

A Global Methodist Congregation 116 Summerhill Avenue Berwick, PA 18603

CHURCH OF BERWICK



# BETHANY BEACON

Mission Statement: We are a Beacon for God— Helping people to see, to accept and to grow in the light of Jesus Christ

### VOLUME SIXTY

JUNE / JULY 2024

ISSUE—FIVE



### **Bethany Staff**

Pastor John W. Leek

Office 570-752-2576 Fax: 570-752-1009

Connie Wech, Administrative Assistant Office 570-752-2576 Fax: 570-752-1009 bethanychurchberwick@gmail.com

> Cristie Bacher, Bethany Blessing Director Office: 570-752-6282

Joan and Melvin Kishbaugh, Custodians

George Miller, Church Access: 570-218-2533

Beverly Collins, Pianist Ronald Sult, Treasurer Website: www.bethanyberwick.org

Church Van Ministry: 272-250-9862

"Like" us on Facebook!

### New Address!

https://www.facebook.com/ bethanychurchofberwick/



A prayer for families

Dear heavenly Father, we come as your children to praise you for putting us in our family — and in our church family. Thank you for the love and nourishment we receive from the people in whose presence you've placed us. We confess our need for your guidance in our families and congregation. Please grant us harmony in our homes and church body. In all situations, help us show love, patience and respect for one another. In your name we pray. Amen.



### Short Term Prayer Concerns

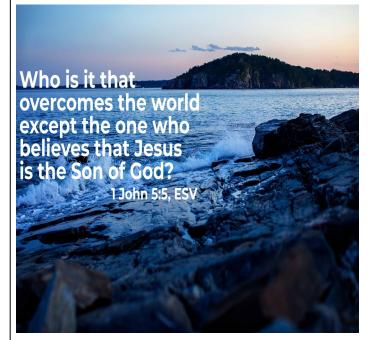
Kim Nespoli, Larry Cole Sr., Paulette Percy, Denise, Jean Lynn, Viola Freed, Carole Phillips, Bella Winship, Michelle Brown, Timothy Francis III, Weston Capozzi, Rena Williams, Gina Snipper, Jeff Davis, Jay Finkenbinder, Dianna Summers, Willis & Sandra Whitmire, Pastor Tom Harmon, Sheri and her premature baby boy, Hazel Eckart, Deb Springman

*Please note: If you would like someone to be moved to the long-term list, please contact the church office.* 

### Long-Term Prayer Concerns

Wendy McClintock, Donna Stubbs, Sam Miller, Shirley Hornberger, Kim Varner, Marlene Eckrote, Jim & Carol Zeart, Kim Kishbaugh, Warren Wolfe, Edna Mae Belles, Kent Williams, Rosemary Martz, Joe Phillips, Sr., Betty Morgan, Karen Hunsinger, Bill Mausteller, Billy Robbins, Samantha Scoblink, Nick Pritchyk, Renee Ptashinski, Mike Mattern, Esther Bower, John Ptashinski, Joan Harmon, Dick and Bethann Savage, Carmella Picarello, Judy Harvey, Edna McClintock, Gloria Varner, Pam Price, Tod Locher, Frances Houseknecht, Gary Fisher, Jackie Fisher, Pastor Ed Cope, Tammy Smith, Wendy Shultz, Julie Hartenbach, Ruby Sherman

Sympathy for the families of: Roland Seybert, Larue Knorr, Destiny Gehr, Rose Naugle, Julieann





