



# Bethany Beeline

Published nine times a year by  
**BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018  
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[www.uccbethany.org](http://www.uccbethany.org)

***“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 61-18

DECEMBER 2017



## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 - NUT ORDERS DUE**

9:15 -10:30 A ADVENTure Days all ages

10:45 A 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent - Worship w/ Pastor Linda

AFTER WORSHIP – Christmas Cookie Baking – All kids, grand kids or even if you feel like a kid yourself are WELCOME to enjoy this fun time. We need your DOUGH! We are searching for people who are willing to make homemade Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough and homemade Sugar Cookie dough for that day. There are slips on the line next to the office for the request!

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10- 2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday in Advent**

- 9:15 -10:30 A ADVENTure Days all ages
- 10:45 A Worship with Pastor Linda  
Church Growth meets after worship
- 1:45 P Live Nativity prelude @ the Rose Garden
- 2:00 P Live nativity

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

- 9:15 -10:30 A ADVENTure Days all ages
- 10:45 A Worship with Pastor Linda - Handbells, Chancel  
Choir & Orchestra to participate during worship  
Joyful Noise for Bethany Children’s Home

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE**

- 10:45 A Family Christmas Eve Service
- 8 P Musical Prelude
- 8:30 P Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Pastor  
Linda

**DECEMBER 31 – NEW YEARS EVE – SILENT COMMUNION**

- 10:45 A Service with lots and lots of Carols
- 4 – 6 P Come as you are for informal but sacred time  
To come and receive Holy Communion as a way to  
send off 2017 and welcome the new year.  
Drop in when you can and leave when you must.



Committee chair persons please submit your annual report for the Congregational meeting ASAP to Susan Wuchter.  
“Don’t make me send the flying monkeys” - Susan

**BUDGETS FOR 2018** SHOULD BE GIVEN TO DEBBIE KERETZ.



## Living Faith in Advent

December 3<sup>rd</sup> marks the first Sunday in the church season of Advent, the season to prepare for Christmas. This preparing is not only about shopping, baking, wrapping, and festive get-togethers, but for Christians, it is also a time to prepare for deeper understanding and renewed hope. Though the season comes to us annually, every Advent offers a fresh start in our growing relationship with God and for living our faith.

During Advent we hear the words of the prophets through scripture readings and they tell of God's suffering people and their longing for a Messiah. We find narratives that speak of political turmoil, violence, injustice, and hopelessness of people who long for the promised Savior at a time when God seemed silent. It is a reminder that we, too, live in a time of longing, when hope seems diminished and a time for many, when God seems silent.

The word "Advent" means "coming" or "visit". In the season with this name, we keep in mind both advents of Christ; the first in Bethlehem and the second yet to come. It is also a time when we think of others and do acts of kindness, justice and mercy that remind the world of our hope for God's future; a time when God's peace and justice will fill the earth, when there will be no more sorrow or tears, when people will turn implements of war into tools that produce food, and when "nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

For those who live in safety, comfort and prosperity, it is easy to get wrapped up in the material aspects of Christmas and to forget or neglect a godly hope for the coming kingdom and all of its benefits. Yet, this hope can be ignited within us when we reach out to share life with, and to care for people in need; for those who are hungry and homeless, for victims of injustice and oppression, for those who suffer from sickness or sadness and grief. Advent can be a time to touch people in need, not only so that we might share God's love with them, but also that we too, might be touched in ways that renew our yearning for the kingdom and restore Christian hope.

Throughout this newsletter, you will find lots of ways to be together with us in community and to worship, learn and serve this Advent season. May the Divine Hope of the season pour out from us into the world, and ignite our hearts anew for living faith!

Grace and peace this Advent and always,

Pastor Linda

### **Pastor's Office Hours and Contact Information**

Pastor Linda will be in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays. Scheduled visits will be on those days after 2 p.m. 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](mailto:pastorlinda.bethanyucc@gmail.com)

*Please let her know how she can serve you.*

Bethany Worship Service Digital **AUDIO RECORDINGS** are available. If interested contact Bill Rumble at [wrumble@ptd.net](mailto:wrumble@ptd.net).



**BULLETIN & FLOWER CHART** - The Bulletin and Flower charts for 2017-18 are posted on the bulletin board by the main entrance (double glass doors). Just sign your name on any available date. 2018 will be posted also.

Precious Petals Florists sent a letter indicating an increase in price is due to the rising cost of flowers and supplies. Delivery will continue to be no charge.

