

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE***“Read Ephesians 3:14-19 & Psalm 37:3-5”***

“We have been blessed with 366 days in the year 2020, and here we stand on the brink of 2021. Reflecting on the past year, we see those moments of joy and sadness, excitement and pain, and we know that our Lord Jesus has been with us in each and every one of them. In Psalm 37” [see the verses on the green calendar!] “David offers us God’s way to the best year yet. Did you notice the verbs? Trust. Do. Dwell. Befriend. Delight. Commit. Even more important: notice the prepositional phrases – “in the Lord,” “to the Lord,” “in Him.”

Our hope for a new year does not lie in our own plans or our own routine. Our almighty, loving God has already secured our eternal future and will care for us in the day-to-day activities of 2021. He has far more abundant plans for our lives than we could ever ask or imagine.”

***O eternal Father, thank You for the blessings of the year past.
We ask You to be our guide in the year to come.
In Jesus’ name. Amen.***

*Excerpted from “Portals of Prayer – for Personal and Family Devotions” December 31st 2020.
Copies of the NEW January – March 2021 edition (pocket size and large print) are available at the church.
You are welcome to pick up a copy or contact the office and one can be mailed to you!*

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP

For those who are unable to attend Sunday worship and do not have access to a computer or the internet, there are MP3 players (the modern equivalent of the tape recorder!) available to borrow. Each week the audio of the Sunday service is recorded onto them, then the devices can be picked up at the church **OR we can deliver them to you - contact the office if you are interested!**

<u>CONTACTING THE CHURCH OFFICE:</u>	9:00 am. to 4:30 pm., Monday through Thursday (570)368-8933 email: secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com
<u>IN AN EMERGENCY:</u>	Laura Schreckengast (570)772-4752 cell phone (call or text) Larry/Sharon Barnard (570)435-5408 Gail Stover - Prayer Chain (570)971-5710 / stover1104@gmail.com
<u>BETHANY’S WEB SITE:</u>	www.BethanyNALC.org
<u>BETHANY’S FACEBOOK PAGE:</u>	www.facebook.com/BethanyNALC.org

CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIONS:

The Church Council met on December 14th



-- Received and accepted reports from:
Worship and Music Committee

-- PPP Loan (Cares Act) forgiveness was approved by the bank. Wes Miller will be filing for the new tax exemption paperwork with the updated dissolution bylaw that was approved at the Congregational Meeting on 12/6.

-- New Council Officers elected for 2021: President – Larry Barnard
Vice Pres. – Mike Brouse
Secretary – Ruth Lundy
Treasurer – Wes Miller

--The Council will hold its next meeting on Monday, January 11th, 2021, at 7:15 pm.

*We are truly grateful for the commitment and efforts of our Bethany Council members.
A special “Thank You” goes to outgoing members Tracy Rhian and Jay Stabley.*

RECONCILIATION OF BETHANY CHURCH FINANCES

Income Received through November 30, 2020 (48 Sundays)	\$ 174,239.71
Expenses through November 30, 2020	<u>\$ 179,234.89</u>
Balance	\$ - 4,995.18
Income Received through November 30, 2019 (47 Sundays)	\$ 177,737.39
Expenses through November 30, 2019	<u>\$ 197,939.52</u>
Balance	\$ - 20,202.13

JANUARY & FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

Happy & Healthy New Year!	- Friday, Jan. 1, 2021
Healing Service	- Sunday, Jan. 3, 11:45 am.
Church Council	- Monday, Jan. 11, 7:15 pm.
Mission Committee	- Monday, Jan. 18, 7:15 pm.
Deadline - Newsletter items	- Tuesday, Jan. 19, 4:00 pm.
Finance Committee	- Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7:00 pm.
Property Committee	- Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7:00 pm.
Staff Support Committee	- Tuesday, Jan. 19, 8:00 pm.
**Chicken 'n Biscuit Dinner	- Saturday, Jan. 23, 4:00 – 7:00 pm.
	<i>(tentatively scheduled – more information will be shared when available)</i>
Newsletter Team	- Monday, Jan. 25, 9:00 pm.
Worship & Music Committee	- Monday, Jan. 25, 7:00 pm.
Women of Bethany	- Monday, Feb. 1, 1:00 pm.
Healing Service	- Sunday, Feb. 7, 11:45 am.
“Souper Bowl”	- Sunday, Feb. 7
Church Council	- Monday, Feb. 8, 7:15 pm.
Deadline - Newsletter items	- Tuesday, Feb. 16, 4:00 pm.
Ash Wednesday Service/Communion	- Wednesday, Feb. 17, 7:30 pm.
Newsletter Team	- Monday, Feb. 22, 9:00 pm.
Christian Ed. Committee	- Monday, Feb. 22, 7:00 pm.
Lenten Service/Communion	- Wednesday, Feb. 17, 7:30 pm.

