



March 2016

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

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

RE-INTRODUCING GOD'S PANTRY



When something is around long enough, it is sometimes forgotten. This could be true for Bethesda's Food Pantry – God's Pantry. Considered an emergency food pantry, this ministry usually helps (on average) 30-40 families per year. This "help ministry" has decreased in use over the past 1-2 years, however, a steady and consistent stream of donations continues because of a faithful few who take seriously the importance of this ministry. We want you to recognize God's Pantry is still available to those in need. Located on the lower level in a room at the bottom of the main foyer stairs, we want to promote the use of this pantry. How? You can take it; we can take it; they can pick it up. There are boxes and bags located in this room – please take what is needed to help a neighbor, a co-worker, a friend, or perhaps yourself. If there are any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of God's Pantry Team: Steve Babb (570.739.7310), Wayne & Ida Blankenhorn (570.739.2533), Dean Boyer (570.640.2152) or Mark Brooks (570.573.2824). Thank you for utilizing God's Pantry to help someone!!!

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT January 2016

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Income	\$37106	\$41,308	\$ 4,202
Expenses	\$39,471	\$36,958	\$2,513



Adult Sunday School Opportunities Starting March 6th

1 The Bait of Satan - by John Bevere led by Pastor Mark & Cindy Brooks in the Library. The Bait of Satan is quite possibly the most important confrontation with truth you'll encounter. It exposes Satan's deceptive snare -- offense -- used to get believers out of the will of God. The issues of offense is often the most difficult obstacle an individual must face and overcome. Jesus said, "It is impossible that no offenses should come" (Luke 17:1). Your choice is not in whether or not you become offended but in how you choose to respond. This study will empower you to stay free from offense, enabling you to have an unhindered relationship with God.

2 Mere Christianity - by C.S. Lewis led by Tim & Lisa Delay in the Café. C. S. Lewis was chosen to explain Christianity to a de-stabilized and fearful people. His messages exposed the hope and relevance of Christianity to a largely secular audience. Chosen because he had been an atheist, Lewis provides a sound and easy to follow apologetic for us today in our fearful times. Video sessions and discussion questions cover all of the major themes in Mere Christianity.

3 The Gift of Faith - led by a rotation of leaders in the sanctuary. Emphasis will be on Mark and Luke.

we're hiring! PART-TIME CHILDREN & YOUTH PASTOR

Excellent opportunity for a young pastor seeking experience in a healthy and supportive congregational ministry discipling children and youth, while developing the untapped potential of our youth group. One can never underestimate this critical and important role of forming Christ-likeness in our children and youth. We would love to hear from individuals interested in the challenge and the blessing of sharing in this pursuit of God's work among us.

Compensation includes monthly stipend with a 3-bedroom parsonage and utilities fully paid, plus some continuing education support. Additional benefits for this position include working in a mentored relationship with two experienced pastors, a one-half hour commute to Evangelical Seminary, and a group of supportive volunteers and parents.

Interested persons should send an email stating their interest along with an attached resume to jgbyerly@bethesdaec.org.

The annual **Easter egg hunt** will take place on **Palm Sunday, March 20th** immediately following the 10:30 worship service up at the **Social Hall**. All **children up through age 11** are invited to take part in this event! If you care to make a **donation of eggs please have them at the church prior to the 10:30 service**. In the event of bad weather the egg hunt will be canceled and will not be rescheduled. **Feel free to invite a friend.**



Easter Services & Events at Bethesda

Sunday, March 20th - Palm Sunday & Egg Hunt at @ 11:45 am (see ad)

Thursday, March 24th - Maundy Thursday Service with Communion at 7:00 pm

Friday, March 25th - Good Friday Service at 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 27th - Easter Sunday Services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am





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

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

Sign-up at the Welcome Counter. For more information, please visit the Welcome Counter or contact Norma Minnich at 570-617-0931.

Attention Ladies!!! Are you interested in getting together to fellowship and meet the other women of Bethesda in a relaxed setting? Then we have the perfect opportunity for you!



We invite you to join us at **9 am on Saturday, March 5th at Haag's Hotel, 5661 Old U.S. 22, Shartlesville** (just 1 block from Blue Mtn Fam Rest.) for a **ladies fellowship breakfast**. **This will be a relaxed setting, just to mingle, talk and fellowship.** Each lady will order off the menu and pay separately. **There is no need to sign-up, just come if you are able!** If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Minnich at 484-294-6765 or e-mail office@bethesdaec.org.



Crochet Circle on March 14th & 28th
at the home of Cheryl Bender.

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



Peru Presentation w/Rich Nichol
Saturday, March 12th

Join us at 6 pm in the Library for slide presentation of Peru with Rich Nichol. Bring a snack to share. Any questions, please contact Linda Bollinger at 570-739-4580.

