



## January 2016

### Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

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



### 2016 Winter Semester Small Groups Beginning the week of January 10th Sign-up starting December 27th

#### 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. Pack your bags. We're going on a journey. A quest to uncover Scripture and its meaning across history. Filmed on location in Israel and throughout the Middle East, the Faith Lessons DVD series is an adventure in biblical learning. You will discover why Jesus turned the world upside down with his compelling call to follow him. The insights you gain will transform your reading of the Gospels and inspire a deeper faith commitment. These Faith Lessons focus on the last week of Jesus' life, his death and resurrection, and the Holy Spirit's visit on Pentecost.

#### 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**

#### 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. A Journey that will expand – and very likely redefine – your understanding of the person, teachings, and life of Jesus Christ. One that will lead you beyond familiar images of Christ to discover Jesus as you've never known him: radical, compelling, compassionate, bold, incisive, and ultimately satisfying.

**6:30 to 8 p.m. Youth Room at church (childcare)**

**FOR MEN ONLY – Playing God by Andy Crouch** - Led by Pastor Jeff. People too often abuse their power and play god in the lives of others. Shady politicians, corrupt executives and ego-filled media stars have made us suspicious of those who wield influence and authority. They too often breed injustice by participating in what the Bible calls idolatry. Yet power is also the means by which we bring life, create possibilities, offer hope and make human flourishing possible. Andy Crouch unpacks the dynamics of power that either can make human flourishing possible or can destroy the image of God in people.

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

Please ask at the Welcome Counter for direction on how to get a free **prayer shawl** that is individually packaged including a gift card and bookmark for you to personally give to someone you know that is going through difficult or challenging circumstances. Each shawl is handcrafted by a woman of Bethesda who begins its creation with prayers and blessings that continue throughout the time the crafter is working with the unique and meaningful color yarn and pattern.



### FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT November 2015

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Income	\$343,477	\$350,524	\$ 7,047
Expenses	\$342,702	\$324,768	\$17,934
To Reserves	\$2,308	\$10,000 (Net)	\$ 7,692

\*Excludes building fund transfers

### 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.



### What's For Dinner Wednesday January 20th Dinner served: 5:30 - 6:15 pm

Menu: To be Announced! Come enjoy the fellowship.  
 Adults \$3.00 Kids \$1.00 (Family cost \$10.00 max)  
 No need to sign-up.

### Congregational Family Feud!!



Survey says . . . Come to a congregational game night on **Sunday, January 31st from 6:00 - 8:00pm** to be part of this game show reality -- you could be a contestant or you could be part of the audience! Your age does not matter. Your IQ does not matter. What matters is that you just want to have fun!!! **See you at the FUED!!!**



**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, January 9th @ 8 am  
Friedensburg Family Restaurant.



**JOY will NOT meet in January**, stay tuned for February meeting details.....

**Upcoming Events:**

- January 3rd - Movie Night
- January 7th - Winter Jam 2016
- January 10th - The Gathering
- January 15th-17th - Encounter Retreat
- January 24th - The Gathering
- January 31st - Congregational Family Feud



**Encounter Retreat '16 - God Unicorns & Aliens** - Friday thru Sunday, January 15th thru 17th at Camp Herbron. Detailed information will be provided to those who are attending.

**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.



Open to all students age 4 to 5th grade. Meets on **Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Common Ground starting on January 13th.** Register on-line or at the Welcome Counter starting December 27th.

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" - Matthew 1:23



**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)



- January 4th - Follow Your Dreams
- January 11th - Tough on Crime
- January 18th - Taking God to Work
- January 25th - Making Peace with Your Past
- February 1st - Why Are You So Hard on Yourself?



**Jan 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 for more information.

**Crochet Circle on January 11th and 18th**  
at the home of Cheryl Bender.



**Youth membership classes** will be starting on **Saturday, January 23rd thru March 12th at 10 am** in the Library. The class is open to any students in 8th grade or above. **Please see Pastor Jeff for more details.**

**Bethesda EC Church Business Directory**



We are working on putting together a directory of all businesses owned /operated by members of Bethesda. Do you own your own business and would like to be included in our Directory? Please complete the form, at the Welcome Counter, and drop it in the basket or place it on the desk in the office.



**YogaTone**

It's yoga and more. You'll be moving on your mat to upbeat music, toning muscles from head to toe and stretching into pure yoga bliss. You'll feel energized and refreshed by the end. **Classes continue Thursdays from 9-10 am and Saturdays from 8:30-9:30 am in the Common Ground. Cost is \$5 per class.** Please contact Melissa Kapushinski at 570-573-5315 or yogafit101@yahoo.com for more information.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

January 2016

**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)  
Daniel Behler (recovery)  
Butch Blankenhorn (cancer)  
Jean Bolton (recovery)  
Carol Boyer (recovery)  
Joe Conway (recovery)  
Alice Corby (recovery)  
Tim Delay (recovery)  
Fred Fannelli (cancer)  
Emily Haddix (recovery)  
Brian Irwin (lung cancer)  
Phillip Leibensperger (recovery)  
Bill Leymeister (transplant)  
Andrea Long (tests)  
Manny Lopez (recovery)  
Joan Luckenbill (hospice)  
Arlene Moyer (recovery)  
Jason Moyer (incarceration)  
Brad Murphy (circulation)  
Dorothy Natale (comfort)  
Amber Pavalko (recovery)  
Kendra Perry (pain management)  
Lori Rothrock (testing)  
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)  
Benjamin Kilmer (National Guard)  
Luke Long, Jr. (National Guard)  
Jessica Nabholz (Army)

### Family

Jesse Albright family (loss)  
Ethel & Ed Bachert family (fire)  
Joe Bender family (loss)  
Charlotte McDonald family (comfort)  
Robert Li Perkins family (birth)  
Dorie Reber family (loss)  
Skyler Wesner family (pre-mature birth)

### Congregational

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



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

### 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



**Community Prayer  
Ministry**

**Sunday, Jan 24th at 6:15 pm  
@ the Corner**

**All articles for events held during February 1st through March 1st, should be submitted by the 10th of January in order to be included in our February 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](http://www.bethesdaec.org).**