**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.
- 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.

# DART BASEBALL NIGHT RECAP

It was a great evening! Pastor Linda opened with prayer and the games began. Bob and Fred Ackerman did setup and umpire duties. Dick Roberts provided the background music and, of course, "Take Me Out to the Ballgame". There were lots of singles, doubles and triples. Sue and Tom Wright, Diane Brunner and others hit home runs and deserve their names in the Beeline as promised! Ina Denninger had the shot of the evening. Just ask her about it! Joan Hottle and Jan Smith served the hot dogs and other fabulous snacks. A fun time was had by all.

## Church-wide Mission Project

Thank you to everyone who brought in items for the blessing bags or helped to put them together. We were able to make over 105 bags because of your generosity. The bags will be delivered the first week of December when the Bethlehem Emergency shelter is open.



Thanks,  
Sharon Haines

## Toys for Tots Collection

This year's Toys for Tots kickoff will be Sunday 11/12/17 and all gift items must be in by Sunday 12/03/17.

Please consider donating a new unwrapped toy. All toys are given to local families. If the toy you purchase requires batteries please make sure to purchase them also so the toy can be played with right away. Thanks, Sharon Haines



**THE CHRISTMAS FUND** for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund will be collected December 24.

One of the unique aspects of the Christmas Fund is that the funds provide direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay

church employees – the funds do not support programs or institutions, but people. This includes:

- MONTHLY PENSION SUPPLEMENTATION for 448 lower-income retired UCC clergy and lay employees
- QUARTERLY HEALTH PREMIUM SUPPLEMENTATION for 216 lower-income retired UCC clergy and lay employees
- CHRISTMAS “THANK YOU” GIFT CHECKS given to 503 retired UCC clergy and lay employees
- EMERGENCY GRANTS for 50 active/retired UCC clergy and lay employees

**JANUARY 6** – Preparing meal & serving at Soup Kitchen at Christ UCC Church - 12 spots available to serve – Contact Becky Sullivan



We need your **DOUGH!** On December 3rd, we are opening our doors to bake cookies! We are searching for people who are willing to make homemade Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough and homemade Sugar Cookie dough for that day. There are slips on the line next to the office for the request!



Everyone is welcome to join us on December 3rd after worship to help decorate the Church and fill the building with the delicious smells of Christmas cookies. Everyone who helps bake will be able to bring some of the goodies home while others will be shared with Bethany's home bound. Any questions please contact Patti Hoyt.

Everyone is welcome to join us on December 3rd **after worship to help decorate the Church.**





**Senior Friends Programs**  
**for 2017-2018**

1<sup>st</sup> 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!!!**

**Dec. 7 – TBA**

**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

**December 2 8:30 A -** The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Advent Breakfast

At Moravian Village of Bethlehem, 526 Wood St. Full Served Breakfast, Beeswax Candle Service Broughal Southside Singers and the St. John Zion AME Choir \$15 PP- see flyer on Narthex BB

**December 3 @ 7 P –** Advent Lovefeast candlelight service w/special music West Side Moravian Church, 402 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

**December 9 & 10 –2 P** Live Nativity in Bethlehem's Rose Garden – Prelude starts at 1:45 P

**December 9 –10:45A** Annual Peace Pilgrimage from Nazareth to Bethlehem

**December 9 1 – 3 P –** Co-op Cookie Swap – West Side Moravian Church



*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  
Jeffrey Mohring  
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.



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

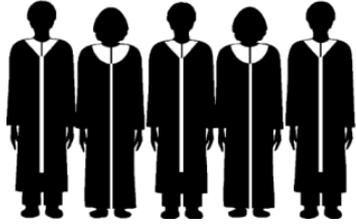


The after Christmas party will be January 10 at the Palace Restaurant starting with cocktails at 5:30, dinner at 6 P. Cost is \$18 pp.

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

### *From our Choir Director*

Amazing how fast we have arrived at the month of December. This is the first time in quite a while that the first Sunday of the Advent season begins in December. You are heartily encouraged to attend the "Adventure "series at 9:15 AM where you will hear musical correlations between the Advent Bible Study and our morning worship. Our young adults will have special participation in the events of the morning, and hopefully what we wish to accomplish each week will be a blessing to everyone present during this Advent season.



