or in a gentle nudge. Not that He can't bring the house down if you miss the memo; He does both. It is important to continue creating space for a relationship, for connection, and for spiritual growth. We recently learned from Genesis 1:26-27 that we are made for a relationship with God and with other believers. I want to challenge you to make time for both during Lent. Would you consider fasting one day a week? Or consider a partial fast from something like sweets? Or perhaps consider a social media fast? Use that extra time to draw close to God and see what He might ask you to change in your life. Pray for opportunities to share your faith and for revival in Mercer and at Bethany Church! I suggest that you begin by making it a priority to join us for our Ash Wednesday service, which will be held on Wednesday, February 18, at 6:00 P.M. This will be an opportunity to begin Lent

(continued on page 2)

with our hearts focused on God. It can be a time to make renewed decisions to prioritize God in your life. Come worship, pray, and reflect with us. Let's seek God together this Lenten season and see what He is actively calling us to do. This service will be unique in that we will begin with worship with prayer, followed by a very short message. You will then be released to worship through interactive, tactile prayer stations. It is a great way to slow down and listen to what God has to say to you and your life. Would you consider praying and fasting for revival? We saw God move in mighty ways at Bethany Church in 2025. Let's pray that He will continue to bless us with opportunities to serve the community and share our faith. How might He continue to bring revival in 2026? That is worth praying for, isn't it? We will continue to have our Lenten lunch series throughout Lent. Join us for laughter, fellowship, and of course, good food each week right after our Sunday service. These lunches are a great introduction to our church, whether you have been visiting and want to plug in more directly, or you have been a member of Bethany Church for years and want to invite a friend to join you for church and lunch afterward. We have a lot of new faces around the church. Maybe these lunches can be an opportunity to meet people and go deeper in a relationship. That is my prayer for you during these Lenten lunches! – Pastor Bob



**LENTEN  
LUNCH**

JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY  
FOR A MEAL AFTER CHURCH!

FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> - MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>



*Ash  
Wednesday*

*Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm*

**Financial Report**  
Through December 2025

Income	\$512,632
Expenses	\$564,271
Difference	\$ -51,639



**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Thursday, February 5  
7:30 A.M.



## Lent

Lent is a sacred season in the life of the church that begins on Ash Wednesday (not leads us through 40 days counting Sundays) toward the celebration of Easter. It is a time set apart for spiritual renewal. It is a season to slow down, examine our hearts, and draw closer to Christ.

While Lent is often known as a time to “give something up,” its deeper purpose is to make room for God. When we choose to fast from distractions, habits, or comforts, we are creating space to focus on what matters most: prayer, Scripture, worship, and obedience.

For centuries, Christians have observed Lent through three key practices:

- Prayer – seeking God with sincerity
- Fasting – surrendering something to strengthen devotion
- Giving – showing Christ’s love through generosity and service

Lent helps us walk with Jesus toward the cross and remembering His sacrifice and the great love that paid the price for our salvation. It is a season not of shame, but of grace-filled repentance, where God meets us with mercy and restores us as we turn to Him. As we journey through Lent, may we open our hearts to the Lord, deepen our faith, and prepare to celebrate Easter with fresh joy and gratitude. “Return to Me with all your heart...” (Joel 2:12)



# Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the 40-day season (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter. It is a Christian day of humility, repentance, spiritual reflection, reminding us of our need for God’s mercy and grace.

Many churches observe Ash Wednesday with a special service that includes:

- Prayer and Scripture
- Confession and repentance
- Receiving ashes in the shape of a cross

The ashes are a symbol of:

- our human weakness and mortality (“from dust...to dust,” Genesis 3:19)
- sorrow over sin
- our hope in Jesus, who saves and restores

Ash Wednesday is a meaningful invitation to return to the Lord and prepare your heart to celebrate the resurrection of Christ at Easter.

