



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 20-6

JUNE 2020



“Spring being a tough act to follow, God invented June.”
–Al Bernstein

Sunday, June 7 – TRINITY SUNDAY

10:45 a.m. Virtual Worship

Sunday, June 14

10:45 a.m. Virtual Worship

Sunday, June 21 FATHER’S DAY

10:45 a.m. Virtual Worship with Communion

Sunday, June 28

10:45 a.m. Virtual Worship

Raising the bar on Giving

As all of you are aware from the information that was shared at our annual congregational meeting, we continue to be challenged by income declines and expense increases, especially related to the ongoing maintenance of our glorious church building (it isn't getting any younger- who is?)



It's a challenge in a normal year to reconcile expenses and income and with the Covid crisis we were presented a huge obstacle to overcome. Let me state I could not be happier in the way we have come together in this difficult time. Our weekly audience for the virtual worship sessions has been great, our weekly envelope giving is slightly ahead of last year, and with our experience on streaming the services (thanks to Bill, Jean and Jillian) we know we can find ways to attract a new audience or reach our shut-ins like we have never been able to do in the past.

This is all great news, but it does not diminish the budgetary challenges we have before us. Our deficit is now requiring us to look at "dipping' into the nest egg" of investments and funds to meet our monthly obligations. This is not a road we want to take for very long, starting with this year.

Mentioned at the annual meeting was a different approach to getting to our income needs. Well, maybe not different but let's

just say a more disciplined and formal approach that taps into the brainpower of our congregation.



Let's Brainstorm

Today I propose a breakfast brainstorming session of no more

than 25 enthusiastic and positive folks to meet on Saturday, June 27 and Sunday June 28 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall (social distancing parameters in place). Please RSVP which day you would prefer by calling the church office and Sue will keep a running tally. We are looking for at least 15 folks each day with 25 being the max we can allow. Be CLEAR this is a NO Judgement zone on ideas. Let's have fun, think outside the box, and put an executable plan together to generate needed revenue.

Yours in Christ,

Matt Miller



UNITED IN FAITH

Dear Bethany Family,

It seems like an eternity since we were last together at worship on Sunday, March 15. It has only been two months, but our lives have been greatly altered and we are experiencing a range of emotions including fear and anxiety.

So many are in a survival mode with unemployment and economic hardship. Parents with children have had the extra very challenging duty of being teaching proctors as schools have been closed. We are not used to being home so much and deeply miss our jobs, other organizations and hobbies that have given us so much fulfillment and joy. For me, I am missing my Bach Choir family which had to cancel its 113th Festival and June tour to Germany. We will hopefully return to those events next year.

In these days it is so important and vital to stay in touch. I have enjoyed my phone calls to the flock which I am doing every two weeks. I also feel connected when we are able to provide the weekly virtual worship services. Many thanks to Sue Wright and

all who make this possible for the congregation and beyond. But it is not the same as the physical gathering of the community of believers. I pray that we are able to do this (even at a safe distance) in July. Until then – keep the faith – keep praying – keep doing what you can do for others – and remember Jesus’ promise “I am with you always – even to the end of the ages.”

Pastor Todd

**A note from our
Music Director:**



As I write this Beeline article, I am at a loss as to how all of our reopening protocols

will work out. Since singing with masks is going to be extremely difficult and frowned upon at this present time, my goal is to get the Handbell Choir "up and running". Members of the Handbell Choir will be contacted with the plan for beginning rehearsals, and if enough ringers are willing to participate, we will begin in early June.

Until then, our services will continue online to keep us together as a worshipping community. For the time being, our music has been relegated to hymns in public domain. Hopefully you have enjoyed hearing some of the "old" hymns that have been left out of our newer hymnals. Please know that the texts of the hymns have been carefully selected to uplift the scripture lesson of the day. Many times the hymn texts can be used as prayers, so even though you may not be singing along with the service, try meditating on the words which often can bring great comfort.