Once again the Chancel Choir will be the choir for the Live Nativity Pageant held at the 8th Ave. Rose Garden on Saturday December 9th and Sunday December 10th. The vocal prelude begins at 1:45 pm and the pageant concludes approximately 2:50 PM. Please come out and support Bethany Choir members who volunteer their time during this busy season to help spread the news that A Savior, Jesus Christ is Born! Anyone wishing to join the choir is welcome to attend the Wednesday Dec. 6th Nativity rehearsal at 8 PM.

It is also time to sign up for the "After-Christmas" Choir Dinner and Party held at the Palace Restaurant on Wednesday, January 10th. The cost is \$18.00 for an all-you-can-eat buffet and a \$2.00 exchange gift. Join us for fun and fellowship. The sign-up sheet is in the choir room.





## **Scrip card Fundraiser will be closing**

The Scrip card fundraiser will be closing by the end of 2017. Please continue to place your Christmas orders on Sunday 12/3 or Sunday 12/10.

There are new order forms available for anyone who wants to place a Christmas order. Just fill out the form and give to Judy or myself with a check made payable to Bethany UCC. Until the program closes we will continue to carry Giant in 25 and 100 cards, Wawa and Weis in 25. We will continue to order and sell these cards until the inventory of other cards are depleted. The cards still in inventory beside those mentioned above are Walmart, Walgreen, and Cracker Barrel in 25 and Dairy Queen and Taco Bell in 10.

When the inventory is depleted I will give all the details of this fundraiser which has run for more than seven years. We are approaching \$25,000 of profits for the entire run of the program. If we have a good Christmas Season we can make that goal. Please help us reach that goal by getting your Christmas Gift cards here. A big Thank You to Judy Morgan for partnering with me on this fundraiser and also to Leslie Thrash for substituting when Judy or I needed her.

Thank You,  
Sharon Haines



Monetary memorials for Elizabeth Johnson were received from Regina Pinkowicz and family, Millbrook Homecare Partners and Charlene Bishop, The Tkacik Family.

November 4, 2017

Dear Susan,

Enclosed find a check for \$100.00 from my Mama's family (Elizabeth Johnson) in deep appreciation Bethany extended to us during and after Mama's services.

Debbie and the staff that assisted us with the preparation and execution of the luncheon set-up could not have been more loving and kind. And thank you, Susan, for all your help in keeping "things" organized and being always willing to help in anyway. We would like \$50 of this check to go to the peanut gang where Mama made many friends and shared in fun fellowship.

I will always remember and keep Bethany UCC fondly in my heart.

Love in Christ,

Charlene Bishop



October 26, 2017

Dear Bethany United Church,

Thank you to the entire team at Bethany UCC in Bethlehem for your support and generous donation of \$92.15.

Your gift provides help and inspires hope to those affected by breast cancer through critical early detection screening, breast health education, and support services focused on our mission of Helping Women Now.

One woman dies from breast cancer every 13 minutes and we are grateful that you share our belief that no one should face breast cancer alone.

From all of us at NBCF, thank you. Thank you for your generosity and for helping women at every step of the breast cancer journey.

Janelle Hail – CEO

## **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.

## **D E A D L I N E S :**

### **DECEMBER 10: CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

We are continuing the tradition of donating money to Bethany in lieu of sending our Bethany Friends Holiday Cards. This Holiday Season, please donate \$10 to Bethany and forego sending that card to Bethany Members wishing A Merry Christmas to all Bethany Friends/Members.

**Your donation must be received by December 10th.** Your name will appear in the bulletin on December 17th and Christmas Eve. Please make the check payable to “Bethany UCC” with greetings in the memo line. Thank You.

### **POINSETTIA ORDERS**

Order forms will be available on the radiator at the rear of the church. They will also appear in the Dec. Beeline.

**Cutoff date to order is Sunday, December 10.** Cost is \$8 per plant. Colors are red or white. Indicate whether it is in honor of or memory of on the order sheet. Return your completed order and a check made out to Bethany UCC with poinsettias in the memo line.

**DECEMBER 22** – deadline for the January Beeline.

**DECEMBER 24** THE CHRISTMAS FUND for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund will be collected. More info in the Dec. Beeline.

**DECEMBER 29 – Annual reports** from all department heads and committees should be given to Susan Wuchter.

**January 20 @ 5 P** – Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner at Bethany UCC – Cost \$12 – Gail will be selling tickets after worship services or contact Gail Hoch 610-248-1312

**January 24** deadline for February beeline.

## **COMING SOON:**

### **LEARNING:**

#### **ADVENTure Days!**

Sunday mornings, 9:15-10:30 a.m.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>

Please join us for Faith, Friendship, Fun and Food as we take time together to prepare for Christmas! Come for one morning, or join us for the series. All are welcome for this ALL AGES time of learning.

