



## December 2013

### Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

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

### congregational meeting



**Sunday, December 8th**

All church members are asked to attend this meeting where important discussions will shape the 2014 ministry.

**Combined Worship Service: 10:30 am**

Meal: 11:30 am (please bring a dish to share)

Meeting: 12:30 pm

### FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

October 2013

Budgeted	\$286,612.00
Income	\$276,457.00
Expenses*	\$280,488.00

\*\$10,000 has been placed in reserves.

## Christmas @ Bethesda

**Christmas Card Distribution by BYM Now through Dec. 22nd**, just drop your cards for your Bethesda family members in the Collection Box and BYM teens will deliver them! No postage needed...but a donation to BYM would be appreciated!



**Children's Christmas Party Sat, Dec. 14th, 9:30 - 11:15 am, Common Ground.** Happy Birthday, Jesus! Kids, ages 2-10, enjoy fun, games, songs, light lunch and a visit from Santa. Plus, kids will practice their parts for the Children's Christmas Program.

**JOY Christmas Party Sat, Dec. 14th - 5:30 pm, Common Ground, Open to all 18+.** See back for more information.

**Children's Christmas Program, Sun, Dec. 15th, 9:15 am** Instead of regular Sunday School, the children and youth will fill the Sanctuary with the spirit of Christmas.

**Christmas Cantata, Sun, Dec. 15th, 3 pm** Everyone is invited to this year's Christmas cantata, **And on earth...Peace.** A time of fellowship and light refreshments will follow. Invite family and friends to hear the Christmas story in song.

**BYM Christmas Party, Sun, Dec 15th, 6 pm** More information to follow.

**Christmas Caroling, Sat, Dec 21st, 6 pm** "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" for a night of caroling to local nursing homes and hospitals. Sign up at the welcome center.

**Christmas Eve Service, Tues, Dec. 24, 7 pm**

**Thank you** to members and friends of Bethesda EC Church for your donations, as well the Cub Scout Pack for the food drive held on November 9th. From these two events over 700 food items were donated. Surplus food items will be forwarded to the Schuylkill Haven Area Food Pantry for distribution.



If you know of any family members or friends who can be helped during the holidays, please contact Wayne Blankenhorn or Pastor Mark.

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.— Galatians 6:2



### 2014 Winter Semester Small Groups Beginning the week of January 5

#### SUNDAYS

**9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Surfer Room at church (childcare)**  
**FOR WOMEN ONLY-** Led by Sarah Wilhelm – Material TBD

**2 to 4 p.m. 1814 Crazy Horse Drive, Lake Wynonah**  
 Ray Vander Laan study TBD – Hosted and led by Svenson's

**6 to 7:30 p.m. Location TBD Led by Pastor Mark**  
 "The Bait of Satan" by John Bevere possible topic

#### WEDNESDAYS

**6:30 to 8 p.m. Café Room at church (childcare)**  
**FOR WOMEN ONLY**—Growing To Be Like Christ – Led by Norma

**6:30 to 8 p.m. Youth Room at church (childcare)**  
**FOR MEN ONLY**— Men's Fraternity – Led by Pastor Jeff

#### SATURDAYS

**9 to 10:30 a.m. 14 Papoose Drive, Lake Wynonah**  
 Topic TBD – Hosted and led by Marcia Schlosser

Call Janet (570-739-1109), Norma (570-739-2212), or the Church Office (570-739-2241) with questions. Sign-up for a group online at [www.bethesdaec.org](http://www.bethesdaec.org) or at the

#### Surviving the Holidays

Help for those dealing with grief during the holidays. Special presentation, Tue, Dec 10th, in the sanctuary.





The Lord has led **Donna Best** to share with us our **Women's Winter Retreat on Friday, February 14th through Sunday, February 16th, 2014.** Visit [www.donnabest.org](http://www.donnabest.org) to meet her and click on the Weatherproof Seminar to get a feel for her message. **Sign-up sheets are now available at the Welcome Counter!**

**Men's Monthly Fellowship Breakfast  
December 14th @ 8 am**

Friedensburg Country Restaurant (Rte 443) in Friedensburg. All men are welcome. There is no need to sign up.



**Christmas Party  
Open to Adults 18+  
Saturday, December 14th**

Bring a white elephant gift for a "FUN" exchange. Please sign up at the Welcome Counter by Dec. 8. Call Linda at 570-739-4580 with questions.

**December  
Upcoming Events**



- December 1st** - Visitation @ Seton Manor
  - December 8th** - Regular Meeting
  - December 15th** - Christmas Party
  - December 22nd** - Movie Night (Blue Christmas)
  - December 29th** - No Meeting
- BYM is open to all students in 6th - 12th grades. Meeting in the Library.



