



Bethany Beeline

Published nine times a year by
BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“Moving Forward United in Faith.”

Committed to Christ, United by Love. We are about God, Christ, the Word, and the Future. No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here. We are Bethany United Church of Christ.

VOLUME 61-19

JANUARY 2018



JANUARY 7 – NUT ORDERS DUE

10:45 A Worship with Pastor Linda &
 Guest speaker Bob Rapp

JANUARY 14

10:45 A Worship with Pastor Linda

JANUARY 21

10:45 A Worship with Pastor Linda

JANUARY 28

10:45 A Worship with Pastor Linda



"A Different Route"

Each year the church season of Epiphany comes to us in early January. Typically at this time we read from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 2 which tells the story of the wise men's search for Jesus, the guiding star that led the way, and their encounter with the Holy Child. They worshipped, they offered what they had to give, and after spending time with Jesus, scripture tells us that they left "taking a different route" (Matthew 2:12).

For the wise men, traveling in a different direction was an act of obedience as a result of a dream they had. For us, the implications of stepping into unfamiliar territory and taking a different route can be significant as well. When I take a different route on my daily morning walk, it forces me to think about where I am headed. I am more inclined to notice my surroundings, rather than simply walking mindlessly on a well-worn trail. If we take a different route when we drive to a familiar place like work or the grocery store, it requires us to pay attention to stop signs and traffic lights, instead of travelling on auto-pilot.

Many of us like routine and familiarity. And sometimes it is nice to "coast" in life, or to simply do what we know to do, and to remain in our established boundaries where it's comfortable. Yet, there are consequences from lingering there too long. In terms of our Christian walk, our individual faith journey and our congregational life can become so routine and familiar that we overlook the significant signs of

God with us. We may tread through the seasons of the church year almost mindlessly, failing to notice what God is doing in our midst and overlooking the direction that God provides.

January and the start of the new year lend themselves well to a time of resolving to “take a different route”. Maybe that means doing something differently in order to become more aware of God’s love for you, or in order to make God’s love visible for others. In our shared ministry at Bethany this year we will begin serving in the community each month and learning about our neighbors. As we begin 2018 may we enter into a time of allowing God to capture our attention in new ways. And may we have the courage to follow where God leads...even if it takes us on a different route! Happy New Year!

Blessings this new year and always,

Pastor Linda

New Office Hours for Pastor Linda: The beginning of “spring” semester at Moravian Seminary brings a change to my class schedule: Beginning January 29th, my office hours at Bethany will be on Monday mornings, Wednesday afternoons and Thursday afternoons. Feel free to email: pastorlinda.bethanyucc@gmail.com, text or call 484-764-8620, or call the church office if you want to be in touch. Thank you!

Pastor’s Office Hours and Contact Information

Starting January 29, Pastor Linda will be in the office on Monday mornings and Wednesday & Thursday afternoons. Scheduled visits will be on those days according to her schedule. Emergency pastoral care will be offered as needed. Please call the office to schedule a visit. Feel free to see me on Sunday mornings or email me directly as well.

Email: pastorlinda.bethanyucc@gmail.com

Please let her know how she can serve you.



Committee chair persons please submit your report for the Annual Congregational meeting ASAP to Susan Wuchter. Submit your budget to Debbie Keretz.



“Don’t make me send the flying monkeys”

Bethany Worship Service Digital **AUDIO RECORDINGS** are available. If interested contact Bill Rumble at wrumble@ptd.net.

BULLETIN & FLOWER CHART - The Bulletin and Flower charts for 2018 are posted on the bulletin board by the main entrance (double glass doors). Just sign your name on any available date.



PLEASE NOTE CHANGES IN BOLD The minimum cost for bulletins is \$10.00. The cost for fresh flowers is **\$40.00 for two vases**. Another fresh flower option is one low **rectangular vase to be placed on the altar at a cost of \$28.50**. If you prefer this option, please sign up on the flower chart and indicate your preference by placing an R in a circle after your name for the Rectangular arrangement. I need to let the florist know what type of flower arrangement we want, so please mark the chart. If you prefer the seasonal Silk flowers and would like your donation to go directly to Bethany, please write the word “silk” behind your name or put an (S). **PLEASE NOTE** The minimum cost of silk flowers is \$10.00. As in the past, contact the office with your information for the bulletin no later than the Tuesday before your sponsored date. Thank you.

Bethany Needs Your Help

We need everyone to pitch in and help take care of our church home. We all have a little time in our busy lives to do one of the jobs listed below occasionally. If you or your group holds an event or meeting at the church, please make sure all trash is put in the furnace room and the rest rooms are stocked with toilet paper and paper towels. Be sure that floors and tables are clean.