- 6/01 Jason Welch
- 6/02 Matthew Snyder
- 6/03 Karen Stroup
- 6/04 June Sitler, Kristyn Stump
- 6/05 Shawna Francis, Courtney Schnaufer
- 6/06 Jennifer Nowakoski
- 6/07 Zachary Robak
- 6/09 Michael Mordan
- 6/10 Dorothy Hallman
- 6/11 Rick Scandle
- 6/13 Ethan Spence
- 6/14 Eileen Buffone
- 6/15 Jayson Hess
- 6/16 Paul Davis
- 6/17 Lauren Force, Zachary Kishbaugh, Eli Stump
- 6/18 Jenna Eyer
- 6/21 Elizabeth Stout
- 6/23 Dawn Manhart
- 6/24 Henry Snyder, Rick Talanca, Bernie Wojciechowski
- 6/25 Anthony Remley
- 6/26 Shirley Welliver
- 6/27 Jane Ackerman, Adalynn Eyer, Edna McClintock, Amy Phillips
- 6/28 Laura Spence, Nina Baylor-Winship
- 6/29 Carole Butz, Beverly Collins, Eldon Shultz

we lift up all fathers

in prayer to god.

\*

6/30 Diane Shymansky

### Bethany Church of Berwick Peacemakers Prayer Support Ministry

Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

General Prayer for Departments:

Borough of Berwick Police Department Briar Creek Township Police Department Salem Township Police Department Nescopeck Borough Police Department Columbia County Sheriff's Office South Centre Township Police Department PA State Police Shickshinny Station Specific Daily Prayer for Officers: June 2024

- 1. Kristen Cunnington, Patrolman
- 2. Deputy Michael Tkach
- 3. Officer Kyle Trenholm
- 4. Deputy James Dalton
- 5. Officer Joseph Gainley
- 6. Deputy Kevin Bradley
- 7. Officer Michael Klinetob
- 8. Vincent Figureido, Patrolman
- 9. Officer Raymond Thonkinson, III
- 10. Detective Gregory Martin
- 11. Sgt. Thomas Hegland
- 12. Officer Joshua Switzer
- 13. Chief Deputy Michael Beyer
- 14. Officer Joshua Lowery
- 15. Tyler Soboleski, Patrolman
- 16. Officer Brandon Shultz
- 17. Deputy James Arter
- 18. Officer Steven Torres
- 19. Officer Scott Sienkiewicz
- 20. William Lefevre, Patrolman
- 21. Officer Victor Guevara
- 22. Detective Reagan Rafferty
- 23. Deputy Kevin Katch
- 24. Officer Phil Mainiero
- 25. Officer Michael Quaranta
- 26. Officer Riley Robinette
- 27. Cole Schaffer, Patrolman
- 28. Lee Pitonyak, Patrolman
- 29. Deputy Anthony Kopitski
- 30. Officer Randy Gaugler



- 7/01 Linda Eyer, Tracy Talanca
- 7/02 Gavin Welch
- 7/04 Deborah Cope, Barbara Richards
- 7/06 Randall Kishbaugh
- 7/11 Gary Eckrote, John McClintock
- 7/12 Garrett Lazar, Angela Locher, Everett Snyder
- 7/14 April Snyder, Shea Volkel
- 7/17 Karen Force, Laura Shields
- 7/18 Wayne Shaffer
- 7/19 Dean Bowman
- 7/22 Thomas Fetterman
- 7/23 Shelly Remley
- 7/24 Debra Bristol, Marilyn Hess, Sandra Tripp, Kim Varner
- 7/25 Lexie Leffler, Hazel Schechterly
- 7/26 Jeffrey Girton
- 7/27 Rae Earl
- 7/28 Cheryl Wynings
- 7/29 Deborah Leffler, Linda Sult
- 7/30 Willas Whitmire

### Need fast relief? Slow down!

Actor Lily Tomlin reportedly said, "For fast-acting relief, try slowing down." Summer doesn't seem to be the "slow season" it once was — if indeed it ever truly was. But perhaps we can use it as incentive to take some "downtime" around the plethora of activities, travel and always-busy work schedules. Pause and accept Jesus' invitation: "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" (Mark 6:31, NIV).

It may be a refreshing spot at a lake, a hike in the woods, an early-morning fishing trip. Maybe, around your work schedule, you can reserve time for a few days of church camp, a picnic at the city park, a nap on a blanket in the backyard sun. Help the kids in your life discover what it's like to *not* be on the go and to take a screen-time sabbath — even to experience boredom and see what creativity blossoms. Do art projects together, ride bikes, paint with water or chalk on the sidewalk, pick berries, bake cookies, solve puzzles, sing songs!