# Awesome Bethany Happenings!

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS** *Spring 2020*  
*We're better together!*

<p><b>BOOK OF HEBREWS SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>  <b>SUNDAYS 9:15AM</b>  <i>Ongoing</i>                  CHILDCARE AVAILABLE! SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH &amp; KIDS AVAILABLE TOO!</p>	<p><b>ROMANS HOME STUDY</b>  <b>1<sup>ST</sup> &amp; 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAYS 6:30PM</b>  <i>Begins Jan 19<sup>th</sup></i>                  MEETS AT HAYES'S HOME SEE MARK HAYES FOR DETAILS.</p>	<p><b>HOLY LAND STUDY</b>  <b>THURSDAYS 10:00AM</b>  <i>Begins Feb 19<sup>th</sup></i>                  SEE PASTOR BILLY FOR DETAILS. NO CHILDCARE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.</p>
<p><b>SUNDAY NIGHT GATHERING</b>  <b>SUNDAYS 6:00PM</b>  <i>Begins Jan 18<sup>th</sup></i>                  CHILDCARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL AGES. STUDYING THE BOOK OF JOHN WITH PASTOR BOB.</p>	<p><b>WOMEN'S RUTH STUDY</b>  <b>TUESDAYS 9:30AM</b>  <i>Begins Jan 15<sup>th</sup></i>                  SEE PAT AMSLER FOR DETAILS. NO CHILDCARE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.</p>	 <p>Check out our website for more info!</p>

*February*  
**MOM'S NIGHT**

**FEB 19TH 6:00PM**



**RAINFOREST FALLS**  
*Exploring the Nature of God*  
**Vacation Bible School**  
**June 15th-19th**



**BETHANY COMMUNITY CENTER**  
*A space to connect, grow, and serve together.*

[bethany-presbyterian.org/community-project](http://bethany-presbyterian.org/community-project)



**SCOUT SUNDAY**  
**FEB 8<sup>TH</sup> 10:30AM**  
**FAMILY SERVICE**



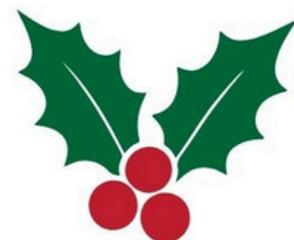
**MOVIE NIGHT**  
**FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> 6:30PM**  
**SHOWING:**  
**"I CAN ONLY IMAGINE"**



# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Thank you everyone for a wonderful Christmas Eve service. We enjoyed a great night of worship, teaching, carols, and kids having fun! What a great way to celebrate our Lord and Savior this Christmas!





**Reading the Bible in Color: A Spiritual Journey to Israel**  
**with Pastor Billy Woodman**

*Pack your bags & get ready for a virtual tour of the Holy Land...  
See the Land of the Bible like you've never seen it before...  
Relive your trip to Israel if you've gone before or visit for the first time!*

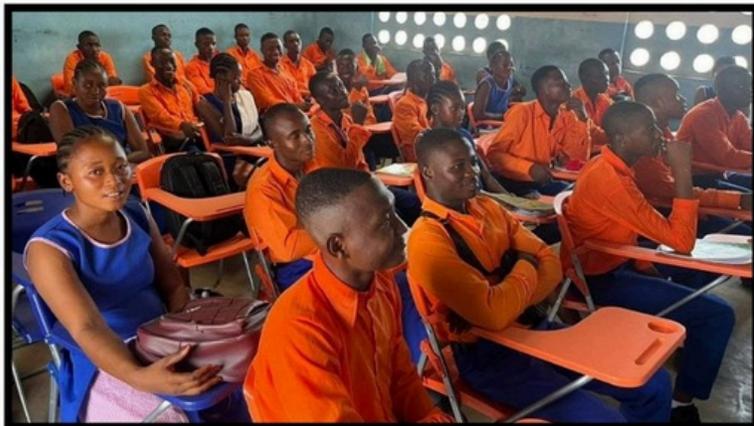
**February 19 - March 26, 2026**  
**Thursdays @ 10:00 a.m.**



**Bethany Church**

FEB 19: Receiving God's Blessing - The Sermon on the Mount  
& the Beatitudes of Jesus  
FEB 26: Counting the Cost - Dan, Caesarea Philippi & Caesarea Maritima  
- Prevailing Against the Gates of Hell  
MAR 5: Dealing with Intense Pressure - The Garden of Gethsemane  
& Grafted into God's People  
MAR 12: The Cross & the Tomb: Golgotha, the Holy Sepulcher  
& the Garden Tomb: Where did Jesus actually die & rise from the dead?  
MAR 19: Entering into God's Presence - The Southern Steps, The  
Wailing Wall & The Destruction of the Temple  
MAR 26: I Love Jerusalem! A Walking Tour of the City of David &  
Departure