**Community Prayer Ministry  
Sunday, December 22nd @ the Corner  
6:15 to 7:30 pm**

Contact Norma Minnich (570-739-2122) or Shelley Hikes (570-739-4049) with questions or for more information.

**Crochet Circle ...**

**December 9th & 23rd** at the home of Cheryl Bender.



**Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace**  
Classes will be held Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm starting Wednesday, January 8th. Please sign-up on-line or at the Welcome Counter.

**Remembrance Service  
Sun, Dec 22nd 6-7 pm**

To include a picture of your family member in the memorial video, please send a picture with their name and death date on the back and family for whom they belong. - Drop off in the church office.

**Any questions, contact Marcia @ [schlusser7@verizon.net](mailto:schlusser7@verizon.net).**



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

- Dec 3** - The Art of Listening
- Dec 10** - What People Really Think of Christians and Why
- Dec 17** - Overcoming Hardship
- Dec 24** - Body Language
- Dec 31** - Does God Have a Plan for You?

**Prayer Meeting**

Join other church members to pray for the needs of our community and congregation. **Every Wednesday @ 7:30 pm in the Library**



**December 8th & 22nd  
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 Schlusser at 570-739-2889 for more information.



**Every Tuesday @ the  
Corner 6:30 - 8:00 pm**

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.

**ENCOUNTER RETREAT**

**2014**

**TRUTH**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ~ Hebrews 13:8

**Jan 17th-19th @ Camp Hebron**

Sign up at the Welcome Counter starting Nov 4th  
Cost is \$95 pp by Dec 9th; \$110 thereafter. Questions?  
Contact Pastor Mark or Dawn Koch.



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

**A copy of this newsletter can also be found on-line at [www.bethesdaec.org](http://www.bethesdaec.org).**

## PRAYER CONCERNS

*December 2013*

**Please Note – All prayer concerns will be listed for one month and then removed. If you would like your prayer concern to be continued longer than a month, you must contact the church office or Pastor Mark. Thank you!**

### **Personal**

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Brenda Baurer (cancer)	Nancy Lehr (recovery)
Susie Belsak (cancer)	Kelly Messina (transplant)
Rick Berdianier (recovery)	Erika Minnich (TRAPS)
Evelyn Berger (eyes)	Dolly Natel (comfort)
Bonnie Betz (pain)	Jake Petrone (recovery)
Trudi Bux (cancer)	Johnny Pliler (recovery)
Irene Connelly (recovery)	Alexandria Rader (recovery)
Mary Dietz (cancer)	Bonnie Richards (cancer)
Joanne Forbes (cancer)	Mark Sanford (cancer)
Bob Harr (recovery)	Adam Strohl (support)
Eddie Heim (cancer)	Megan Strohl (recovery)
Peg Heim (recovery)	Flo Walton (back)
James Hein (cancer)	Patsy Weaver (recovery)
Edith Houtz (hip)	Alan Woomert (recovery)
Edna Huegel (stroke)	Harry Young (mixed dementia)
Eleanor Jamison (recovery)	
Steve Kay (stroke)	
Joe Kocher (cancer)	

### **Family**

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Mary Boyer family (loss)	<del>Mary Moyer family (loss)</del>
Benita Burwell family (loss)	Kathy Schaeffer family (transition)
Warren Kerschner family (loss)	Molly Scheese family (recovery)
Roy (Bud) Luckenbill, Jr family (loss)	Marilyn Shoaf family (loss)
	Alan Wolfe family (loss)

### **Military**

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Josh Behler (Air Force)	Thomas Perkins (Army)
Keith Drummer (FBI)	Joseph Renninger (Army Reserve)
Brandon Huntzinger (Army)	Steven J Russell-Rhen (Army)
Benjamin Kilmer (National Guard)	Zach Siple (Coast Guard)
Luke Long (National Guard)	Jake Stoudt (Air Force)
Luke Long, Jr. (National Guard)	Joe Sweigart (Army)
Nicole Perkins (Army)	

### **Shut-ins**

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Margaret Bender	Martha Koenig
Dorothy Blankenhorn	M. Jean Luckenbill (recovery)
Joyce Brown	Hazel Minnich
Bert Heydt	Errol Russel
Virginia Hoover	

### **Local, National, and Global Interests**

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Rev. Randy Sizemore, Director of Global Ministries  
Church Health, Church Planting, Leadership, Evangelism, and Discipleship  
Joe & Wendy Toy, Open Air Ministries, Philadelphia  
President Barack Obama, US Military Forces.