Try slowing down, as Lily Tomlin — and even Jesus — advised. In summer, and any time, it's good for the soul!

## Bethany Church of Berwick Peacemakers Prayer Support Ministry

Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

General Prayer for Departments:

Borough of Berwick Police Department Briar Creek Township Police Department Salem Township Police Department Nescopeck Borough Police Department Columbia County Sheriff's Office South Centre Township Police Department PA State Police Shickshinny Station

Specific Daily Prayer for Officers: July 2024

- 1. Harold Morris, Patrolman
- 2. Patrolman Brenton Bacon
- 3. Deputy William Miner
- 4. Officer Jeremy Mulders
- 5. Deputy Heather Comstock
- 6. Officer Jessica Shoup
- 7. Elizabeth Whitenight
- 8. Officer Philip Schlegel
- 9. Deputy Dale Stokes
- 10. Officer Henry Roote
- 11. Sgt. Tyler Miller-Stephens County, TX
- 12. Patrolman Mason Dabulis
- 13. Officer Joseph Loyacono
- 14. Dustin Sabol, Patrolman
- 15. Deputy Dale Coombe
- 16. Officer Brandon Batiuk
- 17. Deputy Jonathan Broadt
- 18. Chief Kenneth Strish
- 19. Thomas D. Frace, Chief of Police
- 20. Chief Richard Haraschak III
- 21. Assistant Chief Troy Maneval
- 22. Chief William Richendrfer
- 23. Jarrod Noss, Criminal Investigator
- 24. Officer Christopher Kelchner
- 25. Sheriff Timothy Chamberlain
- 26. Chief Michael McNeal
- 27. Sgt. Marc Fedder
- 28. Sarah Klingaman
- 29. Deputy Scott Mayernick
- 30. Officer Shawn Timbrell
- 31. Deputy Kristie Rospendowski

### **Capital Campaign Gains Momentum**

Thank you for your generosity so far to the New Beginnings Capital Campaign! As of Monday, May 20, we have **\$65,640.36** toward our goal of \$150,000!

This has allowed us to proceed with the second project on our list: updates to the exterior stucco on the addition. God is good!

As a reminder, the campaign will fund several needs that must be addressed over the next couple years:

### Big Room HVAC-\$43,000

Until we are uncomfortable, we can take heating and cooling for granted. Bethany Blessings, Sunday school classes, and other ministries depend on our facility during winter's cold and summer's heat. The 26-year-old HVAC unit, which sits atop the portico, has reached the end of its lifespan and requires replacement with a modern, efficient system. *A unit has been ordered and is expected to be installed with a crane later this year.* 

### Exterior Stucco Update - \$22,500

As we look ahead to exciting ministry in a new denomination, we must remove the cross and flame logo from the exterior wall of the addition. This symbol, which represents our previous affiliation, will be replaced with a simple cross to signify our faith in Christ and remind us of his sacrifice for our redemption. *This work should be completed in early June.* 

#### Sanctuary/Overflow Roof Replacement-\$59,500

The roof over the sanctuary and overflow area requires repair so that we can continue to comfortably gather for worship and protect our beautiful sanctuary. The shingled sanctuary roof was installed in 1989. The overflow area features a shingled hip roof with a flat, rubber top that has been in place since 1975.

### Outdoor LED Sign-\$25,000

Our electronic sign on the corner of Summerhill Avenue and Pine Street allows us to share news with passers-by. Because the manufacturer is no longer in business, we cannot purchase needed replacement parts or update glitchy software. A new, attractive unit will allow us to more easily invite the community to attend events, explore faith, and experience Christian fellowship.

### Help Us Reach Our Goal

Please prayerfully consider a contribution in addition to your regular weekly stewardship to help us meet these expenses. Your generosity and faithfulness allow Bethany to help others to see, accept, and grow in the light of Jesus Christ. All gifts in any amount are appreciated.

