

Bethany Presbyterian Church
25 N. West End Ave.
Lancaster, PA 17603
Phone: 717-393-2690
www.lancasterbethany.org

January & February 2021
Volume 23, Issue 1



News of Bethany

Gracias, Merci, Danka, THANKS...



Thanks for Worship...

However you express it, the Bethany family extends a heart-felt word of grateful appreciation for making meaningful worship experiences available throughout 2020 whether in person or online. Kudos to Kent, Erin, Meredith, Derek and the chancel choir for your dedication. Your

thought, planning, talent, time and love enriched and strengthened our faith and lives.

Thanks for Decorating...

Many Thanks to the "Bethany Elves" who transformed our church into a wonderful visual celebration for the Advent and Christmas Season.



Thanks for Giving...

The Giving Tree tradition for proving gifts to members of our community has continued. Fifteen gift cards will be going to Residents of Conestoga view. Seven members of the Almanza family from Resurrection Chapel are receiving clothing plus a grocery gift card. Thanks to the caring generosity of the Bethany family for making this holiday special



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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Bethany News & Notes

Special Dates in January/February 2021

New Year's Day
Friday, January 1

Epiphany
Wednesday, January 6



Baptism of the Lord
Sunday, January 10

**Martin Luther
King Jr. Day**
Monday, January 18



**Valentine's Day &
Transfiguration Sunday**
Sunday, February 14

President's Day
Monday, February 15

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 17



In-Person Worship

Many of you have been asking when we will be returning to "In-Person Worship." The Session is pleased to announce that Bethany Presbyterian Church will be returning to "In-Person Worship" on Sunday, March 7, 2021. The Session wants to wait until the Covid-19 Vaccines have been made readily available to more members of our congregation before opening again. By then, the cold and flu season should be behind us, as well.

The main concern of the Session is the health and safety of you, our congregation. Opening before the vaccines are readily available would put the congregation at risk unnecessarily. Until then, we will continue our services of Worship on-demand at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. The services will remain available for viewing on our website, lanasterbethany.org, throughout the following week. If you have any questions or comments about this decision, please contact Rev. Holmes. **Thank you for your understanding!**



Ash Wednesday Worship

Due to the Coronavirus Epidemic, our annual Ash Wednesday Service will not be “in-person” this year but on-demand. That said, the Worship Committee feels it is still important for our congregation to celebrate the beginning of the Season of Lent in the traditional manner. To that end, a packet of Ashes will be sent to each household in our congregation in order that we may participate in the Service of Ashes. We request that you prepare your own Communion Elements. Instructions will be given at the opening of the service to inform you about the flow of the liturgy. It is our hope that all of our families and friends will participate in this celebration of the 2021 Season of Lent. The service will be available on-demand throughout the day of Ash Wednesday.



A Movie Review for the New Year

Time for our first movie review for the Year 2021! Yes, some of us have ventured out into the world of the “silver screen” to see what Hollywood has in store for us. A new project from Tom Hanks bodes well for the New Year. “News of the World,” is a wonderful new film, filled with old fashioned action and great storytelling. Hanks, a former Captain in the Union Army, sets out to make his living reading the news to the residents of the small communities which dot west Texas. A young white girl who was rescued and raised by Native Americans becomes Hanks charge. The story unfolds in an exciting and loving way. Filmed in New Mexico, the scenery is worth the price of admission! It’s a movie well worth seeing on the “Big Screen!” Five “popcorns” on the Popcorn Meter.



From Pastor Kent's Desk

Like most of you, I, too, was saddened and shocked by the events which took place on Wednesday, January 6th, atop Capitol Hill. It is usually a rather pro-forma day which occurs every four years without much fanfare or drama other than the counting of the Electoral College votes. None of us was prepared for the viciousness of the riot which occurred that day. We're used to seeing those types of images from other parts of the globe, not from the District of Columbia. What really bothered me, though, was this insurrection took place on the Epiphany of the Lord, a sacred day in the life of the church – not a day for death and destruction.

Norman Shawchuck writes:

"Epiphany is the day and season in the church year when we patiently watch and listen as God is quietly revealed before us once again. Sometimes, even when we try hard to do so, we just don't see God in our everyday lives or in the events of our world. **Epiphany gives us the time and the resources to watch, wait, listen, look, and anticipate the light, life, and truth of the Lord's presence in our midst.**"



I did not hear a single news commentator or read one op-ed writer who acknowledged the fact that January 6th is the Day of Epiphany, the day which celebrates the arrival of the Magi at the Manger! Not one! I know we are no longer even the marginal "Christian Nation" we claim to be, but you'd think someone would have alluded to the stark contrast of the day's events and the religious significance of Epiphany.

As Shawchuck wrote above: "Sometimes, even when we try hard to do so, we just don't see God in our everyday lives or in the events of our world." We have become secularists! The dichotomy between the rage of the events which happened on Capitol Hill and the intrinsic meaning of Epiphany was completely lost on the nation as a whole. And that, my friends, is the real tragedy! God is in our midst in the form of the Risen Christ and we can no longer recognize him!