On Sunday before you leave your pew look around and make sure all trash goes with you and all items are returned to their proper place.

If you see something that needs to be done, do it. Or bring it to the attention of someone who can address the concern.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Your Consistory, Staff, and Ministry/ Committee leadership want you to be aware of this information. We hope that it will encourage you to act.

Everyone has special talents and abilities. Sometimes we think we have little or nothing to offer. Time is often limited, but we can make time for things we care about. You are vital to Bethany United Church of Christ. Speak to any consistory member, ministry/committee leader, or staff member to offer your help. Here are just a few ideas.

- Ring the church bell prior to each service as well as any additional times requested.
- Turn off the pulpit light after the worship service.
- Clean the glass door in front of the church for all services and events.
- Keep restrooms clean always. See that soap, towels and toilet paper are replenished as needed and cups at water fountain are supplied.

- See that all rooms are tidy and set up for Sunday School.
- Collect all waste materials and put in cans in the boiler room no later than Sunday night.
- Make sure that recycling is placed outside for collection.
- Rope off pews whenever necessary per instructions.
- Place bulletins in the back of the church and the choir room early on Sunday morning.
- Be a participant on one or more of our ministries/committees
- Serve as a greeter, lay reader, usher and offering counter – just let Susan know if you want your name added to the Worship Service Schedule before the end of the year when she revises the list.
 - Serve as a greeter or lay reader
- Cleaning: vacuum, dust, collect trash/recycling, clean glass on entrance doors, bathrooms, mop floors, etc.
- Count Joyful Noise offering
- Straighten pews
- “Be a nut” – help with preparation of nuts on Saturdays and/or Mondays
- Share musical talent in preludes and offertories
- Replace offering envelopes in pews
- Proofread Bulletins and/or Beelines prior to publication

Please look into your heart and help your church in its time of need. If you have any questions on where to find supplies or further instructions, please ask either a consistory member or a

member of the property committee.

Thank you,

Your church

SPONSOR-A BILL Many of us are probably not aware of Bethany's ongoing expenses. The Sponsor-a-Bill initiative has been quite successful in meeting Bethany's expenses. By sponsoring a bill, you can greatly contribute to Bethany's needs. Sponsor-a-Bill encourages members to support the payment or partial payment of a specific monthly, quarterly, or annual bill.

Here is a sampling of bills that we incur regularly.

Monthly

- Postage (book of 20) \$9.80
- Communion wafers \$16
- Copy paper \$23
- Janitorial supplies \$117
- Phone/internet \$144
- Copier maintenance & usage \$160
- Copier lease \$162
- Electricity \$279
- Natural gas \$845

Quarterly

- Water & sewer \$300

Annually

- Light bulbs \$15
- Office calendar \$23
- Boiler cleaning & maintenance \$132
- Kitchen health license \$31
- Internet web hosting fee \$84

- Pavilion rental fee \$95)
- Chair lift inspection \$101)
- Music copyright license \$116)

Fire system security monitoring \$140
Fire extinguisher inspection \$175
Kitchen exhaust system inspection \$200
Air Conditioning Maintenance \$375
Garbage

When "Sponsoring a Bill" please indicate what bill you are contributing to in the memo on your check or, if using cash, on a separate envelope. Please be aware that your sponsorship is in addition to regular weekly offerings.

MISSION – Day of Serving

“when did we see you hungry...” (Matthew 25:31-46)

A team from Bethany will be serving on Saturday, January 6th from 9:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. at the Soup Kitchen located at Christ UCC in Bethlehem.

We will prepare a meal, greet those who come, serve lunch, and clean up. There is a sign-up sheet located in the narthex, or please see Becky Sullivan or Pastor Linda if you want to know more.



We also look forward to welcoming guest speaker Bob Rapp on Sunday, January 7th. Bob is a pastor with United Church of Christ. His ministry is focused on serving and advocacy for area veterans and others who are homeless or in need of care. He has been invited to come and tell about area homelessness and ways that people can be responsive to local needs.



Thanks to all who donated new unwrapped toys to the December Toys for Tots campaign.
Sharon Haines

Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone. - Charles Schulz

WORSHIP:

New Year's Eve - Silent Communion

December 31st, 4-6 p.m.

The sanctuary will be open from 4-6 p.m. on New Year's Eve and Pastor Linda will host an informal but sacred time to come and receive Holy Communion as a way to send off 2017 and welcome the new year. All are welcome to drop in when you can and leave when you must. This is a unique opportunity for families, couples or individuals to come forward and commune together or alone. Sit in the peace and beauty of the sanctuary, pray if you wish, and come as you are, "in remembrance".