## Your Strengthening Learning Environments Through Partnership



and chairs is already transforming classrooms across our campus, giving students a proper place to sit, write, and learn. More than furniture, these resources strengthen the learning environments we strive to provide for every student—spaces that communicate dignity, stability, and care. With students settled into their own desks, they are better equipped to focus, participate, and grow, and our teachers are able to instruct more effectively. Together, with partners who come alongside our mission, we are building classrooms where students can thrive academically and dream confidently about their future.

We're excited to share some encouraging news about the good things happening at EduNations, beginning with a recent gifts-in-kind shipment from The Crossroads Foundation in Hong Kong. This generous delivery of much-needed desks, tables,



# BETHANY

Hello Bethany Church Family, Starting off in 2026, we have started our "Crazy Love" series by Francis Chan in Sunday School. The thing I like the most about this series is the teens have the workbook that they go through, read, and fill out throughout the week. We then come in, discuss the questions and our answers, watch the video, and go through the Scripture that accompanies it. These questions poke into our personal relationship with God, and help us to regain our reverence for God, and prioritizing our love for Him. Similarly in Youth Group, we started a RightNow Media series "Heart of God," learning all about who God is, and how He reveals Himself to us in the Scriptures. This series is a great series to first learn about what God says He is, but also remind yourself if you may have forgotten. These two series between the groups relate and often go hand-in-hand which is nice because it's easy to draw on one lesson to go to the other. Micah Wojnowski, Director of Student Ministries

We only met two weeks in January, as I have been sick. Coming up in February the schedule looks like the following:

**February 1st:**

Sunday School: 9:30a  
Youth Group: 6p-8p

**February 8th:**

Sunday School: 9:30a  
Youth Group: No Youth Group

**February 15th:**

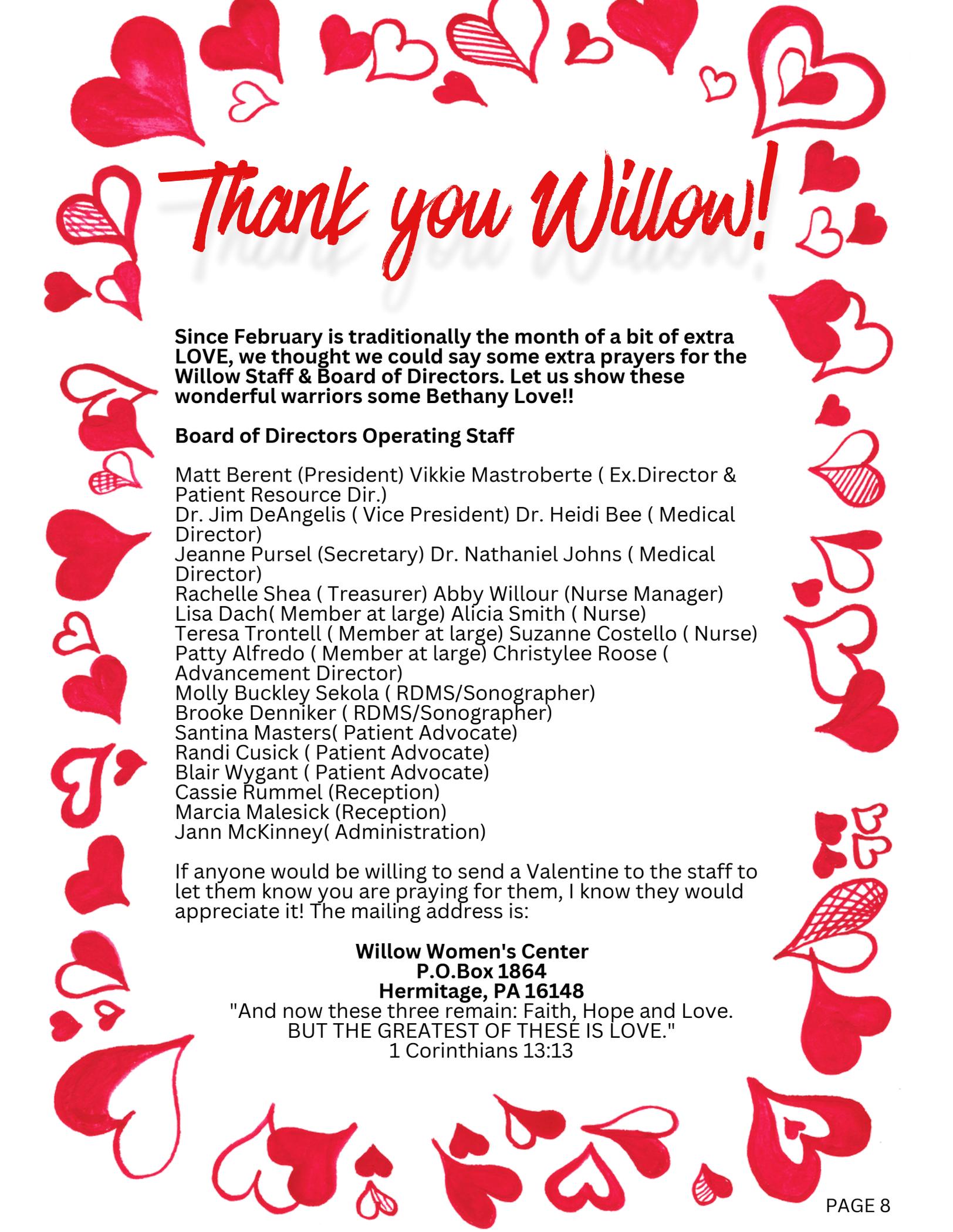
Sunday School: 9:30a  
Youth Group: 6p-8p

