



BETHANY
CHURCH OF BERWICK
A Global Methodist Congregation

116 Summerhill Avenue
Berwick, PA 18603



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

NOVEMBER 2024

ISSUE—NINE

GIVING THANKS
always
FOR ALL THINGS
UNTO GOD
AND THE FATHER
IN THE NAME
OF OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST.

EPHESIANS 5:20, KJV

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

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Short Term Prayer Concerns

Viola Freed, Dixie Sampsel, William Bankes, Judy, Family of Marsha Bowman, Jon Criswell, Marlene, Holly, Chuck, Ruger W, Larry Zimmerman, Danny, Robert Hoffman, Kevin Laureson, Thomas Makar, Eva Kroposky, Willa Ptashinski, Marilyn Hess, Elijah Jurbala, Rena Williams, Caroline Moyer, Kathy Kerfoot, Bob Klingerman, Deb Springman, Jerry Gnars, Joe Fortin, Bella Bauserman

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, Warren Wolfe, Edna Mae Belles, Kent Williams, Rosemary Martz, Joe Phillips, Sr., Betty Morgan, Karen Hunsinger, Bill Mausteller, Billy Robbins, Samantha Scoblink, Nick Pritchky, Renee Ptashinski, Mike Mattern, Esther Bower, John Ptashinski, Joan Harmon, Carmella Picarello, Dick and Bethann Savage, Edna McClintock, Judy Harvey, Gloria Varner, Frances Houseknecht, Pam Price, Tod Locher, Gary Fisher, Jackie Fisher, Pastor Ed Cope, Tammy Smith, Wendy Shultz, Julie Hartenbach, Norman and Dorothea Peter, Ruby Sherman, Gerda Leek, Bernie Snedeker, Peggy Miller, Joey Farr



1. ****All Saints Sunday**** – We will honor and remember our "saints," church members who have passed away in the last year.
2. ****Fall Baptisms**** – Celebrate with those receiving the sacrament of Christian baptism.
3. ****Welcoming New Members**** – For the first time since becoming a Global Methodist Church, we'll officially welcome new members into our congregation.

Please join us for this special Sunday at Bethany!

November 11



Daylight Savings
Time Ends
November 3.
Turn your clocks
back before bed
on Saturday,
November 2.





- 11/02 Marian Collins, Debra Springman
- 11/05 Holli Sult
- 11/06 Lamont Brown
- 11/08 Betty Shelhamer
- 11/09 Bob Eyer, Karen Fetterman
- 11/11 Eric Klingerman, Lauren Rauch
- 11/12 Kimberly Levan
- 11/13 Lloyd Welliver
- 11/14 Timothy Stroup
- 11/15 Jaxon Schenkel
- 11/17 Russ Shields
- 11/18 Joe Cope, Martin Harmon Jr
- 11/19 Kathleen Keller
- 11/20 Tom Kobeck, James Zeart
- 11/21 Kelsey Aten
- 11/24 Dennis Force
- 11/26 David Shields, Aiden Walsh
- 11/27 Ben Wojciechowski
- 11/28 Adam Bowman
- 11/29 Marinna Grasley, Sarah Hazlett, Ezra Leek
Donna Schechterly
- 11/30 Aurora Aten, Belinda Dowell



**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: November 2024

1. Officer Michael Quaranta
2. Officer Riley Robinette
3. Cole Schaffer, Patrolman
4. Lee Pitonyak, Patrolman
5. Deputy Anthony Kopitski
6. Officer Randy Gaugler
7. Harold Morris, Patrolman
8. Ptlm, Keith Whitenight
9. Patrolman Brenton Bacon
10. Deputy William Miner
11. Officer Jeremy Mulders
12. Deputy Heather Comstock
13. Officer Jessica Shoup
14. Elizabeth Whitenight
15. Officer Philip Schlegel
16. Deputy Dale Stokes
17. Officer Henry Roote
18. Ptlm. Clinton Libby
19. Sgt. Tyler Miller-Stephens County, TX
20. Patrolman Mason Dabulis
21. Officer Joseph Loyacono
22. Dustin Sabol, Patrolman
23. Deputy Dale Coombe
24. Deputy Jonathan Broadt
25. Chief Kenneth Strish
26. Thomas D. Frace, Chief of Police
27. Chief Richard Haraschak III
28. Assistant Chief Troy Maneval
29. Chief William Richendrfer
30. Jarrod Noss, Criminal Investigator