For many of us, it has been extremely difficult to go through our weeks without experiencing Christian fellowship through the singing of anthems to our Lord God. We understand what it means when we have been admonished to sing hymns and spiritual songs to the Lord. Yet, we have unfortunately been temporarily stifled from doing so in our current Covid-19 environment. Hopefully the time is soon to come when we will be able to join our voices in song again. Personal calls and emails will have to be sent out about future choir gatherings. In the meantime, please stay well and healthy and know that behind the scenes, many good things are happening at Bethany.

Joyfully,
Susan Denninger Wright

May 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord through whom we have received resurrection hope and the promise of new life!

It hardly seems possible that 5 months have passed since we last worshipped and served together. I have been encouraged to hear of your faithfulness and the ongoing ministry that is happening there, even despite Covid-

19. Please know that your prayers, your notes of encouragement, and phone calls have been a true source of strength for me. I have thought of you often and have kept Bethany in my prayers.

I write with good news to share with you. On May 9th, I officially 'graduated' from Moravian Seminary and have been approved as a candidate for ordination. Graduation came and went without pomp and circumstance because of Covid-19, but the seminary is planning a

ceremony for August 29th if all goes well. Ordination will happen at some time in the future when I receive and accept a call to serve, and I do hold this hope in my heart.

More good news – I have accepted an appointment to serve as Interim Pastor at East Hills Moravian Church in Bethlehem. My ministry there began on Monday, May 18th. Installation will be on June 7th during East Hill’s online worship service. I look forward to serving that congregation during this time of transition.

I pray that you have been able to stay well, and will continue to serve faithfully and boldly even amidst the social distancing restrictions. It is difficult to be apart because of any circumstances, but it is far more than our physical presence with one another that keeps us united; we are indeed connected by Christ’s abiding love. Bethany will always hold a special place in my heart, and I look forward to the day when we can be together in celebration of my ordination.

Until then, grace and peace to you all,

Your sister in Christ,
Linda Wisser



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.

Pastor, Sue and Bill will continue to do audio worship services. Due to COVID 19 we are taking one day at a time. Stay safe and well – Susan



Erin is the daughter of Minh and Lisa Nguyen, the sister to Jenna and Kaitlin Nguyen, and the niece to John Albaugh. She is graduating from Liberty High School in the top ten of her class. Erin is the Head Majorette, Principal Highland Dancer, Principal Clarinetist, Concertmaster, and Principal Bassoonist of the Grenadier Band. She is the Orchestra President and a member of First Company, Jazz Band, and Pit Orchestra. She is the Student Director for Mini Globe Trotters and a member of National Honors Society, Cancer Crushers, and Key Club. Erin has been a member of the Young People's Philharmonic for three years where she is the Bassoon Section Leader, a member of the Woodwind Quartet, and a mentor for the Wind Symphony. She has played in many PMEA festivals for both band and orchestra and has made the state ensembles twice on bassoon. Erin is also a competitive tap dancer for MJ Dance Center where she has danced for 14 years. Erin is going to attend the University of Rochester to study Mechanical Engineering and Music.

Emily Miller graduating Catasauqua High School and will be attending Cedar Crest College to study Nursing. Christina Torres graduating Liberty High School and will be attending Northampton Community College to study Criminal Justice. They are granddaughters of Joan Hottle.

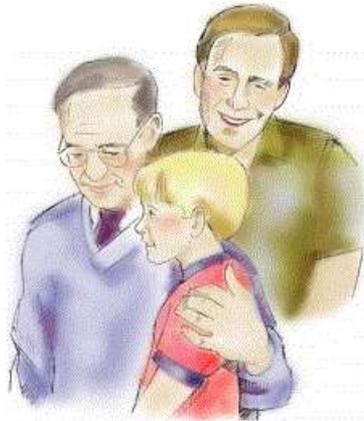
Lauren Correll is graduating from Centenary University with an Associates in Equine Studies. She is the daughter of Gail Correll. She is looking to return to school in the Fall and pursue a second degree in Electrical Technology