**February 22nd:**

Sunday School: 9:30a  
Youth Group: 6p-8p

**February 28th:**

Winter Jam: Info Available to  
Teens on February 1st!



# Thank you Willow!

Since February is traditionally the month of a bit of extra LOVE, we thought we could say some extra prayers for the Willow Staff & Board of Directors. Let us show these wonderful warriors some Bethany Love!!

## Board of Directors Operating Staff

Matt Berent (President) Vikkie Mastroberte ( Ex.Director & Patient Resource Dir.)

Dr. Jim DeAngelis ( Vice President) Dr. Heidi Bee ( Medical Director)

Jeanne Pursel (Secretary) Dr. Nathaniel Johns ( Medical Director)

Rachelle Shea ( Treasurer) Abby Willour (Nurse Manager)

Lisa Dach( Member at large) Alicia Smith ( Nurse)

Teresa Trontell ( Member at large) Suzanne Costello ( Nurse)

Patty Alfredo ( Member at large) Christylee Roose ( Advancement Director)

Molly Buckley Sekola ( RDMS/Sonographer)

Brooke Denniker ( RDMS/Sonographer)

Santina Masters( Patient Advocate)

Randi Cusick ( Patient Advocate)

Blair Wygant ( Patient Advocate)

Cassie Rummel (Reception)

Marcia Malesick (Reception)

Jann McKinney( Administration)

If anyone would be willing to send a Valentine to the staff to let them know you are praying for them, I know they would appreciate it! The mailing address is:

**Willow Women's Center**

**P.O.Box 1864**

**Hermitage, PA 16148**

"And now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love.  
BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE."

1 Corinthians 13:13



# FUTURE BLOOD DONOR

HOPE begins with you.



American Red Cross

## **Blood Drive** **Rooted Homeschool Coop** **Bethany Presbyterian Church**

Social Room  
100 W Venango St  
Mercer

**Monday, March 9**  
**11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.  
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.  
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Rooted to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to be directed to RapidPass®



**Give in March for a \$15 Gift Card by email & successful donations get A1C testing! [rcblood.org/March](http://rcblood.org/March)**



Scan to schedule an appointment.

[RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS | Download the Blood Donor App

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# Love That Lasts

February often draws our attention to love—



*"A cheerful look brings joy to the heart."*

*Proverbs 15:30*

cards, flowers, and kind words exchanged for a moment in time. Yet Scripture reminds us that the truest love is not fleeting or fragile. It is steady, faithful, and rooted in God Himself. One winter afternoon, a small group from the

ehurto me gatured neighbdeliver snow mealinedo the sidewalks, and the wind cut sharply through coats and scarves. The visit was meant to be brief, but it lingered longer than expected. Stories were shared. Laughter filled the room. Prayers were spoken quietly at the kitchen table. As the group prepared to leave, the neighbor said softly, "I pray every day that God will remind me I'm not forgotten. Today, He answered that prayer." No grand gestures were made that day. There were no spotlights or applause. Yet love was present—practical, patient, and sincere. It was the kind of love Scripture describes: love that shows up, love that serves, love that reflects Christ. February reminds us that God's love is not confined to a single day or season. It is lived out in small acts of kindness, in listening ears, in faithful presence. When we love one another in these simple ways, we become living reminders of God's care and compassion. As we move through this month, may we look for opportunities to share a love that lasts—one that points beyond ourselves and reflects the heart of Christ in all we do. **1 Corinthians 13:4-7a** *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Loves does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves. Love never fails."*

## 1. What do you call two birds in February?

Tweethearts.

## 2. Why did the clock love February?

It appreciated that time flew by quickly.

## 3. What did one candle say to the other?

"I'm so glad we can brighten someone's day."

## 4. What kind of flowers are best friends?

Buds.

## 5. I started exercising in February.

My favorite stretch is reaching for the remote.

## FEBRUARY FUNNIES

Ever notice that only one company makes Monopoly? Highlighter pens are going to change the way we study...mark my words. Scientists studying the effects of cannabis on marine birds have promised to leave no tern un-stoned.

I didn't think orthopedic shoes would help my gait, but now I stand corrected.

# BETHANY

## Renovations

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE DOING THE PRELIMINARY WORK ON OUR NEW RENOVATION PROJECT. THE WORK THEY DO IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.



PAINTING THE NEW "HISTORY ROOM"

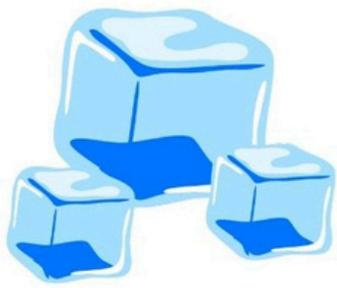


GETTING READY FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION OFFICE



NEW LIGHTING AND CEILING TILES IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION OFFICE





# THE HAVEN

On the Haven's distribution day, the temperature was hovering around zero degrees. It was very cold, but the hearts of our volunteers were warm with the love of the Lord and filled with His joy. We were blessed to serve much needed groceries to nearly 70 households which amounts to about 170 very grateful people. Please consider joining the ministry of The Haven and the blessings of the Lord as we serve the Lord with great gladness!



To God be the glory, great things He has done,

Sue





# LOVE IS IN THE AIR



O S S V E W F L O W E R S H O N E Y I W  
 X U X D T P Z U W Z H Z G V R V R A U P  
 T K I S S E S G Y S H H D J B H O K C V  
 D C D A G L B B F X D T G D W M M H J O  
 A L U K N U B E I C J B N L X J A K D Q  
 T J X D U R A T F H U F D N F R N J J M  
 E U L A T L T H G O C Q B P X E C W M T  
 R T E N I C J A G C E X P E P D E C S G  
 W U Z C H P C N Q O I N I Y C I V X X Y  
 V Y I I E N Z Y L L U M L L S T N F R P  
 A D U N A I O A N A A D E C W Q X K W R  
 L T G G R C W J D T W E V C E G B X Q V  
 E B S A T Y K B V E E B Q U E M V O I I  
 N Q T B Z L V W C C C L W P T N K C J M  
 T J B T K D T H A O I O L I H R M D H S  
 I O R B L I B X R U H V H D E Y B U U H  
 N T O B K N O B D P F E G T A K I H G M  
 E O S K Q N Q N S L B Z U Z R O D R S X  
 J D E G D E G W K E N S U M T I N L R R  
 H J S H F R S O U S V A R O I V M X S A