## **FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE:**

### **Kids (of all ages) in the Kitchen!**

(Intergenerational Christmas Cookie Baking)

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> after worship

The fun is all yours, but the mess is in our kitchen! If you have kids, grandkids, OR if you have ever been a kid yourself, please join us for Cookie Baking (and tasting!) on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Worship at 10:45 a.m. and cookie baking immediately after service. Light lunch will be available.

Some of the cookies will be delivered to our homebound and senior members of Bethany. The rest of the cookies will be shared among the bakers!

All ages are welcome, but all children must have a grown up, please!

## MISSION – Day of Serving

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

A team from Bethany will be serving on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## WORSHIP:

### Family Christmas Eve Service, Fellowship Hall

December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m.

Join us for an interactive worship service as we remember the Christmas miracle and wonder together at the ways our Extraordinary God works through ordinary people... even us!

This is a non-traditional, kid friendly, worship service.

### Traditional Christmas Eve Service

December 24<sup>th</sup>

Gather with us for an evening of warmth and celebration as we worship and give thanks for God’s gift of Jesus for us and for the world. O

Come, let us adore Him!

Prelude begins at 8 p.m.

## New Year's Eve – Silent Communion December 31<sup>st</sup>, 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'.

**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.

### Directory corrections:

PAGE	CHANGE	NAME
	Room #	Joyce Macbeth Phoebe Home 1925 W. Turner St. Rm. 112E Allentown PA 18104

### CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

If worship is cancelled due to weather conditions, announcements will be on TV Channel 69 – WFMZ. Also, if we have your email address, an email will be sent out.



**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](mailto: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.**

**NEXT MEETING DATES:**

Consistory – Dec. 12 @ 7P

Church Growth – Dec. 10 after worship

Stewardship and Finance – Dec. 2 @ 10 A

Worship Jan. 17 @ 5:30

Staff – Feb. 21 @ 5:30



*“Jesus took his place in a manger so that we might have a home in heaven.” -Greg Laurie*

### **Father John and His Young Parishioner**

It was the Sunday after Christmas at St Peter and Saint Paul's Church in Borden, Kent, England. Father John was looking at the nativity scene prior to packing away the figures when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the scene.

Immediately, Father John turned towards the vicarage in order to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Harry with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Father John walked up to Harry and said, 'Well, Harry, where did you get the little infant?'

Harry replied honestly, 'I took him from the church, Father John.'

'And why did you take him?'

With a sheepish smile, Harry said, 'Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it.'

### **A Miracle?**

Father O'Malley was driving down to Boston on Christmas Eve when got stopped for speeding in Medford. The highway patrol officer smelled alcohol on the priest's breath and then saw an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car.

He said, 'Father, have you been drinking?'

'Only water', replied Father O'Malley.

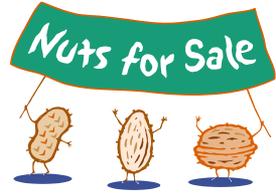
The policeman asked, 'Then how come I can smell wine?'

The priest looked at the bottle and said, 'Good Lord! He's done it again.'



## 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

Dec. 3 & 4  
Jan. 7 & 8  
Feb. 4 & 5  
Mar. 4 & 5  
Apr. 1 & 2  
May 6 & 7  
June 3 & 4

### Peanut Preparation Day

Dec. 9 & 11  
Jan 13 & 15  
Feb. 10 & 12  
Mar. 10 & 12  
Apr. 7 & 9  
May 12 & 14  
June 9 & 11

Peanuts \$3, Cashews & Almonds \$5



*May you and your loved ones be blessed with joy, love, peace and happiness  
Merry Christmas  
From the  
Bethany Staff!*

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Roger Wagner
- 4 Charles Bergey
- 6 Cindy Cressman  
Marion Hendricks  
Brian Ziegler
- 7 Bryan Roberts
- 14 Alina Scott
- 17 Eugene Learn
- 19 Mary Auer Ziegenfus
- 20 Richard Roberts
- 22 Sandra Ackerman
- 23 Bruce Mason
- 24 Nancy John
- 26 Richard Hammer  
Matthew Brunner
- 30 Lisa Nguyen



