



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 21-1

JANUARY 2021



Sunday, January 3rd – Epiphany Sunday

10:45 a.m. Worship with Handbells

Wednesday, January 6th – Epiphany

Read Isaiah 60:1-6

Sunday, January 10th – Baptism of Christ

10:45 a.m. Worship

Sunday, January 17th – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

10:45 a.m. Worship undecorate after church

Sunday, January 24rd – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

10:45 a.m. Worship followed by Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 31th - 4th Sunday after Epiphany

10:45 a.m. Worship



Dear Bethany Family,

There was once a monastery, a place where priests lived together, which had fallen on hard times. Formerly its many buildings were filled with young priests and monks and its big church resounded with the singing of the chant but now it was deserted. A handful of monks shuffled through the cloisters and praised their God with heavy hearts.

On the edge of the monastery, an old Jewish rabbi had built a little hut in the woods. He would come there from time to time to fast and pray. No one ever spoke with him but whenever he appeared, the word would be passed from monk to monk, "The Rabbi walks in the woods".

One day the head of the monastery, the abbot, decided to visit the rabbi and to open his heart about the bad conditions at the monastery, and to seek his advice. The rabbi welcomed him into his little hut, and in the middle of the room was a wooden table with an open Bible on it. The two men sat down at the table, said nothing to each other, just sat there looking at the Bible. Finally, the rabbi lifted his eyes and said, looking straight at the abbot, "The Messiah, the Christ is among you."

The abbot returned to the monastery and passed along the message. As the monks absorbed the message their lives were changed and the church once again resounded with the singing of the chant. People came from far and wide to be nourished by the new prayer life of the monks.

Jesus, the Messiah, is among us. No matter what we all face in this new year – even as the virus threatens life and community – God is with us – calling us to His Light and Life. God bless you in this new year with health, love and peace.

Pastor Todd

Musical Notes . . .

Dates to remember in January:

Jan. 13 and 27 – Bells 5:30 PM

Seems kind of sad that we only have two rehearsals in the month of January. What we need to remember is everything we were able to enjoy throughout the month of December. Even with the restrictions in place Bethany was able to enjoy a variety of music to celebrate Christ's birth. We listened to our Woodwind Ensemble many times and they were joined on Christmas Eve by the Orff group as well as our Brass trio. With special music by three amazing pianists as well as our wonderful organist, the church rang with music. The Sunday after Christmas heard the singing of Christmas carols by a group of choir members who wanted to sing to their congregation. If we can accomplish this during Covid restrictions I can't wait to see what we will see and hear in 2021. Writing on behalf of Susan Denninger Wright,

Joyfully, Debbie Brown

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 Debbie Brown no later than the Monday before you want it to appear in the bulletin.

UPCOMING MISSION MOMENTS: OUR CHURCH IN MISSION –

Community Outreach & Christian Service



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

The Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering season begins this month. With the winter season approaching and the temperatures falling, our street neighbors become at risk. The BES provides a hot meal for supper, a safe place for people to sleep, and something to eat each morning throughout the sheltering season.

On Wednesday February 3rd, Bethany will serve as hosts. The restrictions at the shelter have limited our participation greatly. I would like to prepare our meal Tuesday at Bethany. We should be able to have five people in the kitchen and practice social distancing. We would heat our meal Wednesday at Christ Church. There will be a team of five to serve and clean up. Don't panic dishwashers as we will be using all paper products. If you are interested in serving this essential service please call me at 610-360-8743 or 610-691-8673. As always bakers are needed. Baked goods can be dropped off at church Monday or Tuesday. Monetary donations will also help to defray the churches cost. This is all new territory and if you have any questions or suggestions please let me know. You can also call the church office and Debbie will pass along messages to me.

Thanks, Wendy Glassic

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.



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.

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

- Joyce Bergey
- Lillian Connors
- Dorothy Kraemer
- Louise Snyder
- Dolly Ackerman
- The Family of Connie Lieberman
- Carol Haines
- Sharon Haines
- Ken & Joan Mathias
- Marie Wolfe
- Dennis Wolfe
- Walter & Ann Williams
- Barbara Sigafos
- Gerald & Arlene Smith
- Robert Frankenfield

Please keep all of our congregation, family and friends in your prayers. As we embark on a new year, we pray that 2021 is a year of happiness and joy.

CHURCH NEWS REMINDERS

Congregational meeting

A congregational Meeting is called by Consistory for Sunday Jan. 24, immediately after church. The agenda is to approve the budget and elect Consistory (terms begin in March). Please plan to stay for this important meeting.

Undecorating

Please stay and help remove the decorations from the Sanctuary on Jan. 17 after church.

A new directory will be printed soon – any changes to your phone, home address or email address please let the office know ASAP.

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.

2021 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.

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY BEELINE IS JANUARY 18.

AUDIO & VIDEO RECORDINGS If you or anyone you know would like to receive the link to the audio recording of the worship service, please let Bill Rumble know at wrumble@ptd.net. A copy of the bulletin is included with the audio link.

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! Thank you, Bill, for making sure we are able to see and hear the services.

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

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Consistory – January 14 @ 7 P

Church Growth –?

Stewardship and Finance -?

Worship –?