JUNE CALENDAR

- 1 - Voting machines arrive
- 2 - Primary Voting – Polling Place @ Bethany
7A – 8 P
- 3 - 7 P Virtual Worship Recording
- 8 - 7 P Growth Committee (Snyder Chapel)
- 10 - 7 P Virtual Worship Recording
- 11 7 P Consistory (Snyder Chapel)
- 17 7 P Virtual Worship Recording
- 18 - 25 (PastorTodd away)
- 21 Happy Fathers Day
- 24 7 P Virtual Worship Recording
- 25 7 P Virtual Worship Recording
- 27 10 A Bethany Family Brainstorming (F.H.)
- 28 10 A Bethany Family Brainstorming (F.H.)

Tentative Reopen for Sunday Worship Sunday, July 5 @ 10 A (F.H.)

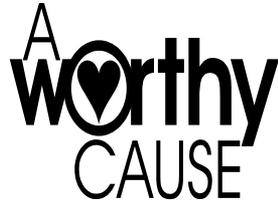
“No man stands taller than when he stoops to help a child.” – Abraham Lincoln



Happy Father's Day

April 14, 2020

Bethany United Church of Christ
Attention: Susan Denninger Wright



Dear Friends,
Please accept my deepest thanks for your generous gift of \$1,125 to our **2020 Matching Gift Challenge** to Alzheimer's Disease Research, which we received on April 14, 2020 from your Joyful Noise offering.

Because 500,000 people will be diagnosed with Alzheimer's this year, the need to fund the most promising scientific research is even more critical. We depend on forward-thinking supporters, like you, to ensure that the cutting-edge work needed to end Alzheimer's gets under way as soon as possible. It's also thanks to your gifts that we can continue to provide valuable information at no charge to those already affected by this mind-stealing disease.

Dedicated friends like you are the heart of our work. Together, we *will* find a cure for this mind-stealing disease. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Stacy Pagos Haller, President

Darts have been cancelled for the rest of the season.



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 Pets in Need and Pebbles & Paws, a non-profit organization that assist people in need of help feeding their pets. Thanks again to everyone. – Gail Correll



Bethlehem Emergency Shelter

continues to distribute bag lunches to the homeless folks in the area of Christ UCC. Donations may be brought to the church Monday or Tuesday mornings.

FUNDRAISERS -

PEANUTS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL THE FALL



Gift Cards from Martellucci's

Contact Debbie Brown for \$25 gift cards for Martellucci's Pizza

The fish dinner will be scheduled for another date – as soon as we are able.

Baked goods and soup sale on June 2 has been cancelled.

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 sympathies and prayers to Diane Diefenderfer, Adrienne Kotsko and family upon the loss of Joyce Hammer last Tuesday. God's blessings of comfort and peace be upon them during this difficult time.

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

Mae Acevedo
Bob Bauder
Kenneth Bender
Joyce Bergey
Ruth Bowers
Amy Campbell
Lillian Connors
Bernie & Robert Dunigan
Lauren Fehr
Pam Gehringer
The Family of Joyce Hammer
Sharon Haines
Hector Hernandez
The family of Joyce Heydt
Dorothy Kraemer
Sarah Lieberman
Lisa Kosetti
Becky Marsh
Ken Mathias
Esther Nelson
Ada San Miguel
Stralo family
The Thrash family
Marie Wolfe
Dennis Wolfe
Maria Williams
Ada San Miguel



Monetary memorials were received for Joyce Heydt and Cal Heacock from Barbara & Mike Reiniger

CHURCH NEWS REMINDERS

Installation of Conference Minister

You are invited to the Installation of Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates as the fourth Conference Minister of the Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. This will be at Greenawalds UCC on **Sunday, June 28** (note change of date)

There will be a reception following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

2020 Flower and Bulletin Charts are posted on the BB on the left side of the main entrance. Please note two vases will cost \$40. A rectangular arrangement will cost \$30. Silk (S) flowers will be \$10. Bulletins will cost \$10. Be sure to indicate what type of flowers you want – real or silk. **Any questions, contact the church office.**

Bethany Social Media Buzz

Growth Committee has relaunched the church's Facebook page as a place to grow our online community and share news of the church. If you are on Facebook, please "Like" and "Follow" our page at www.facebook.com/BethanyUCCBethlehem. If you have an Instagram account, you can follow us @BethanyUCCBethlehem.