#### How to Give

You may contribute to the campaign in three ways:

Use "Capital Campaign" envelopes, which are available in church pews and at the information desk, to designate a campaign gift. These envelopes are undated with space for you to include your name and regular envelope giving number for tracking purposes, if you wish. Take as many envelopes as you will use, whether you plan to give once or weekly to the campaign.

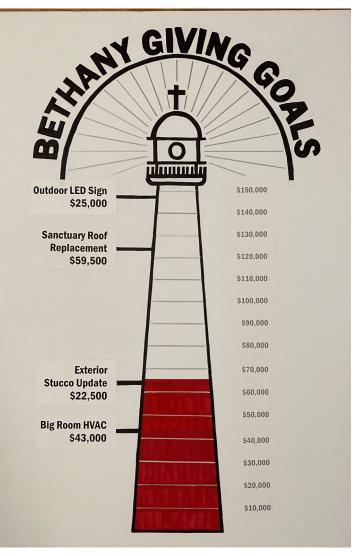
Use your bank's online bill pay feature to make a one-time or recurring gift. Put "Bethany Church of Berwick" as the payee at 116 Summerhill Ave., Berwick, PA 18603. Please note in the memo line that your gift is for the capital cam paign. You can add your envelope number as the account number so that the gift is recorded on your annual giving statement.

Mail a check to the church office at the above address. Note "Capital Campaign" in the memo line and include your giving envelope number.

Remember to keep Bethany Church in prayer as we seek God's guidance for stewardship and future ministry! Your continued support is critical to maintaining the facility that sustains our ministries and encourages relationship with Christ. Thanks again for your gifts and your prayers!

Capital Campaign Committee:

- Kathy Brown
- Lamont Brown
- Kelly Noroski
- Russ Shields
- Don Shiner
- Kim Spence
- Kim Volkel



# **Extra Mile Giving**

### for June is going to For The Cause

Our Extra Mile Giving for June will be going towards For The Cause. For The Cause is a non-profit organization. Their goal is to make Luzerne and Columbia counties a region of pride. They do the weekend food program and weekly food distribution program for the Berwick Area School District and the Teen Center in Berwick.

### for July is going to The Cliff Center

Our Extra Mile Giving for July will be going to The Cliff Center. The Cliff Center is a Christian organization who provide a safe place where youth can come as they are without any judgement to find their identity in Christ. They provide meals and activities to local youth using scripture based practices.

You may use the envelopes that are available at the Information Desk.

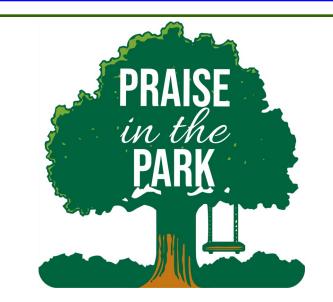




WE'LL BE PAINTING 3D WOODEN SIGNS, GRACIOUSLY DONATED BY ANDI BRADY FROM BRADY ART STUDIO. THERE WILL BE SEVERAL DESIGNS TO CHOOSE FROM.

> NO MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED, ALL LADIES ARE INVITED; NO FEE, BUT DONATIONS HAPPILY RECEIVED; AND, PLEASE BRING A SNACK TO SHARE.

PLEASE RSVP (AT THE CHURCH OR VIA FACEBOOK), SO WE CAN HAVE SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR EVERYONE.



Bethany Church will be hosting "Praise in the Park" on July 14 at 10:00 am at Ber-Vaughn Park pavilions. We will be joined by Living Hope Community Free Methodist Church in Nescopeck and Evansville Community Church followed by a picnic luncheon. We will not have worship services at the church so please join us at the park for worship. Please bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy the Christian Fellowship.



# Sunday, September 8th

# THE STORY **BEGINS**

xperience an event that unveils God's Word as you've never known it before. As you walk thru the Old Testament, you'll realize that the Bible is coming to life and your knowledge of its people, places, and themes is rapidly increasing. In just a few short hours, you'll see the big picture better than some who have studied for years. Like many others, you may walk away saying, "I never understood the Bible like this before!"