Upcoming Events:

- 3/6 - **Digging Deeper** (6-8 pm)
- 3/13 - **Parental Work Camp Meeting** (11:45 am in the Sanctuary)
Digging Deeper (6-8 pm)
- 3/20 - **Easter Egg Hunt** (If you want to help, see Dawn 570.691.6457)
Digging Deeper (6-8 pm)
- 3/27 - **Easter with family and friends!!!**



What's For Dinner Wednesday
March 2nd
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)



**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)



- March 7th** - Have you been here before?
- March 14th** - How to live to 100.
- March 21st** - What "they" don't want you to know.
- March 28th** - Who was Jesus - Really?



March 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.

**Interested in VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL? VBS Volunteers Needed!**



Do you want to get involved with planning Vacation Bible School 2016? We need your help! Anyone who has an interest in helping with VBS 2016 is invited to the **first planning meeting on Wednesday, March 23, 6:30 pm**, in the Library. Learn about the theme and what volunteer opportunities are available. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm. Use your talents and skills to bring VBS to life! VBS will be held July 11-15. Please call Michelle Canfield at 570-754-7253 or Tammy Munster at 570-739-1647 for more information or to RSVP for the meeting.



Wednesday, March 9th is the last Kids Klub for the season. This concluding night **will be PRIZE Night** – an opportunity for students to select prizes based on points earned during the 2nd session of the 2015-16 school year. Students accumulate points by their attendance, memorizing select Scripture passages, as well as inviting a friend to attend KK. **An area with prize tables will be available on this last night of ministry for students to redeem points.**

YogaTone



Classes continue Thursdays from 9-10 am and Saturdays from 8:30-9:30 am in the Common Ground. Cost is \$5 per class. For more information contact Melissa at 570-573-5315.

PRAYER CONCERNS

March 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

Victor Arbushites (cancer)
Deb Babb (eye)
Daniel Behler (recovery)
Bonnie Betz (recovery)
Butch Blankenhorn (cancer)
Jean Bolton (treatment)
Betty Boyer (memory)
Carol Boyer (recovery)
Rev. Robert Burkey (recovery)
Joe Conway (recovery)
Alysa Dejesus (infection)
Judy Drexler (cancer)
Fred Fannelli (cancer)
Cindy Freeman (recovery)
Wava Hamilton (recovery)
Peg Heim (recovery)
Sandy Hess (recovery)
Brian Irwin (lung cancer)
Mary Elizabeth Killian (recovery)
Gail Knauf (testing)
Phillip Leibensperger (rehab)
Bill Leymeister (transplant)
Andrea Long (tests)
Manny Lopez (memory)
Brad Murphy (circulation)
Amber Pavalko (recovery)
Kendra Perry (pain management)
David Saul (cancer)
Kevin Schneck (kidney failure)
Pamela Stanek (chemo)
Diane Stock (cancer)
Allyson Tebin (leukemia)

Joan Wall (recovery)
Flo Walton (pain)
Patsy Weaver (cancer)

Family

Linda Krebs family (loss)
Charlotte McDonald family (comfort)
Frances Miller family (loss)
Ida Ryland family (loss)
Clair Stoyer family (loss)
Helen Youse family (comfort)

Congregational

Celebrate Recovery
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 **Pastor Jeff's Office on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm** to pray for the needs of our community and congregation.



Community Prayer Ministry

Sunday, March 27th at 6:15 pm @ the Corner



Community Volunteer Opportunities

Servants to All Ministries is looking for dedicated volunteers to work one night a month in a homeless shelter, specifically overnight workers for the United Presbyterian Church Shelter in Pottsville. Volunteers would be provided with up to four weeks training to equip them. **For additional information visit www.servantstoall.org. You can connect with Pastor Mark as well - thank you!!!**

Shut-ins

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

M. Jean Luckenbill
Frances Miller
Hazel Minnich
Hilda Yeager
Sandra Zanini

Military

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

Nicole Perkins (Army)
Thomas Perkins (Army)
Steven J Russell-Rhen (Army)
Zach Siple (Coast Guard)
Jake Stoudt (Air Force)
Joe Sweigart (Army)



**Camp Swatara
Bethesda EC Church
Camporee Weekend
June 24th - 26th, 2016**

Camp Swatara is a Christian campground with lots of family activities. There is a Splash Pad, large swimming pool with tube slides, bike track, hiking trails, mini golf, canoeing, paddle boating, a gaga pit, and more! A great family get-a-way at a reasonable cost.

Campsites or cabins are available. For more information, please contact Tom and Diane Luckenbill at 570-739-2042.

All articles for events held during April 1st through May 15th should be submitted by the 10th of March in order to be included in our April 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.