

**Bethany Presbyterian Church**  
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**March 2021**  
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# News of Bethany

## Back to Church We Go

The Session of Bethany Presbyterian Church is pleased to announce the return to “in-person” Worship on Sunday, March 21. The Session believes that with vaccinations more readily available, and our ability to “distance” in the Sanctuary, it is time to return. For those persons preferring to remain quarantined, we will continue to record our “live” worship services. These recordings will be available for viewing the following Monday.

Our return on March 21 will enable us to celebrate both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday worship “in person.” The Chancel Singers will also return “in person,” but will be masked and

distanced when performing. We will not be singing the hymns, but rather the Chancel Singers will sing them for us. So, plan now to join us in Worship on Sunday, March 21 as we come together to Worship the Risen Christ!



### *Mission Statement:*

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

### Inside this issue

<b>Birthdays .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Prayer Requests...</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Homebound List...</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Pastor's Page ... ..</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>OGHS Offering .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Worship Schedule/ Participants .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Calendar .....</b>	<b>6</b>

## Special Dates in March/April 2021

**Daylight Saving**  
Sunday, March 14



**St. Patrick's Day**  
Wednesday, March 17

**First Day of Spring**  
Saturday, March 20



**Palm/Passion Sunday**  
Sunday, March 28

**Maundy Thursday**  
Thursday, April 1

**Good Friday**  
Friday, April 2



**Easter Sunday**  
Sunday, April 4

## Bethany News & Notes

**MARCH**



03/04

03/12

03/17

03/20

03/23

03/25

**Helen Cumpston**

**Gene Moore**

**Donald Risser**

**Donald Piefer**

**Patricia Rineer**

**Marcia Trach**

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**Polly Snyder &  
Agnes Taylor**



## 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





Here it is March 1st already! The wind is blowing outside – a good day for kite flying. (Maybe a little too strong!) Growing up, I always flew kites every spring. Kite flying is an exacting sport – the ratio of tail to kite is of utmost importance, and if you get it wrong, you never get off the ground! I ran miles trying to get kites up into the air, until some wise adult showed me how to do it: you get a good long string lead, have someone hold the kite, get a running start, release it, and up it goes! Less exercise, but much better results! It was a blast!

Don't see many kids flying kites anymore. Kind of a lost art akin to Yo-Yo's. I still remember the contests we had at school every year, sponsored by the Duncan Yo-Yo Company. In my prime, I had a pretty good catalogue of tricks. I never won any contests, but I didn't embarrass myself in the school yard, either! The contests were pretty cut-throat as I remember, but fun none-the-less!

Writing this makes me feel ancient! But there was a simplicity and grace to both kites and Yo-Yo's. Both were art forms, actually! Neither required any special technical electronic devices or expensive games. And they could easily be done face-to-face with a group of friends or by yourself. Radically different from the "semi-professional" traveling teams that the kids are involved in today. I don't ever remember being scouted by a college for my kite flying ability when I was in junior high!

Where am I going with all of this? Simply this: There are times when we make following Jesus an academic pursuit or a conundrum that evades solving. In reality, Jesus speaks, we listen. Jesus calls, we follow. It's just that simple. Too often, though, we go down rabbit trails in search of the "real Jesus" when he's right there in front of us, smiling and engaging with us at every turn. Jesus wants to be in relationship with us. Jesus wants us to embrace the Good News of the Gospel with every fiber of our being. Going down rabbit trails in search of Jesus can only end in frustration and heartache. It is in the light of day, when we "re-order" and "re-wire" our hearts and minds, that we see the real Jesus: God's Son, Our Savior.



Use this Season of Lent to spend time in prayer and contemplation, enabling God to cut through all the noise and the gamesmanship which is so prevalent in today's culture. It is in the simplicity of the silence that we hear God speaking to us personally, inviting us to the journey and to the peace which comes when we follow Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. We don't need anything special for the journey – only a good pair of walking shoes, and a willingness to leave all of the other "stuff" behind. When we do, we see our way clear to follow the Christ wherever he leads! It's as easy as flying a kite!