* **Weekly:** Quilters - Tuesdays and at Thursdays 9 am.

* **Bi-Weekly+:** Bible Study – 2nd, 4th (& 5th) Tuesdays at 7 pm.

HOSPITAL VISITATION

If you or someone you know is hospitalized (or will be), PLEASE notify the Church Office. Depending on the health situation, we may have some coverage for our members' needs, so please make sure to get information to our church office.

WOMEN OF BETHANY

Thanks to the thoughtfulness of our Women of Bethany, there were many delicious cookies and warm Christmas thoughts delivered to some of our shut-ins! Our thanks goes out to everyone who donated cookies, assisted with preparing and packing them, and those who delivered them to our Shut-Ins. Your gifts have been greatly appreciated!

NEED A COAT, TAKE ONE; HAVE A COAT, LEAVE ONE

As winter is almost upon us, our special donation coat rack needs some help! If you have a coat (or many!) for which you no longer need, please consider adding to our supply. We are accepting children's and adult's sizes; we also have a bin for hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves. If you know anyone in need of a coat or jacket, please remind them of our supply. It is a beautiful way of sharing care, by keeping others warm and dry!

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Equipment is always available to borrow during recovering from surgery and for those who may be experiencing difficulties. We have walkers, canes, equipment for the bathtub and commode are all available. Please tell a staff member if you have a need!

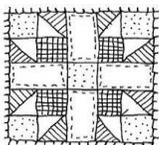


PROJECT LINUS & SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS

We are still sharing our knitting, crocheting, and quilting gifts with others by making blankets of all sizes (baby, children, adult) for those with cancer or going through traumatic experiences at hospitals. You may bring these items to the Church Office. We are also collecting winter hats, gloves, and scarves to share with the Shepherd of the streets.

A huge *Thank You* goes out to those who have been filling up the box in the office with wonderfully warm, knitted hats in all sizes that will go to keeping many people warm this winter!

QUILTING NEWS:



QUILT WINNER - On Dec.13th the drawing for the quilt was held. Congratulations to Flip Oechler who was the winning recipient! The quilters want to say a big "thank you" to all who participated to help keep things going. A total of \$335 in ticket sales will keep us going for some time and maybe contribute towards the shipping cost for LWR quilts estimated at only \$2.25 per quilt!

As many know the group of quilters and crafters was a much bigger group in years past. There are 3 of us now. Fabric and thread that remains is often no longer usable because of how old it is. Things are not cheap to buy good quality supplies. Our 2 working sewing machines need routine service approximately every year, costing almost \$100. With your donations of cotton sheets we are able to make the backs at no cost. We continue to work on Linus Blankets, etc as well.

Please feel free to join us even if you don't feel you can "quilt" as there are other things to do like tying them or just laying out squares. Or if you knit, crochet or anything else and just want to have a place to do it at with the fellowship of others, consider joining us when you feel comfortable doing so. We are taking a break now like we normally would but may extend it a bit due to Covid concerns.

Again a big thank you for your support!

BLOODMOBILE NEWS



The next Bloodmobile scheduled at Bethany is Friday, June 18, 2021. Please mark your calendars for important event; also check the redcrossblood.org for other drives that will be held locally through the winter and spring. **Save Life – Give Blood**

UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY:

To assist families who are struggling with job loss and illness, this is an opportunity to care for their basic needs *and* give them a small way to celebrate the holidays, they are asking for food from the updated list below: Canned Foods (beans, meats, fruits, vegetables, soups, etc); cereals and oatmeals; healthy snacks & popcorn: sugar & sweeteners; coffee, tea, hot chocolate; pop tarts; egg noodles & ramen noodles; dried potatoes; flour; condiments; holiday items – filling, cranberry sauce, etc.

You may drop off items at the church and they will be delivered to the pantry!



SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS NEWS

As there are still so many in need during this trying time, they are praying that the generosity can continue! **Please consider giving financial support or donating any of the following:**

Band-Aids,	Hand/Body Lotion,	bedding – new or gently used (Q or K)
Toothpaste and toothbrushes,	shaving cream and razors,	shampoo and conditioner
towels and wash cloths,	blankets	soap, deodorant, brushes, combs
facial tissues,	toilet paper, paper towels;	women's hygiene products
baby items: diapers, <u>Baby specific:</u> shampoo, oil, Q-tips, wipes, powder; pull ups (Sz 1-6, esp. 3-6);		

ALSO: Adult diapers (sz. Med., Large, X-Lg., especially Medium)

Donated items can be brought to the church; financial donations can be put in the collection plate – please designate "Shepherd" or "Shepherd of the Streets"

BACKPACK BREAKFAST NEWS:



The Backpack Program will be continuing in the New Year! They may go back to supporting 150 students, so they are counting on our continued support! Please consider donating:

