



December 2015

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

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

Christmas at Bethesda



Christmas Card Distribution by BYM Sun, Nov 29th thru Fri, Dec 18th - BYM will be collecting Christmas Cards for distribution within the congregation of Bethesda. Simply place your cards in the mailbox located outside the upper, single door entrance of the church – we will take care of the rest. If you would like to make a donation in place of stamps to Bethesda Youth Ministries, it would be greatly appreciated!!!

Ultimate Christmas Party & Pancake Breakfast Sat, Dec 5th, 8:30 to 11:00 am - Children ages 4 through 5th grade are invited for a free pancake breakfast followed by an awesome Christ-centered Christmas party..Bible truths, songs, games, crafts!! Pre-register your child or grandchild on-line @ bethesdaec.org.

Christmas Musical Dress Rehearsal & Lunch Sat, Dec. 12th, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Christmas Caroling, Sat, Dec 12th, Time TBA - "O Come All Ye Faithful" for an afternoon of caroling to local nursing homes and hospitals. Sign up at the Welcome Counter starting Nov 29th.

JOY Christmas Party & Dinner Sat, Dec. 12th, 5:30 pm, in the Common Ground, Open to all 18+. See back for more information.

"The Best Christmas Present Ever" Sun, Dec. 13th, 9:15 am
 Instead of regular Sunday School, come join us in the Sanctuary for a Christmas musical performed by the children and youth of Bethesda!

Griefshare Surviving the Holidays Sun, Dec 13th, 1:30 pm in the Library - Special presentation for to help those dealing with grief during the holidays.

BYM Secret Santa & Ugly Sweater Christmas Party, Sun, Dec 13th, 6 pm - More information to follow.

Christmas Cantata, Sat, Dec 19th, 3 pm - Everyone is invited to this year's Christmas cantata, **Celebrate the Wonder**. A time of fellowship and light refreshments will follow. Invite family and friends to join us! Snowdate: Sun, Dec 20th, 3 pm.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, Thu, Dec. 24th, 7 pm

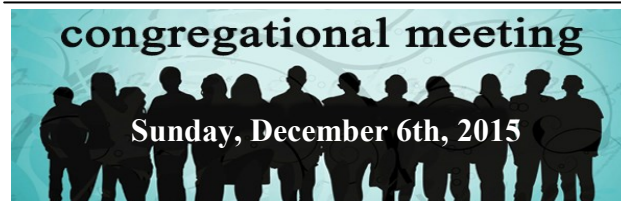


Please join the Schuylkill Haven American Legion and Auxiliary Post 38 as they welcome the Wreaths Across America Convoy and place wreaths at the Vietnam Memorials on Route 61 in Schuylkill Haven on **Monday, December 7th @ 12 noon**.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT October 2015

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Income	\$307,698	\$307,579	(\$119)
Expenses	\$307,004	\$296,622	\$10,382
To Reserves	\$2,067	\$10,000 (Net)	\$7,933

*Excludes building fund transfers



All church members are asked to attend this meeting where important discussions will shape the 2016 ministries.

Combined Worship Service: 10:30 am
Meal: 11:30 am (please bring a dish to share)
Meeting: 12:30 pm

Adult Sunday School Opportunities
 Starting **January 3rd**



1 WEIRD!! Because Normal Isn't Working - by Craig Groeschal led by Dean Boyer in the Library. Normal people are stressed, overwhelmed, and exhausted. Many have strained relationships. Groeschal covers time, money, relationships, sex, and values. If we want to be better than normal, we must move from good intentions to God's intentions. Maybe, it's time for you to get weird.

2 Be Successful! - by Warren Wiersbe led by Joel Holubec in the Café. This book looks at I Samuel and the striking contrasts between succeeding God's way and trying to achieve goals by any means necessary. This book examines the life of King David and shares how we can find true success through our character, conduct and lifestyle. Read I Samuel 1-3 for the first class.

3 Sacred Gifts and Holy Gatherings - led by a rotation of leaders in the sanctuary. Emphasis will be on Pentateuch; Song of Solomon; Hosea; and Gospels.



Stay tuned for more information as we accept donations for **My Father's House**, a day center for homeless in downtown Pottsville, **from December 6th through December 20th**.



Save the Date!!!

*Women of Bethesda Annual Retreat
April 1-3, 2016
Kenbrook Bible Camp, Lebanon, PA*

**The Balancing Act...Body, Soul & Spirit
With Danna Demetre**



Savings banks are now available at the Welcome Counter. For more information, please visit the Welcome Counter or contact Norma Minnich at 570-617-0931.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Saturday, **December 12th @ 8 am**
Friedensburg Family Restaurant.