If you have any information on meeting dates please contact the office with updates. Remember the work of the church needs to continue for our spiritual health and well-being.

COVID UPDATE

As Consistory will discuss and decide the matter of re-opening for congregational worship at their meeting on January 14, we hope and pray that we will be able to sanction the regathering of our congregation soon. Be watching for this update. In the meantime, Bethany is most grateful for your continued support of offerings mailed in or dropped off as well as your prayers in these most challenging days.

FUNDRAISERS -

Gift Cards from Martellucci's

\$25 gift cards for Martellucci's Pizza are available for purchase the 1ST Sunday of every month from Debbie Brown. Since we are not meeting in the church please call the church office to let me know if you are interested.

FUNDRAISING ON HOLD

With the current restrictions on gathering at Bethany the breakfast that we hoped to have in January is on hold. We will reschedule as soon as possible. We would like to have a **Soup Sale** on January 30th. If you would like to make soup for us to sell please contact me by January 10. We will take orders and have pickup in Fellowship Hall. More information to follow. We are also planning to sell both **Chocolates on Broadway** and **Bethany Nuts** in March for our Easter celebrations. For Easter and our spring planting we are looking to partner with **Cierech's Pohatcong Growers** who provided us with the beautiful Poinsettias that decorated our sanctuary for Christmas for an additional fundraiser. Watch for updates.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Barbara Roberts Richard Laubenstein
6	Robert Ruhe
7	Gail Correll
13	John Knoll
15	Deborah Lee
16	Jean Fennell
23	Katherine Wright
24	Dale Zellner
27	Marcie Wolfe Louise Snyder
29	Darlene Yocum
31	Joanne Walczar

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

29 – Patricia & Alan Hale

DID I MISS ANYONE? If so, call the church office

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	totosmom@gmail.com
DEACONS		
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
Jenna Nguyen		Jenna.nguyen29@gmail.com

JANUARY 3 - EPIPHANY

FLOWERS:

BULLETINS:

GREETERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

USHERS: Dan & Margy Sabetti

LAY READER: Debbie Brown

ALTAR GUILD: Wendy Glassic

JANUARY 10

FLOWERS:

BULLETINS:

GREETERS: Len Kesselring & Tom Hoffert

USHERS: Volunteers

LAY READER: Beverly Rumble

JANUARY 17

FLOWERS:

BULLETINS

GREETERS: Gail Correll & Kathy Knoll

USHERS: John Knoll, Gail Correll, Tom Hoffert

LAY READER: Adrienne Kotsko

JANUARY 24

FLOWERS:

BULLETINS:

GREETERS: Volunteers

USHERS: Tom Hoffert, Volunteer

LAY READER: Philip Haines

JANUARY 31

FLOWERS:

BULLETINS:

GREETERS: Judy & George Morgan

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

LAY READER: Sue Wright

Debbie is making up the 2021-22 worship service schedule and it will be available before January 30. Please contact the office if you would like to be added to the schedule or if you would like be removed. Remember there is always something you can do, just ask.

A Christmas Story

By Jean & Jerome Tharand

Translated from the French

Dawn was breaking. The Star of Bethlehem had faded from the sky. The last pilgrim had left the stable. The virgin had tucked the child in straw preparing for sleep.

Gently the door opened - ever so gently - pushed as it were by breath rather than by a hand. A Woman appeared on the scene clothed in rags. So old, so wrinkled that in her earth-coloured visage, her mouth seemed only another wrinkle.

On seeing her, Mary feared as though a witch had entered, about to cast a spell. Jesus was asleep. Ox and donkey, chewing straw, watched the old stranger advancing. They showed no surprise, as though they had known her always. The virgin eyed her closely. Each step she made was so slow it seemed like an eternity.

The old woman continued advancing. Now she finally reached the crib. Jesus was still sleeping. But, does one sleep on Christmas Night? Suddenly he opened his eyes and to his mother's surprise - she saw now that the eyes of the old woman and the child were exactly alike. Shining with the same star of hope.

The old woman leaned over the straw, while her hand searching for something plunged through her rags -

again, in doing so, the centuries seemed to have passed over her. At last, after a long time, the old woman drew from her rags an object hidden in her hands, which she quietly slipped to the child.

After all the treasures brought by the Magi and the offerings of the shepherds, what could this present be?

From where she stood, Mary saw nothing. All she could see was a back bent by age, and doubly bent as it leaned over the crib. Ox and Donkey watched without surprise. Virgin and animals watching the old, old woman and the child, for a long, long time.

Then the old woman arose from the crib, lightened as though relieved and delivered from the heavy weight that had drawn her to earth. Her shoulders were no longer bent by age. Her head now towered majestically to the top of the manger. Her face radiant now with the fresh beauty of youth. She withdrew from the crib to disappear with the night from whence she had come.

Mary could see at last what the mysterious present had been. Eve, the oldest Woman, had returned to the child a small apple, the apple of the first sin, and of all others that followed.

The small red apple was shing in the hands of the Babe like the globe of the world - now born anew with Him.

Joyeux Noel!

*Thank you, Rebecca for sharing this beautiful story with us.
Happy New Year!*

**Bethany UCC
600 W. Market Street
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