Oatmeal (1-2 oz. packets); Cream of Wheat (1-2 oz. packets); Boxed Cereal (Individual, 1.5-2 oz); Multigrain Bars; Breakfast Bars; Pop Tarts; Belvita Breakfast Biscuits (1.76 oz.); Cereal Bars (individually packaged). *Thank You.*

NOTES of GRATITUDE

Thank You for the lovely flowers, they really brightened my day! *Marjorie Fantaskey*

*Thanks to Sharon & Larry for bringing me the good cookies from the Women of Bethany!
Merry Christmas to Everyone at Bethany Lutheran Church!* *Love, Faye Benedict*

*Thanks! Thanks!! The cookies were great and very much appreciated, just different for me...
you know I'm a cookie baker so to receive cookies was different, but wonderful!*
God Bless, Ruthie Kissell

Thank You to the Women of Bethany for the delicious cookies. *Eugene Harris*

*Once again, we are humbled by your generosity. Thank You for the gift cards, monetary
donations, cards, food donations, thoughts and prayers. It is all very much appreciated.*
Mike, Jennie, and Jamie Brouse

*Thanks to All the Women of Bethany who donated cookies, assisted with preparing and packing
them, and those who delivered them to our Shut-Ins. Your gifts have been greatly appreciated!*

*Thank you for the cookies. They are delicious and I am really enjoying them. It made the
day special.* *Marjorie Fantaskey*

*Jim and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and well wishes during Jim's
recent surgery and recovery. We have felt the hand of God working on our life and know how
important prayers are. We would also like to thank Gail Stover for delivering the altar flowers.*
Peace Be With You. Jim and Bonnie Sechler

*I am immensely grateful for all the gifts of cards, food, music, laughter, etc. you've shared with
me over this past month, and am especially touched by the kindness, patience, compassion, & care
which so many of you have shown me over the past ten months. Bethany is a wonderful church
family; I feel blessed to be a tiny part.* *New Year's Blessings to All, Laura Schreckengast*

REMEMBERING OUR SENIORS AT HOME

Herbert Bright
628 Broad St.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Elmcroft of Loyalsock
2985 Four Mile Dr.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Joan Hanner
350 Jordan Ave.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Jean Fox
2123 Robinson Rd.
Apt. 141
Jackson MI, 49203

Julie Griffiths
Heritage Springs Memory
Care, Room 220
878 Old Cement Rd.
Muncy, PA 17756

Joan Heckrote
936 Cherry St.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Marjorie Gower

Joan Hiller

The Meadows, Room 312
2160 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Virginia Laudig
1119 Broad St.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Sandra Long
Muncy Skilled Nursing
215 E Water St.
Muncy, PA 17756

Thomas Long
163 Charles Dr.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Eleanor Mellish
1246 Deerfield Dr.
Williamsport, PA 17701

James McCloskey
Emmanuel Center

600 Schoolhouse Rd.
Danville, PA 17821

Tessie Moss
12 Lutheran Home Dr.
Personal Care 220
Telford PA, PA 18969

Francis Poeth
Williamsport Home
Rm. 513
1900 Ravine Rd.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Betty Rosencrans
885 King St.
Northumberland, PA
17857

Paul Seaman
1900 Ravine Rd.
Apt. 323A
Williamsport, PA 17701

Eleanor Shaheen
515 Rt. 405
Hughesville, PA 17737

Richard (Fred) Shultz
1275 Broad St.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Darla Starr
Valley View Nursing Center
2140 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Joan Swartz
500 Pelham Dr.
Waynesboro VA, 22980

Cella Taylor
Arista Care
1445 Sycamore Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

PLEASE contact the office if we need to add anyone to this list!

*** Paul Wertman is getting better and is now staying with family. If you'd like to send a card or note, please still send it to his home address and his family will make sure he receives it!

Paul Wertman - 275 West Lincoln St., Muncy, PA 17756

REMINDER - PASTOR DAVID AND BETTY'S PHONE NUMBER

For anyone wishing to call Pastor and Betty Letscher, please remember to use (570) 484-8202 as their other number (beginning with 322) is no longer in service.

LOOKING FORWARD - FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



If you would like something to be included in the next newsletter, we would love to make that happen! You may reach us at (570)368-8933, secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com, or drop off the articles and submissions at the office. The deadline is Tuesday, January 19th:

the Newsletter "Team" will join together to collate and "stuff" on Monday, January 25th.

Much appreciation goes out to Eugene and Marian, Linda, and Ray for their ongoing dedication and commitment for coming in each month to assist with the distribution – You are So Greatly Appreciated!!!

Service Assistants - Through February 2021 - One Service at 9:00 am.

Please help us by trading with someone and calling the church office if for any reason you are unable to serve (570)368-8933. If you are unable to find a substitute, please also call the office so we can assist.

Thank You!