Christmas Party & Dinner
Saturday, December 12th
5:30 pm in the Common Ground

All adults 18+ are welcome! Bring a white elephant gift for a fun exchange! \$6.00 per person. Questions?
Linda Bollinger @ 570-739-4580

Upcoming Events:



- December 6th** - Digging Deeper
- December 13th** - Secret Santa/Ugly Sweater Christmas Party
- December 20th** - Digging Deeper
- December 27th** - Celebrate with your family & friends

Encounter Retreat, 2016 – God, Unicorns and Aliens

When: January 15-17, 2016
Where: Camp Hebron, Halifax, PA
Cost: \$110.00 if register before December 7th
BYM Deadline: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 – Registration form, Camp Hebron release form, \$110.00.

Work Camp 2016 – Big Creek Missions, Bear Branch, KY, July 24-30th: We have 15 students and 5 adult chaperones committed to this trip. Please pray for us as we gradually prepare for this exciting journey!!!

BYM is open to all students in 6th thru 12th grades.
Questions should be directed to Dawn Koch at 570-691-6457 or Pastor Mark at 570-573-2824.



Will resume during our Winter Semester Small Groups starting on January 13th.



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.

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



- December 7** - "I Disagree!" How to Have A Healthy Argument
- December 14** - Pursuing an Audacious Life
- December 21** - The Spirit of Santa
- December 28** - Schindler's Youngest Survivor Speaks



Dec 13th & 27th
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 for more information.

Crochet Circle on December 14th and 28th
at the home of Cheryl Bender.



2016 Winter Semester Small Groups
Beginning the week of January 10th
More Information to Follow

SUNDAYS

2 to 4 p.m. Bethesda @The Corner (Intersection 443/183)
Death and Resurrection of the Messiah with Ray Vander Laan – Hosted and led by the Svenson's.

TUESDAYS

6:30 to 8 p.m. 109 Sunset Drive, Bernville
ON HIATUS FOR THE WINTER SEMESTER – WILL RESUME IN THE SPRING finishing *The Gospel of James (Life Lessons)* by Max Lucado – Led by Jeff Hain.

WEDNESDAYS

6:30 to 8 p.m. Library at church (childcare)
FOR WOMEN ONLY – *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancey – Led by Norma Minnich.

6:30 to 8 p.m. Youth Room at church (childcare)
FOR MEN ONLY – *Playing God* by Andy Crouch - Led by Pastor Jeff.

Call Janet (570- 573-9997), Norma (570-617-0931), or the Church Office (570-739-2241) with questions.

PRAYER CONCERNS

December 2015

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

Deb Babb (eye)
Butch Blankenhorn (cancer)
Joe Conway (recovery)
Grace Derr (recovery)
Fred Fannelli (cancer)
Emily Haddix (surgery 12/2)
Gary Hess, Sr (recovery)
Brian Irwin (lung cancer)
Jacob Jamison (recovery)
Sharon Kissinger (recovery)
Phillip Leibensperger (recovery)
Bill Leymeister (transplant)
Andrea Long (tests)
Manny Lopez (recovery)
Joan Luckenbill (hospice)
Justin Minnich (recovery)
Sheree Minnich (recovery)
Arlene Moyer (recovery)
Jason Moyer (incarceration)
Brad Murphy (circulation)
Dorothy Natale (comfort)
Amber Pavalko (recovery)
Kendra Perry (pain management)
David Saul (cancer)
Kevin Schneck (kidney failure)
Pamela Stanek (chemo)
Diane Stock (tests)
Tom Stranix (cancer)
Allyson Tebin (leukemia)
Flo Walton (pain)
Patsy Weaver (cancer)
Helen Youse (recovery)
Sandra Zanini (recovery)

Shut-ins

Margaret Bender
Dorothy Blankenhorn
Alice Corby
Bert Heydt
Edith Houtz
Ardith Luckenbill

Military

Josh Behler (Air Force)
Keith Drummer (FBI)
Tosha Fegley (Air Force)
Brandon Huntzinger (Army)
Benjamin Kilmer (National Guard)
Luke Long, Jr. (National Guard)
Jessica Nabholz (Army)

Family

Jesse Albright family (loss)
Joe Bender family (loss)
Gary Koppenhaver family (loss)
Emily Leinheiser family (loss)
Charlotte McDonald family (comfort)
Dorie Reber family (loss)
Esther Ann Steranko family (loss)


Congregational

Celebrate Recovery
Family Hope
Griefshare Ministry
Lifetree Café
L.I.F.E. Prison Ministry



Local, National and Global

Church Health, Church Planting,
Leadership, Evangelism, and
Discipleship
CEF, Schuylkill County
Newly Elected Community Associates:
K. Henry, G. Kuehner, L. Cool, J. Byerly
President Barack Obama
Rev. Bruce Hill, Bishop
US Military Forces
PSP Troop L - Frackville, Schuylkill
Haven & Jonestown



Prayer Meeting
Join us in the **Library**
on Wednesdays at
7:30 pm to pray for the
needs of our community and
congregation.



Community Prayer
Ministry
Sunday, Dec 27 at 6:15 pm
@ the Corner

All articles for events held during **January 1st through February 1st**, 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.
Thank you!

A copy of this newsletter can also be found on-line at www.bethesdaec.org.