



February 2013

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

8:00 am Traditional Service
 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Contemporary Service (childcare provided)

The American Church—Circa 2013

If he could transport himself through time, I often wonder what the Apostle Paul would think of the 21st century American church. I doubt whether he would entertain complaints about the length of the services, the friendliness of the church, the too hot or too cold temperatures, or the style of music. These things are results of our American culture—yes, they are unique to us Americans. For too many other places in this world, their primary concerns are safety, health, and shelter— not comfortable conditions.

I wouldn't doubt that Paul might remind us about our self-absorbed society with these sobering words: *Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me, I am not going to go back on that.*

- Galatians 2:20 (The Message)

It makes me wonder what we think we are accomplishing as the American Church. Growth statistics report that generally most new growth that is seen in American churches is made up of large groups of Christians seeking newer and better offerings of the church—they are typically seeking better preaching, better music, better classes, better fellowship, better energy, or better facilities, but they are not generally seeking a "crucified life." So now, I ask, "How are we living crucified lives?"

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT December 2012

Budgeted*	\$380,285.00
Income*	\$381,279.00
Expenses*	\$377,212.00

*Figures exclude building fund transfers for renovation expenses.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

January 6th - March 31st, 2013

Gathering at 9:15 am—Start time 9:30 am

1 The New Problem of Evil, thoughts from N.T. Wright - led by Lisa Delay in the café. N.T. Wright confronts some of the major "evil" issues of our time--from tsunamis to AIDS--and puts them under the biblical spotlight. There IS a solution to the problem of evil, he says, if only we have the honesty and courage to name it and understand it for what it is.

2 Respectable Sins - led by Connie Wright in the library. Have Christians become so preoccupied with the major sins of our society that we have lost sight of our need to deal with our own more subtle sins? This study by Jerry Bridges addresses specific "acceptable" sins that we tend to tolerate in ourselves—such as jealousy, anger, pride, ungratefulness, and judgmentalism. The message of hope to overcome our subtle sins lies in the profound mercy of the gospel and the transforming grace of God.

Jan 6th—Feb 24th

3 Jesus is Lord - led by a rotation of leaders in the sanctuary. Emphasis will be on...

Victory in Jesus Exalting Christ
 Imitating Jesus



What's for Dinner Wednesdays

February 6th & 20th, 2013

Dinner served: 5:30—6:15 pm

Come enjoy the fellowship.

(Adults \$3.00 Kids \$1.00 Family cost \$10.00 max)

After dinner there are small groups for ladies & men as well as Awana for the youth.



Want Abundant Joy?



Find out how at a JoyShop!

This simple but powerful workshop for women will address many of the issues you may struggle with in finding abundance in your spiritual life. You will leave energized and equipped with a practical plan for

Seeking God First Daily!

Joy is guaranteed!

When: Friday, February 15 to Sunday, February 17, 2013
Day and overnight options available.

Where: Kenbrook Bible Camp, 190 Pine Meadow Road,
Lebanon, PA 17046

Visit www.joyshop.org for more details on the speaker!

There is still time to Register...

Sign-up at the welcome counter.



Just Older Youth

Open to adults 18+

No meetings until April



BYM Meets on

Sunday's at 6 pm

Jr. High in the Youth Room

Sr. High in the Library

Feb 3rd - Super Bowl Football Game w/UMC

Feb 10th - No Meeting - BYM Luncheon

Feb 17th - Regular Meeting

Feb 24th - Regular Meeting

March 1-2 - 30 Hour Famine

BYM will be hosting a **Baked Potato & Taco Bar Luncheon**

immediately following 2nd service on **Sunday, Feb 10th**. Come support the ministry of Bethesda Youth as we provide you with a spectacular lunch. Love Offerings will be accepted, all proceeds benefit BYM. Thank you for your continued support!!!



A **youth membership class** will continue to meet on Saturdays at 10 am and will meet through Mar 9th. Any student in 8th grade or above. Please see Pastor Jeff.

All articles for events held during March 1 through April 5th, should be submitted by the **10th of February** in order to be included in our **March issue**. Please do your best to get your information in on time. Thank you.



Every Monday 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Bethesda @ The Corner
(Rts. 183 & 443)

Feb 4 - Inside Terrorism

Feb 11 - Is Marriage Obsolete

Feb 18 - The Art of Listening

Feb 25 - HELL Does it really exist?



Every
Wednesday,
7:30 pm Library

Prayer Meeting

Join other church members to pray for the needs of our community and congregation.

Awana on Wed Nights
@ 6:30—8:00 pm for children
in Kindergarten thru 5th grade.



Feb 10th & 24th
1:30 - 3:30 pm Library

GriefShare is a support group for those who have lost a spouse, child, family member or friend. Video vignettes, group discussion, personal study, and reflection are part of healing. Call Paul at 570-294-0778 or Marcia Schlosser at 570-739-2889 for more information.



**CELEBRATE
RECOVERY**

Every Tuesday
6:30 - 8:00 pm

We will be meeting @ the Corner of Rte 443 & Rte 183. Celebrate Recovery® is designed to help those struggling with hurts, hang-ups, and habits by showing them the loving power of Jesus Christ through the recovery process. The program is based on eight principles from the Beatitudes and the Twelve Steps (i.e. AA) and their biblical comparisons. A limitless number of issues can be dealt with through the program such as chemical addictions, overspending; anger; overeating; need to control; fear/anxiety and more! For more information, please call the church office at 739-2241.

Crochet Circle ... Feb 11th & 25th
@ 6:30 pm at the home of Cheryl Bender.



Men's Monthly Fellowship Breakfast
2nd Saturday of each month, **8 am** at the **Friedensburg Country Restaurant** (Rte 443) in Friedensburg. All men are welcome, no need to sign up.