*Happy  
Anniversary*

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

### **Our greatest need**

If our greatest need had been information,  
God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,  
God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,  
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,  
God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness and acceptance,  
so God sent us a Savior. -Author unknown

# 2017 Consistory

President – Brian Ziegler

Vice President – Leslie Thrash

Secretary – Debbie Keretz

<b>ELDERS</b>		
Debbie Brown	484-358-3735	<a href="mailto:Brown.djbrown.debra@gmail.com">Brown.djbrown.debra@gmail.com</a>
Dan Sabetti	484-281-3630	<a href="mailto:danielpsabetti@yahoo.com">danielpsabetti@yahoo.com</a>
Brenda Stetler	610-868-9448H 610-417-1344C	<a href="mailto:Totosmom10@gmail.com">Totosmom10@gmail.com</a>
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Brian Ziegler	610-861-7501	<a href="mailto:bziegler12649@gmail.com">bziegler12649@gmail.com</a>
<b>DEACONS</b>		
Joan Hottle	610-417-3224C	<a href="mailto:joaniern77@gmail.com">joaniern77@gmail.com</a>
Debbie Keretz	484-767-6382C	<a href="mailto:dkeretz@FinancialGuide.com">dkeretz@FinancialGuide.com</a>
Becky Sullivan	610-866-0367	<a href="mailto:rebeccaannkish@yahoo.com">rebeccaannkish@yahoo.com</a>
Walter Williams	610-868-2993	<a href="mailto:wawilliams65@ptd.net">wawilliams65@ptd.net</a>

## WEEKLY ATTENDANCE:

	Budgeted Member Envelope	\$2,143.00
11/1 Attendance	54	Weekly member envelope \$1,711.00
11/12 Attendance	63	Weekly member envelope \$1,284.00
11/19 Attendance	70	Weekly member envelope \$2,150.00
Joyful Noise	\$155.38 for Homes for Our Troops.	
11/26 Attendance	60	Weekly member envelope \$1,019.00

## **THOSE WHO WILL SERVE**

### December 3

FLOWERS: Barbara Backensto

BULLETINS: Joan Hottle

GREETERS: Donald Esslinger, Ina Denninger

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Josh Baum, Charley Bergey, Wayne Shelly

ACOLYTE: Bryan Roberts

LAY READER: Debbie Brown

ALTAR GUILD: Jan Smith

**December 10**

FLOWERS:

BULLETINS:

GREETERS: Roger Wagner, Brian Ziegler

USHERS: Roger Wagner, Gerald Smith, Lisa Williams, Barbara Backensto

ACOLYTE:

LAY READER: Joyce Hammer

**December 17**

FLOWERS:

BULLETINS:

GREETERS: Jack & Diane Brunner

USHERS: Jack Brunner, Tom Wright, Steve Tarasuk, Lisa Williams

LAY READER: Mike Reiniger

ACOLYTE: Erin Nguyen

**December 24 – Christmas Eve Day**

FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICE AT 10:45 IN FH

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

PRELUDE 8 P – WORSHIP 8:30 P

FLOWERS:

BULLETINS: Rebecca Kesselring

GREETERS: Dolly Ackerman, Linda Wieand

USHERS: Fred Ackerman, Bob Ackerman, Mackenzie Scott & a volunteer

ACOLYTE: Volunteer

LAY READER: Len Kesselring

**December 31**

10:45 a.m. – Lots of carols

GREETERS: Gail Hoch, Barbara Backensto

USHERS: John Knoll, Barbara Backensto, Gail Hoch, Tom Hoffert

LAY READER: Gail Hoch

ACOLYTE: Nathaniel Sullivan

4-6 p.m. – Silent Communion with Pastor Linda

## POINSETTIA PLANTS



Anyone wishing to place a poinsettia plant in our Sanctuary to help decorate and beautify our church for the Christmas holidays, is asked to fill in the necessary information below and return it to the church office accompanied by your payment. Checks are payable to "Bethany UCC" marked Poinsettia in your memo area. **The deadline for all orders is Sunday, December 10.**

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### RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO CHURCH OFFICE

\_\_\_\_\_ Red Poinsettias @ \$8.00 a plant

\_\_\_\_\_ White Poinsettias @ \$8.00 a plant

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ IN HONOR OF  
(circle one)

Please place in bulletin as follows:

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DONATION ONLY (Money is given directly to the Church)

\_\_\_\_\_ I want the poinsettia plant(s)

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

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

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**