Missions & Evangelism

Extra Mile Giving for November will be for Harvest Home to support Bethany's Pantry Box/Homeless Ministry

Our Extra Mile Giving for November will support Bethany's Little Pantry Boxes/Homeless Ministry for Harvest Home. We are asking for store gift cards from Weis Markets, Aldi, IGA or monetary donations in support of our mission. We will be collecting donations throughout November. A basket will be placed on the Harvest Home table in the Overflow area during services. Harvest Home giving envelopes are also available at the Information Desk in the main entry hallway.

You may donate food items for Harvest Home which also would be used in our pantry box ministry. Please put your non-perishable food items and personal hygiene items on the Harvest Home table located outside the library in the Overflow area. Any items that cannot be used for the pantry boxes will be taken to the Salvation Army to support their mission of helping the community.

List of the items needed for the Little Pantry locations

We are hoping the church as a whole might be willing to help with donations of the things we need. This has been an ongoing project. Here are some things we need:

Individually wrapped granola bars, breakfast bars, cereal bars and similar.

Ramen noodles, soups, instant lunch soups, nuts, tuna pouches, individual packs of crackers, fruit cups, pasta, canned vegetables.

Hygiene products, Individually wrapped toilet paper, Hand sanitizer, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste Towels and washcloths, Soap, Drawstring garbage bags (large or kitchen size), Large or XL zip-lock bags, Tote bags--the reusable kind from grocery stores and similar. These can be used or new.

Pieces of Prayer

Pieces of Prayer will meet Thursday, November 14, at 9:00 a.m. until noon in the Stained Glass Room. All are welcome!

Operation Christmas Child

Spread the love of Jesus by packing a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child. Contact Connie if you would like to learn more or need help packing a box. Preprinted boxes and information on Operation Christmas Child are available by the Information Desk in the main entrance hallway. Packed boxes and the \$10.00 cost of shipping are due in the office by November 17. Thank you!

Giving Tree Mission

We are planning on doing the first Giving Tree Mission on November 23rd. We are accepting donations of new or clean gently worn kids coats, adult coats, sweatshirts, warm clothing, blankets, hats, gloves and scarves.

We could use some help hanging items on the trees on Front Street at 9am, meeting at Subway. We will return at 3:30 to remove the leftover items. Please come out to help those in need.



Hanging of the Greens.

Please come help decorate the church for Christmas on Monday, November 25 at 6:30pm. Enjoy this time of Fellowship while decorating for the Christmas season.

****Christmas Commitment Sunday – A Time for Gratitude and Giving****

Join us at Bethany Church for *Christmas Commitment Sunday* on December 8th! As we gather for worship, we'll celebrate the many blessings of 2024, including welcoming Pastor John Leek and his family, seeing new people baptized, more engaged in small groups, and God's provision that allowed us to complete important maintenance projects debt-free. During this special service, families will be invited to present a year-end gift and gather at the altar in prayer, thanking God for all He's done. This is a powerful moment for young people to witness their families express gratitude together, led by the oldest family member present. After both the 9am and 11am services, enjoy Christmas refreshments and fellowship.

Let's end this year in the spirit of gratitude and commit to all that God has in store for 2025!

Bethany Church,
Thank you so much for the kind surprise gifts and cupcakes for Pastor Appreciation month. I do feel appreciated and we are blessed by you!
- Pastor John and Abby



Well, Church, thanks to our many artisans and a village of organizers, you have managed a successful Craft Show. Because of your efforts and support, all of the proceeds (\$3,461.20) will be added to the Capital Campaign Fund.

May we as a church continue to be on the lookout to do what the Lord is blessing within our walls and in our community.

A big "Thank You" to all who helped in any way!

Thank you,
Susan

Craft Show Propels Capital Campaign to 82% of Goal

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the fabulous craft show in October, either by sharing your creative talents or purchasing items!

The event earned \$3,461.20 for the New Beginnings Capital Campaign. With continued weekly donations, the campaign reached 82% of goal, or **\$123,506.75**, as of Oct. 21.

We're edging closer, but we're not done yet. We're within reach of the dollars needed for roof repairs, which church council plans to tackle in the spring. Then it's on to the final \$25,000 for replacing the outdoor LED sign. God is good!