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Pork & Sauerkraut Supper Saturday, January 20, 2018 @ 5 PM - Cost is \$12. All are welcome. Gail Hoch will be selling tickets after worship. Any questions, call Gail Hoch 610-428-1312. Volunteer to help with this worthy project.



Senior Friends Programs for 2018

1st Thursday of the Month September thru May at 11:30 A.M.
West Side Moravian Church 610-865-0256

BRING A SANDWICH Beverage and Dessert is provided

Please meet at church at 11:30 for lunch before outings

All Are Welcomed!!!

1/4/18 Pastor Keith will be speaking

Feb. 1 – TBA

Mar 1 – Richard Miller with St. Paddy's day program

Apr. 5 – Dan Dillard with presentation on burn prevention

May 3 - TBA

All are Welcome! See flyer on BB in Narthex

Gracious God, help me face life's struggles with the love of Christ, who strengthens me. Amen

Lester Albaugh
Kenneth Bender
Ruth Bowers
Amy Campbell
Lillian Connors
Lauren Fehr
Nancy John
Rod Laughlin
Joyce Macbeth
Ken Mathias
Esther Nelson
Linda St. Hilaire
Karin Sparling
Brenda Stetler
Jean Thrash
Marie Wolfe
Jerome Yost



PRAYER LIST: We ask that you check this list and let us know if there are any persons that no longer need to be on this list. Also, if you know of someone that needs our prayers, you can submit their name to Debbie Brown at 484-358-3735 or the church office. Remember, because of the privacy to individuals; please be sure you have their permission before submitting their names for the prayer list.



*Our Deepest
Sympathy*

Sympathies and prayers to the Joyce Hammer and family upon the passing of Richard on December 8.

Sympathies and prayers to Donald Greene and family upon the loss of Betty in November.

Sympathies and prayers to the Sabetti family upon the recent passing of Jim Sabetti.

Pastor Linda and her family upon the passing of her cousin.

Monetary donation received in memory of Richard Hammer by Karen Ann Laubach.

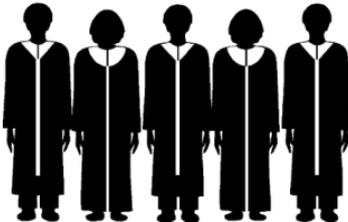


The season for the 2017-18 year is almost half over. Anyone interested in joining the fun and fellowship of the Bethlehem Inter-Church Dart Baseball League for 2018-19, should call Bob Ackerman at 610-797-7842. All games start at 7:30 unless otherwise noted. Weekly results posted on BB in Narthex.

REMINDER: FH may be used for parties etc. by members for only \$50



The after-Christmas party will be January 10 at the Palace Restaurant starting with cocktails at 5:30, dinner at 6 P. Cost is \$18 pp.



Sign up sheet in the Choir room.
Don't forget a \$2 gift.

From our Choir Director

LOOKING AHEAD into January 2018, the rehearsal schedule AS OF NOW is as follows:

Wednesday January 3, 17, 24, 31 6:30 PM Handbells
7:45 PM Chancel Choir

Wednesday January 10th Choir "After Christmas" Party
5:30 Cocktails 6:00 PM Dinner (Party ends 9:00 PM)

Sunday January 28th 9:30 AM Bethany Orchestra Rehearsal-
all are welcome

Finally..... Many, Many Thanks to all of the Bethany members participating in our Music Ministry, and for all of the congregational support that we receive.

Have a joyful Christmas Season and a New Year filled with blessings!



Joyfully,
Susan Denninger Wright

December 11, 2017

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$286.74 received on 11/29/17 to support Hurricane 2017 Relief Efforts. Your donation will help address the emergency now, as well as the long-term recovery that will be needed to get communities restored and people back into their homes. We are asking for your prayers for everyone impacted by the storms, and for your continued support as the long-term recovery take shape.

On behalf of the United Church of Christ, thank you! Thank you for being inspired by God's grace, for partnering with us in loving our neighbors and uniting with us to build a just world for all.

Faithfully,

Mary A. Paxton

Director, Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship

* * * * *

Dear Friend,

As we close 2017, I'd like to personally thank you for your support to Homes For Our Troops and the Veterans we serve.

YOU have enabled us to continue to assist these severely injured post-9/11 Veterans. In Fiscal 2017, we completed 22 specially adapted custom homes, purchased 34 lots for upcoming builds, and welcomed 30 new Veterans into our program, all while continuing to support the

Veterans already in HFOT homes as they rebuild their lives.