Grace & Peace, *Kent*



## Because We Are the Church, Together



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Life during COVID has been challenging. That feels like an understatement, right? At times, we have all felt disconnected, confined. Missing family, missing friends. Lonely. Worried about the groceries holding out. Unsure of what the future may hold. Imagine feeling all of those things but living in a place or in a situation that was already challenging each and every day without the added pressure of the pandemic. A place where access to food is day to day. Access to vital health care is questionable. Finding clean water is a daily struggle. A place where you are denied racial justice or plagued with outright violence and oppression.

But one thing remains steadfast and true: We are the Church, together, no matter where we are, and the Church belongs with those struggling for justice, righteousness and **peace- for life.**

*Because food is life ...* gifts to OGHS are helping the people of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota through a partnership with Owe Aku — a grassroots, nonprofit organization that puts people in charge of their own food supply, nutrition, health and well-being by reclaiming ancestral wisdom and teaching Lakota history and culture. The Pine Ridge Reservation is a food desert, located in the county with the lowest per capita income in the nation. The pandemic has dramatically amplified the desperate need for food security.

*Because water is life ...* gifts to OGHS are helping the families of Capirendita in a remote area of Bolivia face a more hopeful future by building infrastructure to address the communities' critical water shortage. Their goal is to create 500 meters of pipes to transport safe well water to those in need. OGHS gifts will also support the distribution of plastic containers to collect and save rainwater.

*Because survivors are key to shaping lives focused on justice for all ...* gifts to OGHS are helping Black Women's Blueprint in its mission to take action on social justice issues and to deliver educational resources and support services to women, including those who have suffered sexual and other forms of abuse. Their work seeks to address the unique struggles of Black women and girls within the context of the larger racial justice concerns. They're not just addressing issues of trauma but they're also providing things like food and housing assistance that people need in order to be whole.

The Special Offerings of the PC(USA), including OGHS, offer the whole Church a way to embody Matthew 25 through the Spirit-inspired stories and gifts that place us in service and partnership with those who have least. Our gifts directly support people experiencing hunger, homelessness, thirst, imprisonment, sickness and deprivation, as well as welcoming the stranger. OGHS is the largest way that Presbyterians come together in mission and ministry with those whom we see are in need.



Our congregation will be receiving the OGHS Offering on Palm Sunday and/or Easter Sunday. You've received an OGHS envelope with this mailing. Please place your offering in the OGHS envelope and bring it with you on either Sunday. In advance, thank you for your generosity and support of this important traditional offering!



# WORSHIP



## **Sunday, March 7, 2021 - Third Sunday in Lent**

The Message: "Overturning Tables" Scripture: John 2:13-22

Preaching: Rev. Holmes

## **Sunday, March 14, 2021 - Fourth Sunday in Lent**

The Message: "God So Loved" Scripture: John 3:14-21

Preaching: Rev. Holmes

## **Sunday, March 21, 2021 - Fifth Sunday in Lent**

The Message: "The Law Within" Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Preaching: Rev. Holmes



## **Sunday, March 28, 2021 - Palm/Passion Sunday**

Liturgy of the Palms & Proclamation of the Passion

**Reception of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**



**Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Maundy Thursday**

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Erin S. Cox-Holmes

Celebration of the Lord's Supper



**Sunday, April 4, 2021**

**Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday**







The Message: "Jesus Is Risen"

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8 Preaching: Rev. Holmes

**Reception of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**



# March 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 1 6:45 P.M. Boy Scouts	2	3 10:00 A.M. The Wired Word	4	5	6	
7 Third Sunday of Lent  10:00 A.M. Online Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	9	10 10:00 A.M. The Wired Word	11	12	13	
14 Daylight Saving/ Fourth Sunday of Lent  10:00 A.M. Online Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	16	17 St. Patrick's Day  10:00 A.M. The Wired Word	18	19	20 Spring Arrives 6:45 P.M. White Deer Run	
21 Fifth Sunday of Lent  10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	23	24 10:00 A.M. The Wired Word	25	26	27	
28 Palm Sunday  10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	30	31 10:00 A.M. The Wired Word	