Most of all, you'll develop a deeper connection with the God who wants you to know Him and will never stop pursuing your heart. The more you understand His story, the more you'll realize it's your story too. And the more you realize it's your story, the more His words will change your life.

- Experience the story of the Bible in a way that makes God's Word come alive.
- Learn 40 handsigns and stories designed to help you understand the big picture of the Old Testament.
- See beyond the facts of the Bible and encounter its author.

# STEP INTO THE STORY.





Plan to attend otLIVE, a unique, interactive family event!

### An ode to dads

God took the strength of a mountain, the majesty of a tree, the warmth of a summer sun, the calm of a quiet sea.

The generous soul of nature, the comforting arm of night, the wisdom of the ages, the power of the eagle's flight.

The joy of a morning in spring, the faith of a mustard seed, the patience of eternity, the depth of a family need.

Then God combined these qualities, when there was nothing more to add,

He knew his masterpiece was complete, and so, he called it ... Dad.

—Author unknown





### THE WATER OF LIFE

A cold drink helps us beat the summer heat. Complete this puzzle for a reminder of what Jesus offers to quench our thirst.

#### A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 910 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26



## FOLLOWING OUR FATHER'S WILL

Jesus always did his Father's will. What does our heavenly Father desire of us?

Directions: Using the coordinates, circle the corresponding words. Then add those to the blanks below to complete John 6:40, NIV.

### Coordinates

T3, R1, F6, E2, T1, H5, A6, R4, F5, T5, H3, F2, A4, E6

	F	А	Т	Н	E	R
1	Father	them	the	believe	that	who
2	have	will	if	heart	to	live
3	perish	whoever	everyone	shall	shall	give
4	God	eternal	send	into	Him	believes
5	in	come	him	Son	rest	with
6	looks	and	forever	Where	life	hope

### "For my Father's will is that

and I will raise them up at the last day." John 6:40, NIV



Why do stars appear to twinkle? Try this experiment to find out!

### What you need:

- Aluminum foil
- Large glass bowl



#### What you do:

- Crumple the foil into a ball. Carefully unfold it and lay it flat on the ground.
- 2. Fill the bowl with water and place it on the foil.
- 3. Turn off the lights and make the room as dark as possible. Shine the flashlight about 1 foot from the water's undisturbed surface. Light will reflect onto the foil.
- 4. Then tap your finger on the water's surface. As the water moves, what happens to the light on the foil?
- This flickering simulates scintillation, which happens when starlight enters Earth's atmosphere. As light passes through layers of gas and water, it refracts and appears to twinkle.



Answer: everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life

DEAN PASTON JOHN LEEK AND THE 4/25/24 BETHANY CHURCH of Berwick, THORNEL YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL OF Your Phayens, THOUGHTS, ENCOURAGEMENT All that He is... AND SUPPORT THROUGH THE LOVE is all that we need. OFFERING YOU SO GENEROUSLY PROVIDED. You're in thoughts and prayers, AS WELL. IT IS ALL DEEPLY APPRECIATED AND IS A TREMENDOUS AND WONDERFUL BLESSING FOR MYSELF PASTOR ERIC WATKINS AND MY FAMILY. THOUGHTS OF AND FAMILY PEACE AND LOVE. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together. PSALM 34:3 NIV Deah Bethany Church, We are all of. thanks for the cord, it is good THENK YOU SO MUCH FOR My bezutiFul Flowers. They to know, that we are still thought of. 2he very Cheery. Love & God Bless to Everyone In Christian Love Barb Fernternich June a Satter

## Prepared for a purpose

Timothy Dalrymple, president and CEO of *Christianity Today*, was a successful Stanford gymnast with Olympic dreams. But he broke his neck before the 1996 Olympic Trials and never reached his sport's "promised land." Although the injury led to chronic pain, Dalrymple doesn't regret his pursuit or even the fall.