Thank you again for your continued commitment to our program. On behalf of our HFOT family, we wish you and yours a happy and healthy New Year. I look forward to seeing you at a build event in 2018.

William D. Ivey
Executive Director
Homes For Our Troops

* * * * *

You are AMAZING!!!

Thanks to you and your fundraiser, women are being helped at every step of the breast cancer journey.

We are so grateful for your support and hope you will join us again very soon, as we strive to reach many more women we need of support and resources,

Warmly,

Linda Gilbert, Melissa Brito, Michelle Romanczukiewicz and the whole NBCF team!

* * * * *

Monetary donation to the memorial fund in memory of my dear parents, James and Elizabeth Johnson by the Tkacik Family.

Special Christmas Eve memorial in memory of Harry W. Denninger from Jack & Diane Brunner, Matt & Nichole Brunner and Laura & Douglas Sutter.

Our secretary, Susan, will be redoing the worship service schedule for 2018. If you want to be **removed** from the greeter, usher/counter, lay reader, or acolyte list, please let the office know by the end of December via email, phone 610-868-4441 or leave a note in the basket outside my office.

If you want to be **added** to the above list, let me know also.

Thx – Susan Wuchter



ANIMAL FOOD BANK

Remember our furry friends. Just drop your donation in one of the bins in the Narthex. I will deliver the items to the Animal Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley, a non-profit organization that assists people in need of help feeding their pets. Thanks again to everyone. - Brian Ziegler

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS & FRIENDS OF BETHANY

We would like to send a Beeline to college students and friends of Bethany, but to do that we need an email address or mailing address. Please call the church office (610-868-4441) or email the church (bethanyunitedchurch@rcn.com) with that information. Thank you.

DEADLINES:

- **ASAP Annual reports from all department heads and committees** should be given to Susan Wuchter to prepare the Annual Report.
- **January 24** deadline for February beeline.

REMINDER: ALL announcements made before worship must pertain to the life and ministry of Bethany. Community and family announcements can be placed in the bulletin and/or Beeline. Please contact Susan Wuchter no later than the Monday before you want it to appear in the bulletin.



CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

If Sunday school and/or worship are cancelled due to weather conditions, announcements will be made over radio stations WAEB – 790 AM & B104 FM (their web sites also carry the information), WLEV – 100.7 FM, as well as TV Channel 69 – WFMZ. Also, if we have your email address, an email will be sent out.

If Sunday school is cancelled due to inclement weather, the Cherub, Jr. and Chapel choirs and Orchestra will not rehearse.

Anyone who is intending to bring a child to Sunday School, please notify Lisa Williams prior to that Sunday. Lisa's phone is 610-262-5898 or her email is lwsmidge@aol.com.

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (610-868-4441) . . .

... when a member of your family is admitted to the hospital so that visits can be made and the proper people notified. Our hospital code is 402.

... in the event of death of a family member or loved one. When tragedy happens, it will bring comfort to know your church family cares about you.

... when your group plans to have a meeting, so that it can be cleared and placed on the church calendar.

... when either your home or cell phone number is changed, so the church records can be updated.

... when you are planning to move – out of town or locally.

... when a new baby arrives in your family or in the family of another church or Sunday school member.

... when a member of your family leaves home for college, the military, or to establish a new residence.

... when you want to add a name to or delete a name from the prayer list. Remember, because of the privacy to individuals; please be sure you have their permission before submitting their names for the prayer list.

... when you feel the church can assist you in any way.

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (610-868-4441) . . . if there is any change in the information we have about you (name, address, phone, email or if you are in the hospital. Our hospital code is 402.



GET YOUR PEANUTS, CASHEWS, AND ALMONDS

HERE! Below are the nut preparation dates and order dates for 2017- 18.

Mark your calendars! You don't want to miss an order date. We sell Almonds, Cashews, and Peanuts. Call Debbie Brown at 484-358-3735 or Linda Wieand at 610-

868-3719. Everyone is invited to help on nut preparation days. Saturdays from 9 AM-Noon (Attention Youth – this can be Community Service time) and Mondays from 8 AM until finished. It's a time of fun and fellowship. Lunch is served on peanut prep Mondays.