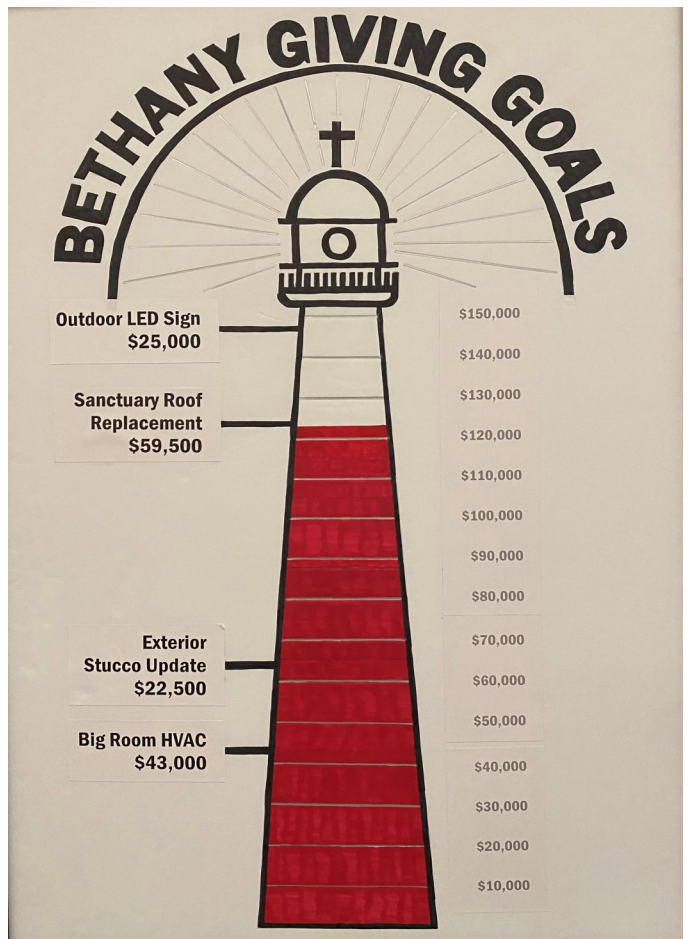
Remember those three ways to contribute:

- **Capital campaign envelopes, available in church pews or at the information desk.
- **Your bank's online bill pay feature, made out to Bethany Church of Berwick and designating "Capital Campaign" in the memo line.
- **A mailed check with "Capital Campaign" in the memo line.

Thank you for your creativity, dedication and prayers!

Capital Campaign Committee:

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





Decorate our Christmas Eve worship service by purchasing a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone. We will be using a local supplier. Each red poinsettia comes in a 6" pot and is \$7.00. Please complete the order form which will be in the bulletin and return it with the money to the church office. You can put your form in the offering plate with the money attached. All orders need to be in to the office by Sunday, Nov. 24th. You may take your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve worship service or you may choose to donate your plant to be given to one of our shut-ins to brighten their Christmas.

What your heart clamors to do

We often speak of pastors as having a divine "calling." God gives them a strong sense of purpose for a specific holy role, like how Old Testament prophets were called to bring messages to God's people. But what about the rest of us? Is teaching, practicing medicine, being a plumber, writing or another non-church job also a "call"?

Martin Luther and others have said we should seek work that benefits others and for which God has given us talent. We should also treat any good work we do as a calling — be it cleaning a house or school, mending a broken leg or torn garment, or (as Luther mentioned a *father* doing — in the 1500s!) changing a baby's diaper.

Dorothy Sayers wrote that "work is not primarily a thing one does to live, but the thing one lives to do," and that "we should clamor to be engaged in work that [is] worth doing, and in which we [can] take pride." What work does your heart clamor to do? In other words, what is *your* divine call?

Be prepared ... to wait

My husband always keeps a book handy. When he picks up our kids or heads to an appointment, a current title is tucked securely under his arm. He expects to wait — and is prepared to do so. What could have been a frustrating delay turns into extra time to delve further into the story.

I, on the other hand, get caught off-guard if a doctor runs late or a meeting runs long. As the minutes tick by, my down time gets wasted — unless I quietly reflect on God's goodness, return an email, take a short walk or chat with the person next to me.

"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord," says Psalm 27:14 (NIV). That's an important reminder as Advent nears. Scripture advises us to use our waiting time wisely, preparing for God and drawing closer to him. What will you do while you wait for Jesus?

—Janna Firestone

Simple but lifesaving

In early 2024, Beatrice Johnson became deathly ill in hours. An upset stomach became dangerously low blood pressure; it turned out flesh-eating bacteria had attacked her entire body. When Johnson's kidneys started failing, she was put on life support. In a last-ditch effort, doctors added sodium bicarbonate — baking soda — to her IV.

Within hours Johnson was noticeably improved, and she left the hospital a month later. "I never thought something so simple would save my life," she said.


Another lifesaver many people find too simple is God's grace. We quip, "If something seems too good to be true, it probably is," and "Nothing in life is free." We're used to payments or paybacks. We balk if a friend offers to buy our lunch. When a neighbor brings us homemade cookies, we don't dare return the plate empty.

So how can something as huge and *holy* as salvation be a free gift from God? Don't we need to *do* something to earn it: follow the 10 Commandments? go to church? live a "godly" life?

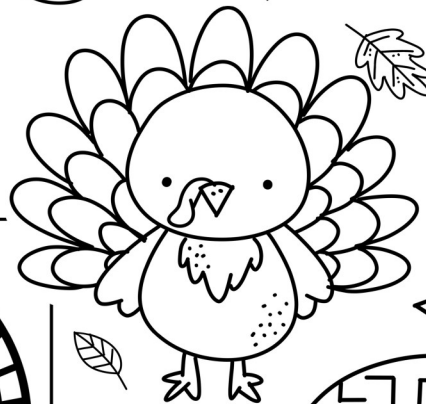
All those things are good to do, but the key is to do them as *thanks* for God's gift of salvation, not to earn it. Jesus loves you and assures you of eternal life. Just accept the gift! If that seems simple, it's because it is — but it will also save your life.

—Heidi Hyland Mann


THANKS GIVING



Decorate the Scarecrows.
Ideas: faces, hair & clothes

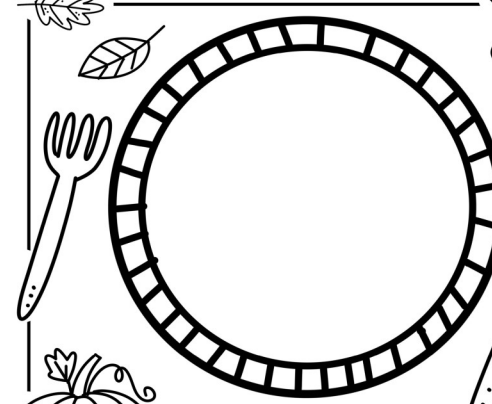


How many pumpkins can you find?

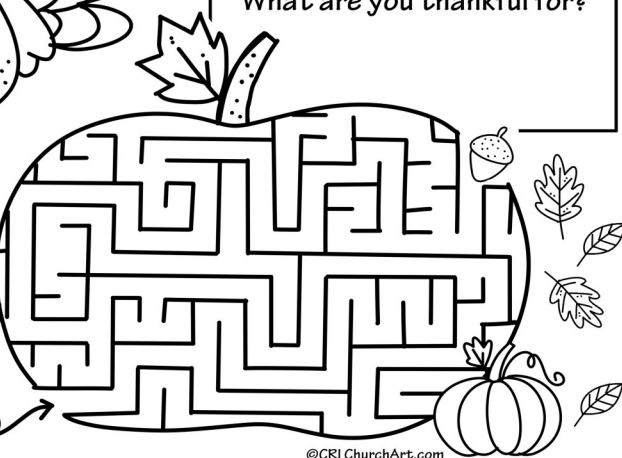


Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.
Psalm 136:1, NIV

What are you thankful for?




Draw your favorite Thanksgiving Dinner!



©CRI ChurchArt.com

GOD Rocks!



Wise


Make decorative stones as reminders of God's many great attributes.

What you need:


- Flat, smooth stones
- Printed, decorative napkins
- Paintbrush
- Clear-drying craft glue
- Scissors
- Permanent marker

What you do:

1. Unfold the napkin, carefully separating the printed side from the solid side.
2. Brush a thin layer of glue atop a stone. Lay the napkin (printed side up) on the glue and press down. Paint more glue over the napkin. Let dry.
3. Turn the stone over and paint more glue on the back. Wrap the napkin edges around the stone, trimming as needed. Paint more glue over the napkin. Let dry.
4. On the stone, write an attribute of God (loving, wise, powerful, merciful, etc.).
5. Repeat with more stones. Use them as gifts, paperweights, table decorations, etc.



PUZZLE

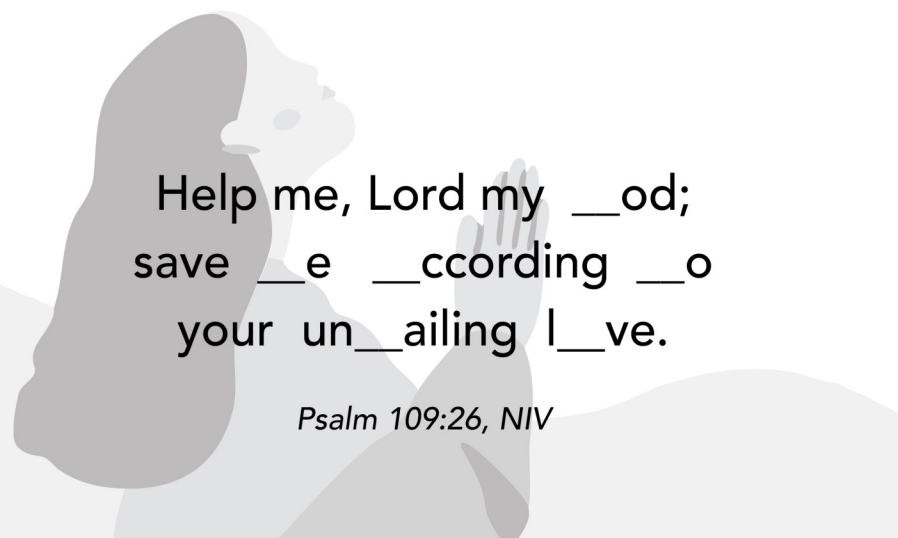


BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

Thanks to who God is, we can talk to him in prayer.


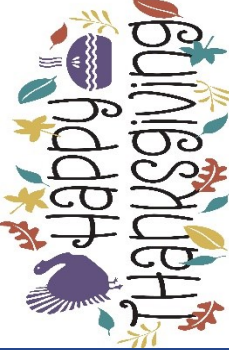
Directions: Unscramble the descriptions of God, using the Bible references as clues. Then write the circled letters below to complete Psalm 109:26, NIV

Psalm 145:8	SGAICURO	□ _ _ _ _ _
Job 36:5	HGIYMT	□ _ _ _ _ _
Psalm 90:2	LTAVREENISG	_ _ _ _ _ □ _ _ _ _
2 Peter 3:9	INETTPA	_ _ _ _ _ □
1 Thessalonians 5:24	FUFHIATL	□ _ _ _ _ _
Isaiah 40:25	OYHL	_ □ _ _ _



Help me, Lord my __od;
save __e __ccording __o
your un__ailing l__ve.

Psalm 109:26, NIV

November 2024						Dec 2024 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 All Saints' Day World Community Day	2 
3 Daylight saving time ends All Saints Sunday - Communion 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv 6pm Youth Fellowship	4 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	5 Election Day (BR) Bethany Blessings Closed 8 am TOPS (SGR)	6 6 pm Praise Team (Sanc)	7 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	8	9 Ladies Christmas Tea (BR)
10 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv 4pm Charge Conference 6pm Youth Fellowship	11 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)  Veterans Day: ★ Thank You for Your Service!	12 8 am TOPS (SGR)	13 6 pm Praise Team (Sanc)	14 9-12 Pieces of Prayer (SGR) 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	15	16
17 Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv 6pm Youth Fellowship	18 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	19 8 am TOPS (SGR)	20 PB&J Carepack 6 pm Praise Team (Sanc)	21 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout) 6:30 pm Church Council (SGR)	22	23 9am Giving Tree (Front Street)
24 Christ the King 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv 6pm Youth Fellowship	25 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2) 6:30 pm Hanging of the Greens	26 8 am TOPS (SGR) 10am Cancer Support Group (Lib)	27 6 pm Praise Team (Sanc)	28 Thanksgiving Day 	29	30