Even while hospitalized, he experienced "a profound assurance" of God's loving presence. "If I could know the peace of God even when my health and hopes were stripped away from me, then what did I have to fear?" he writes. "It was a liberating revelation. Since God is with us even in the valley of the shadow of death, we need fear no evil, for no evil can take God away."

In the long run, so-called failure can matter more than victory, Dalrymple learned. "The purpose of my gymnastics career was never to purchase a few shining moments of gold-medal glory but to prepare me for the rest of my life. It was never about making me a champion. It was about [shaping me into the image of Christ and] making me an instrument [for the glory of Christ and for the good of the world]."

# Lessons from hiking

Whether I'm hiking an easier stroll or a 20-mile trek, I've noticed parallels to my journey with Christ.

- This is my journey. Too often I waste time comparing my stride, pace or equipment to that of fellow hikers.
- I don't know what's around each bend, but God does. I can't let anxiety steal my joy.
- It's best to balance hiking in silence with sharing the trail with friends.
- I'll be sore tomorrow, and that's okay. Engaging new muscles leaves a reminder that growth is uncomfortable.
- Being prepared is good; being *too* prepared makes for a heavy backpack. I need to do my due diligence and let God handle the rest.
- It's not a race, so finishing quickly offers no reward. When I'm not in a hurry, I tend to notice more of God's blessings.
- I need to look up, enjoying God's creation as I let him determine my steps.

▲ May 2024			June 2024			Jul 2024 ►
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<del>7-</del>
2 Bethany Blessings Sunday 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv	<b>3</b> 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2) 6:30 pm Awakening (SGR)	4 8am TOPS (SGR) 1 pm Awakening (SGR) 7 pm Bells Practice (Sanc)	<b>5</b> 6:15pm Praise Team (BR)	6 6:30 pm Scouts( Scout)	2	<b>8</b> 1-3 pm Ladies Event (FH)
<ul> <li>9 Communion</li> <li>6raduate Sunday</li> <li>9:00 am Traditional Worship</li> <li>10am Sunday School</li> <li>11am Contemporary Srv</li> </ul>	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2) 6:30 pm Awakening (SGR)	11 8am TOPS (SGR) 1 pm Awakening (SGR) 7 pm Bells Practice (Sanc)	12 6:15pm Praise Team (BR)	13 6:30 pm Scouts( Scout)	14 6 pmSetup Yard Sale (BR)	<b>15</b> 8:00 pm Yard Sale (BR)
<b>16</b> Father's Day 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv	<ol> <li>Pastor John Vacation</li> <li>6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>18 Pastor John Vacation</li> <li>8am TOPS (SGR)</li> <li>7 pm Bells Practice (Sanc)</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Pastor John Vacation</li> <li>PB&amp;J Carepack Distribution</li> <li>6:15pm Praise Team (BR)</li> </ol>	<b>20 Pastor John Vacation</b> First Day of Summer 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg (SGR) 6:30 pm Scouts( Scout)	<b>21</b> Pastor John Vacation	22
<b>23 Pastor John Vacation</b> Sarah Hazlett Leading worship 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv 5:30pm Family Meal & Community VBS	<b>24</b> Office Open 9-12 5:30pm Family Meal & Community VBS 6:30 pm Awakening (tba)	<b>25</b> Office Open 9-12 8am TOPS (SGR) 1 pm Awakening (SGR) 5:30pm Family Meal & Community VBS 7 pm Bells Practice (Sanc)	<b>26</b> Office Open 9-12 5:30pm Family Meal & Community VBS	<b>27</b> Office Open 9-12 5:30pm Family Meal & Community VBS	<b>28</b> Office Open 9-12	29
<b>30</b> 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv				ADUATES!		

6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2) 8am TOPS (SGR) 6:30 pm Awakening (SGR) 1 pm Awakening (SGR)

### Looking for Summer Fun for Your Children. Join Us!

Contact Sarah Schenkel with any questions or if you want to volunteer to help. Sarah is Bethany Church of Berwick's liaison to the Community VBS.



docs.google.com Community VBS Registration

**One Per Child** 