We also invite you to tag the church in your posts and use the hashtag #BethanyUCCBethlehem to share posts and photos on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter!

AUDIO RECORDINGS of Bethany's Worship Services are now available on Bethany's home page at ucbethany.org or you can join the email notification list by contacting Bill Rumble at wrumble@ptd.net

June-July-August devotional booklets are available now. They are on the radiator at the rear of the church. You can place a donation in the wooden church if you are able. Suggested amount is \$1.

Bethany Needs Your Help

We need everyone to pitch in and help take care of our church home.

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

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

With the country enrobed with the Coronavirus till a cure is found or till it is under control, you might want to check out this website:

<https://www.votespa.com/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>

DEADLINE FOR JULY BEELINE IS June 25.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Consistory –June 11 @ 7 P in Snyder Chapel

Church Growth – June 8 in Snyder Chapel

Stewardship and Finance -

Worship TBA



“Always laugh when you can. It is cheap medicine” – Lord Byron

“The greatest gift I ever had came from God; I call him Dad!”

—Anonymous

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Philip Haines
- 9 Leslie Thrash
- 11 Fred Ackerman
Bob Ackerman
- 16 John Glassic
- 18 Ken Beck
- 24 Tim Rumble
- 28 Sue Stralo
- 29 Tom Hoffert
Barbara Backensto
- 30 Walter Williams



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES:

- 5 Anne & Walter Williams
- 6 Phyllis & Roland Greitzer
- 9 Barbara & Mike Reiniger
- 11 Arlene & Gerald Smith
- 22 Margy & Dan Sabetti
- 24 Rebecca & Len Kesselring, Jr.
- 26 Darlene & Kevin Ervin



If I missed anyone, please call the church office.

Be on the Lookout for the news of when we can re gather as a church family, which will have its guidelines in the new normal time ahead.



Kids are free

A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed the offering plates.

When they neared the pew where he sat, the youngster piped up so everyone could hear: "Don't pay for me, Daddy. I'm under five."

2020 Consistory

Matt Miller – President
Dan Sabetti – Vice President
Walter Williams – Secretary
Tom Hoffert – Treasurer

ELDERS		
Dan Sabetti	484-281-3630	danielpsabetti@yahoo.com
Walter Williams	610-868-2993	wawilliams65@ptd.net
Brenda Stetler	610-868-9448	Totosmom10@gmail.com
DEACONS		
Barbara Backensto	610-868-3089	
Gail Correll	C-610-759-7135	mom2jnl@ptd.net
Joan Hottle	610-417-3224C	joaniern77@gmail.com
Debbie Keretz	484-767-6382C	dkeretz@FinancialGuide.com
Matt Miller	415-827-5359	Tusculum76@gmail.com
Corey Tancin	484-635-6887	coreytancin@gmail.com
Jackie Tarasuk	484-353-9768	jackie.tarasuk@gmail.com

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE:

May Attendance **Member weekly envelope** **ONLINE VIDEO**

Hit the road

When a teenager received his driving permit, he asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss use of the car.

His father said, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut, and then we'll talk about it."

A month later, the young man returned to continue the discussion. "Son, I've been real proud of you," the father said. "You've brought your grades up and studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The teenager replied, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that. Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair and even Jesus had long hair"

"Yes," the father said, "and they walked everywhere they went!"

Bethany UCC
600 W. Market Street
Bethlehem PA 18018-5299
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