Order dates	Peanut Preparation Day
Jan. 7 & 8	Jan 13 & 15
Feb. 4 & 5	Feb. 10 & 12
Mar. 4 & 5	Mar. 10 & 12
Apr. 1 & 2	Apr. 7 & 9
May 6 & 7	May 12 & 14
June 3 & 4	June 9 & 11

Peanuts \$3, Cashews & Almonds \$5

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE:

	Budgeted Member Envelope	\$2,143.00
12/3 Attendance	57 Weekly member envelope	\$2,006.00
Joyful Noise \$219.62 for Homes for Vets		
12/10 Attendance	47 Weekly member envelope	\$1,349.00
12/17 Attendance	60 Weekly member envelope	\$1,558.00
12/24 AM Attendance	26 Weekly member envelope	\$1,235.00
PM Attendance	113 Christmas Eve	\$1,435.00

Directory corrections:

PAGE	CHANGE	NAME
	Email	Dick Roberts mdkcirab@outlook.com
	Email	Corey Tancin coreytancin@gmail.com
	Delete	Greene, Betty
	Delete	Richard Hammer

2017 Consistory

President – Brian Ziegler

Vice President – Leslie Thrash

Secretary – Debbie Keretz

ELDERS		
Debbie Brown	484-358-3735	Brown.djbrown.debra@gmail.com
Dan Sabetti	484-281-3630	danielsabetti@yahoo.com
Brenda Stetler	610-868-9448H 610-417-1344C	Totosmom10@gmail.com
Leslie Thrash	610-417-3154C	leslie.thrash@yahoo.com
Brian Ziegler	610-861-7501	bziegler12649@gmail.com
DEACONS		
Joan Hottle	610-417-3224C	joaniern77@gmail.com
Debbie Keretz	484-767-6382C	dkeretz@FinancialGuide.com
Becky Sullivan	610-866-0367	rebeccaannkish@yahoo.com
Walter Williams	610-868-2993	wawillams65@ptd.net

Reminder: There is a retreat for all Consistory members on January 27 starting at 9:30 A with Dave Deremer here at Bethany.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Barbara Roberts
Richard Laubenstein
Stephanie Kish
- 6 Robert Ruhe
- 7 Gail Hoch
- 13 Margaret Ruhe
John Knoll
- 15 Deborah Lee
- 23 Katherine Wright
- 24 Dale Zellner
- 26 Mackenzie Scott
- 27 Marcie Wolfe
Louise Snyder
- 28 Paula Moser
Donald Greene
- 31 Joanne Walczer
Karin Sparling





28 – Sue & Earl Stralo
29 – Patricia & Alan Hale

"The Wedding"

George and Edith had been high school sweethearts 50 years ago, but had gone their separate ways after graduation. Then, two years ago, their paths crossed again, and they began seeing each other regularly.

With age 75 just around the corner, they decided life was too short, and they might as well spend the rest of their lives together.

Excited about their decision to marry, they went for a stroll to discuss the wedding, and found themselves in front of a drugstore. George said, "Let's go in. I have an idea."

Addressing the man behind the counter, George asked, "Are you the owner?" The pharmacist answered, "Yes sir, I am. How can I help you?"

George: "Do you sell heart medications?"

Pharmacist: "Of course."

George: "How about support hose?"

Pharmacist: "Definitely."

George: "What about medications for rheumatism, osteoporosis and arthritis?"

Pharmacist: "All kinds."

George: "How about waterproof furniture pads and Depends?"

Pharmacist: "Yes, sir."

George: "Hearing aids, denture supplies and reading glasses?"

Pharmacist: "Yes."

George: "What about eye drops, sleeping pills, Geritol, Preparation-H and Ex-Lax?"

Pharmacist: "Absolutely."

George: "You sell wheelchairs, walkers and canes?"

Pharmacist: "Yes, indeed. But why all these questions?"

George smiled, glanced shyly at Edith and replied, "We've decided to get married and we're considering you for our bridal registry."

January 7 – 1st Sunday after EPHIPANY

FLOWERS:

BULLETINS:

GREETERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

USHERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti, Cindy Beck, Bob Ruhe

ACOLYTE:

LAY READER: Diane Diefenderfer

January 14

FLOWERS:

BULLETINS:

GREETERS: Len Kesselring, Brian Ziegler

USHERS: Sue & Earl Stralo, Brian Ziegler, Len Kesselring

ACOLYTE: Erin Nguyen

LAY READER: Beverly Rumble

January 21

FLOWERS:

BULLETINS:

GREETERS: Barbara Backensto, Lisa Williams

USHERS: Bill Kreitz, Dick Roberts, Barbara Backensto, Lisa Williams

ACOLYTE: Abbie Sullivan

LAY READER: Adrienne Kosko

January 28

FLOWERS:

BULLETINS:

GREETERS: Barbara Backensto & volunteer

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Josh Baum, Barbara Backensto, Brian Ziegler

ACOLYTE: Ashley Tarasuk

LAY READER: Philip Haines

**Bethany UCC
600 W. Market Street
Bethlehem PA 18018-5242**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED