

**Bethany Presbyterian Church**  
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# News of Bethany

## When Will We Re-Open????

Good question! The quick answer is: We don't know. At its last Session Meeting, the Session decided to re-open the Church when the State moves to Green on the Covid-19 Scale. We'll continue practicing "social-distancing" for a while, wear masks, elbow-bump, and keep our mouths shut (no hymn singing). To a large degree, the age of our congregation dictates our next moves. We trend to the higher end of the age spectrum, so our safeguards are more "conservative" when compared to younger-trending congregations. That said, it might be late-August, early-September before it is safe to return to the Sanctuary. We'll keep you informed as we learn more information from the State Department of Health.

We'll continue recording "on-line" worship through the summer months. From your comments, our efforts seem to be panning-out OK. It's not perfect, but it gives the church an opportunity to be a presence in your lives as we continue our social distancing. All members should have received the summer bulletin in the mail; it is also available on our website on Sunday mornings.

Many thanks to The Rev. Dr. Erin S. Cox-Holmes, Meredith Cox-Holmes, Derek Martin, and The Rev. Kent Holmes for their tireless efforts on our behalf. It has become a "labor of love" and a Saturday afternoon ritual! (The good thing is that they can spend Sunday mornings at home, too!) If you have any questions or comments, please send them along to Rev. Holmes at: [kentholmes829@gmail.com](mailto:kentholmes829@gmail.com).



***Mission Statement:***  
***Bethany Presbyterian Church is a church making an impact on the lives of all people through the love of Jesus Christ.***

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## Special Dates in June 2020



**Trinity Sunday**  
Sunday, June 7

**Flag Day**  
Sunday, June 14



**First Day of Summer**  
Saturday, June 20



**Father's Day**  
Sunday, June 21

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Polly Snyder**  
**Agnes Taylor**



# Bethany News & Notes



## The Wired Word

If you'd like to do a bit of Bible study during the summer, please join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on your i-Pad, i-Phone or other digital device for "The Wired Word." Each week we have a time of fellowship and study on Zoom, a digital platform which allows face-to-face interaction. Lessons are sent to you for download on your computer each week. Topics are current, which allows for some spirited discussions! A time for prayer and reflection is also included. If you'd like to join us, please let Rev. Holmes know, and we'll get you set-up to join us. You'll learn some new technology skills, as well as have a great time with your friends!



## Thanks to the Congregation!

Many thanks to the congregation for your continued generous financial support of the work of the congregation! Even though we aren't meeting in-person, the bills and salaries have to be paid and the building maintained in our absence. This will allow us to continue the year "in the black" and not play "catch-up" when we resume "on-site worship again.

## *From Pastor Kent's Desk*

It's been a while since I last communicated with you by Newsletter. The weeks have moved on, but in many ways, we're still stuck in the same place. Most of us are still quarantining-in-place in our homes, only going out for groceries, or other "essential" reasons. Memorial Day has come and gone, and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is the next "landmark" on our calendars. The days are warmer, and the evenings have grown longer as we continue our relentless movement toward summer.

For most of us, vacations will not be happening this summer. "Stay-cations" will be the order of the day, with long-distance trips put on hiatus until the fall, at least. We will have to be satisfied with sitting on our porches watching the flowers bloom and the grass grow. If nothing else, we'll save a lot of money on fuel!

I think this will be the first time in my life that I haven't gone on an extended vacation in the summer. My folks always took me on a "road trip" every year. We traveled north, south, and east. (The Pacific Ocean was to our west!) We hit the National Parks with regularity, and South Dakota every third or fourth summer. Cars weren't air conditioned, and cruise control was but a dream, so they truly were "experiences!"



We stayed in motels in the middle of small towns along the "blue highways." Railroad tracks always seemed to run behind them, so our sleep was never sound. The Interstates were just beginning to be built in the 1950's, and chain restaurants hadn't caught-on yet, so it was the Burma-Shave signs that broke the monotony of the long, hot days in the car. For those of you who are mature enough to remember, "vapor locks" were also a part of the mix in those years! Our 1950 Ford was especially prone to them! Our trips were the stuff of legend, but I'm still grateful to my folks for showing me the United States "up-close-and-personal."



As a result, I learned early-on that God's world is a complex one. The topography of the land with its ever-changing vistas, the beauty of the mountains, and the endless fields of the mid-west all helped me appreciate the fragile nature of our environment. It is a "sacred gift" from God for God's people. We ignore it at our peril. We're focused on the Covid-19 pandemic now, but we must not forget that our environment also needs our attention - in season and out. It is irreplaceable, and once destroyed, can never be restored. It serves as a constant reminder that we are all stewards of God's Good Earth.



So, stay well, and be safe as we ride out the pandemic from the safety of our homes. It will end, and we will be out and about again relatively soon. We'll open Bethany when it's safe to do so. In the meantime, join us on Sunday morning for Worship at 10:00 a.m. on the web, and stick around for our Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom at 11:00 a.m. Continue to hold each other in prayer and give thanks always for God's presence in our lives!

Grace & Peace

*Kent*

# Homebound of Bethany



Betty Gehman  
Homestead Village,  
1800 Village Circle  
Lancaster, Pa. 17603

Helen Cumpston  
Mennonite Home  
202B Jackson Run  
Lancaster, Pa. 17601

Agnes Taylor  
65 Mill Pond Dr.  
Lancaster PA 17603



- 04/01 Susan Piefer
- 04/02 Frederick Benson
- 04/06 Jim Grossman
- 04/18 Jacqueline Huber
- 04/23 Lori Pickell
- 04/23 Hanh Menger
- 04/27 Elaine Bornstein



- 05/06 Zach Cole
- 05/10 Jane Sweringen
- 05/12 Adam Cole
- 05/13 Susan Fetterman
- 05/16 Jan Moore
- 05/21 Christine Kauffman
- 05/29 Roslynn Martin



- 06/21 Brent Pickell
- 06/27 Michelle Atwater
- 06/28 Julie McCrary
- 06/28 Willa Pedrick