The church has its work cut out for it! Shawchuck again: "Epiphany gives us the time and the resources to watch, wait, listen, look, and anticipate the light, life, and truth of the Lord's presence." It is incumbent upon us as contemporary Christians to open our eyes and unstop our ears so we can again see and hear the Christ in our midst. I would submit that there needs to be a renewal of decency and honor in our nation. Enough of the back-biting, the lies, and the deceit. It is time to pull back from the precipice of ennui and despair and walk in the Light of Christ, bringing hope, abundance, community, joy, and peace to the world. Only then can we hope to regain equipoise and harmony! Blessings to you all in this Season of Epiphany.



Grace & Peace,

Kent



1/11 Brett Cole
 1/17 Maurine Smith
 1/19 Kathryn Rine
 1/27 Adeline Henderson
 1/27 Agnes Taylor
 1/31 Wendy Miller



2/3 Linda Eckman
 2/7 Mitzi Menge
 2/14 David Paxson
 2/19 Michele DeBord
 2/25 Larry Doyle



PRAYER REQUESTS

Polly Snyder & Agnes Taylor

Prayer Partners

It's Time...to sign up to be a Prayer Partner in 2021. We have just lived through one of the most different and difficult years in our lifetime. You may discover that participating in this meaningful ministry is just the blessing you need. Use the enclosed form on the last page to join—or rejoin – fill it out and return it to Betty Duncan, 611 Fairview Drive, Lancaster, PA 17603 ASAP. Questions? Call Betty at 717.393.9029.

Attn: 2020 Prayer Partners: Because of the ongoing pandemic, there will be no luncheon this winter. Choose the way you want to let your prayer partner know your identity.– perhaps with a call or a card (Valentine's day?).



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



Sunday, January 17, 2021 - Second Sunday After Epiphany

The Message: "An Intimate Relationship" Scripture: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Preaching: Rev. Holmes Services will be On-Demand at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 24, 2021 - Third Sunday After Epiphany

The Message: "Follow Me" Scripture: Mark 1:14-20

Preaching: Rev. Holmes Services will be On-Demand at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 31, 2021 - Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

The Message: "With Authority" Scripture: Mark 1:21-28

Preaching: Rev. Holmes Services will be On-Demand at 10:00 a.m.



Sunday, February 7, 2021 - Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

The Message: "The Miracle of Healing" Scripture: Mark 1:29-39

Preaching: Rev. Holmes Services will be On-Demand at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 14, 2021 - Transfiguration of the Lord

The Message: "On a High Mountain" Scripture: Mark 9:2-9

Preaching: Rev. Holmes Services will be On-Demand at 10:00 a.m.



Wednesday, February 17, 2021 - Ash Wednesday

Recorded Service of Ashes at 7:00 p.m. (See Newsletter Article)

Sunday, February 21, 2021 - First Sunday in Lent

The Message: "Into the Wilderness" Scripture: Mark 1:9-15

Preaching: Rev. Holmes Services will be On-Demand at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 28, 2021 - Second Sunday in Lent

The Message: "Self-Denial" Scripture: Mark 8:31-38




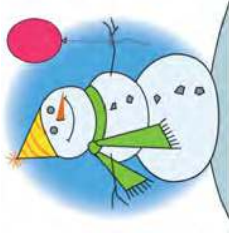




Preaching: Rev. Holmes

Services will be On-Demand at 10:00 a.m.





January 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 10:00 A.M. Online Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	4	5	6 Epiphany 10:00 A.M. The Wired Word 	7	8	9
10 Baptism of the Lord 10:00 A.M. Online Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection 	11	12	13 10:00 A.M. The Wired Word	14	15	16 6:45 P.M. White Deer Run
17 10:00 A.M. Online Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	18 MLK Day 	19	20 10:00 A.M. The Wired Word	21	22	23
24/31 10:00 A.M. Online Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	25	26	27 10:00 A.M. The Wired Word	28	29	30
31 10:00 A.M. Online Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection						



February 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 10:00 A.M. The Wired Word	4	5	6
7 10:00 A.M. Online Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	8	9	10 10:00 A.M. The Wired Word	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day & Transfiguration 10:00 A.M. Online Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	15 President's Day 	16	17 Ash Wed. On-Demand Worship 10:00 A.M. The Wired Word 	18	19	20 6:45 P.M. White Deer Run
21 10:00 A.M. Online Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	22	23	24 10:00 A.M. The Wired Word	25	26	27
28 10:00 A.M. Online Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection						

Bethany Prayer Partners



Sign-up to be a Prayer Partner

If you would like to participate in the ministry of being a prayer partner to a loved one here in our congregation, please sign-up on the sheet below and return it to Betty Duncan, 611 Fairview Drive, Lancaster, PA 17603 ASAP.

*Being a Prayer Partner is such a rewarding and fun experience. Prayer Partners are asked to remember their "friend" in prayer. Prayer Partners also send remembrances by way of cards and notes for **birthdays, anniversaries, special occasions, holidays, or illness**. In addition, there may be ideas you may have of conveying kindness to your "friend". The fun part is that you sign all your cards and notes, **"Your Prayer Partner from Bethany Presbyterian Church"**. At the end of one year at a gathering, you will be able to reveal who you are to your special "friend". Prayer Partners includes all members of Bethany Presbyterian Church both women and men alike.*

Prayer Partner

Name: _____

Favorite Scripture: _____

Favorite Color: _____ **Birthday:** _____

Favorite Holiday: _____

Special Interests/Hobbies: _____

Anniversary/Special Occasions: _____

Prayer Requests or concerns: _____