SWEETHEART  
 CHOCOLATE  
 DANCING  
 KISSES  
 CUPID  
 LOVE

VALENTINE  
 FLOWERS  
 ROMANCE  
 ROSES  
 CARDS  
 HUGS

BETHANY  
 COUPLES  
 DINNER  
 HEART  
 HONEY  
 DATE

PINK  
RED



# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:15 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Children's Church 11:45 A.M. Deacon's Meeting 6:00 P.M. Youth Group	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30 P.M. Missions Comm. 6:30 P.M. Outreach Comm. 6:30 P.M. Safety Team 7:00 P.M. Property Team	<b>4</b> 4:30 P.M. Cub and Girl Scouts 6:00 P.M. Worship Band	<b>5</b> 7:30 A.M. Men's Breakfast 9:00 A.M. Thursday Prayer 12:00 P.M. Rooted 6:30 P.M. Garden Club	<b>6</b> 6:00 P.M. Movie Night	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Scout Sunday 10:30 A.M. Children's Church 11:45 A.M. Annual Meeting 6:00 P.M. Youth Group	<b>9</b> 6:30 P.M. Personnel Comm.	<b>10</b> 5:00 P.M. Christian Ed. Committee	<b>11</b> 4:30 P.M. Cub & Girl Scouts 6:00 P.M. Worship Band 6:30 P.M. Military Prayer 7:00 P.M. Worship Band	<b>12</b> 9:00 A.M. Thursday Prayer 12:00 P.M. Rooted	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 
<b>15</b> 9:15 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Children's Church 12:00 P.M. Pinewood Derby 6:00 P.M. Youth Group 6:00 P.M. Discipleship Groups	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00 P.M. Cub Committee 7:00 P.M. Book Club	<b>18</b> 6:00 P.M. Ash Wednesday	<b>19</b> 9:00 A.M. Thursday Prayer 10:00 A.M. Holy Land Bible Study 12:00 P.M. Rooted 6:00 P.M. Mom's Group 7:00 P.M. Finance Comm.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 11:00 A.M. Cub Scout Soup Fundraiser
<b>22</b> 9:15 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Children's Church 11:45 A.M. Lenten Lunch 6:00 P.M. Youth Group 6:00 P.M. Discipleship Groups	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 4:30 P.M. Scouts 6:00 P.M. Worship Band	<b>26</b> 9:00 A.M. Thursday Prayer 10:00 A.M. Holy Land Bible Study 12:00 P.M. Rooted 7:00 P.M. Session	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 A.M. The Haven

## Bethany Presbyterian Church

100 W. Venango Street

Mercer, PA 16137

Regular Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M.

Phone: (724) 662-4340

Fax: 724-662-1080

Prayer Chain: [bethanyprays@yahoo.com](mailto:bethanyprays@yahoo.com)

Web: [www.bethany-presbyterian.org](http://www.bethany-presbyterian.org)



Non-Profit Organization

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## Elders and Deacons



### **Elders:**

Dave Allen, Steve Amsler, John Inman, Gary McElfresh, Earl Runcan, Valerian Moeller, Bruce Wamboldt, Bob White, Bill Woodman

### **Deacons:**

Samantha Faloney, Amy Hayes, Liz Hodgkinson, Sandra Hostetler, Madalin Huff, Tami Iman, Alex Lindey, Lynda McQuown, Betsy Rust, Rita Thompson, Kim Watson, Linda Wishart

## Bethany Staff



### **Pastor**

Dr. Bob White

### **Visitation Pastor**

Pastor Bill Woodman

### **Church Administrator**

Steve Amsler

### **Administrative Assistant**

Beverly Crawford

### **Director of Student**

### **Ministries**

Micah Wojnowski

### **Director of Children's**

### **Ministries**

Evelyn Dickinson

### **Treasurer**

Kathleen Daley

### **Financial Secretary**

Kim Watson

### **Music Director**

### **Pianist**

Jane Deitrick

### **Organist**

Denny Horkey