



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT MINISTRIES KICK OFF
ON SEPTEMBER 20TH**

Come join us Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm as we kick off our Wednesday night ministries! Classes are available for all ages during our Wednesday night programs and childcare is available for children 3 and under.



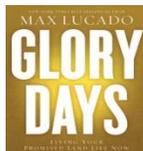
Open to all students age 4 thru 4th grade.

Meeting in the Common Ground. Pre-register on-line at www.bethesdaec.org.



New this year! **BYM Junior** (5th thru 7th grades) which will meeting in the Log Cabin Room from 6:30 to 8 pm *starting September 27th*.

FOR WOMEN ONLY – Glory Days and Before Amen by Max Lucado – Led by Norma Minnich in the Library. Maybe you're feeling stuck. Caught in a rut. Wondering if this is as good as the Christian life gets. If so, there's good news. You were made for Glory Days. In God's plan you win more than you lose, forgive as quickly as you are offended, and give as abundantly as you receive. You may stumble, but you won't collapse. You may struggle, but you will defy despair. You will enjoy abundant fruit and increasing faith. With God's help you can close the gap between the person you are and the person you want to be. In Before Amen Max Lucado reveals how connecting with God each day can be as simple as five short sentences: "Father, you are good. I need help. They need help. Thank you. In Jesus' name, amen." He shows you how to let go of uncertainties about prayer, trust that God hears you, and embrace a prayer life that brings peace and rest.



FOR MEN ONLY – Convergence "Where Faith and Life Meet" – Led by Pastor Jeff in the Theater Room. Convergence is a video series that invites you to join leading Christian thinkers to discuss the challenges of faith and life with host Donald Miller. Never content with pat answers, Convergence seeks to honestly address the challenges people face in a world that is often confusing and increasingly complex. Topics will include: Living in a Fallen World; How to Meet God in the Everyday; Learning to Share Our Stories; and Understanding God's Plan and Our Hope.

Choir Practice - Meeting in the Sanctuary. New members are welcome! Please let Kim Stoudt know if you plan to join so that music will be available for everyone.



Prayer Meeting - Join us in Pastor Jeff's Office at 7:30 pm to pray for the needs of our community and congregation.



Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

8:00 am Traditional Service

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Contemporary Service (child care provided)

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

August 2017

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Income	\$ 316,952	\$ 335,530	\$ 18,578
Expenses	\$ 262,496	\$ 246,805	\$ 15,691
To Reserves	\$ 26,923	\$ 39,725	\$ 12,802



**What's For Dinner Wednesdays
October 4th & 18th**

Dinner served: 5:30 - 6:15 pm

Come enjoy a hearty meal and fellowship before our Wednesday evening activities. (Adults \$3, Kids \$1, Family cost \$10.00 max). Nursery available. Menus will be shared prior to each date. If you are able to bring a dessert it is appreciated!

**Fill a Stocking for Joe Toy's
Sidewalk Sunday School Kids**



Be sure to pick up a stocking starting September 24th to fill for missionary Joe Toy's Sidewalk Sunday School kids. Please return them by Sunday, October 22nd.

Join Us For



Wednesday, October 18th

More details to follow!



We will be taking a special discretionary offering from October 15th thru 22nd which will be sent to Mennonite Disaster Services to be used for Hurricanes Harvey & Irma recovery efforts. We are also planning to send a team to Texas or Florida with MDS in the late winter or early spring. More details to follow!

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Bethesda Youth Ministries
Students in 5th thru 12th grade



BYM is now split into *BYM Senior* (8th thru 12th grades) which meets **Sundays** in the Library from 6 to 8 pm and *BYM Junior* (5th thru 7th grades) meets **Wednesdays** the Log Cabin Room from 6:30 to 8 pm.

- Oct 1st - No BYM Sr
- Oct 8th - TCHLTB (No BYM Sr)
- Oct 11th - BYM Jr (5 thru 7th grades)
- Oct 15th - BYM Sr (8 thru 12th grades)
- Oct 18th - BYM Jr (5 thru 7th grades)
- Oct 22nd - BYM Sr (8 thru 12th grades)
- Oct 25th - BYM Jr (5 thru 7th grades)
- Oct 28th - Bonfire at the Social Hall 5 to 8 pm

For more information or to sign-up for an event, please visit the bulletin board in the downstairs hallway. Questions? Contact Pastor Stewart at 570-789-4952 or Dawn Koch at 570-691-6457.



Mexico and Swimming with Whale Sharks
Presented by Rich Nickel
Saturday, October 21st; 6 pm in the Library

Sign-up online or at the Welcome Counter starting 10/1. For more information, please contact Linda Bollinger at 570-739-4580 or Wayne Blankenhorn at 570-739-2533.

October 8th & 22nd
1:30 – 3:30 pm in the 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.



Mondays 7:00 to 8:00 pm
Bethesda @ the Corner

- October 2nd - Making Life's Toughest Decisions
- October 9th - Toxic Faith
- October 16th - The 60 Minute Guide to Greater Confidence
- October 23rd - The Black and White Truth about Racism
- October 30th - Mysteries of Mental Illness

Tuesdays @ the Corner
6:30 to 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.



MOB's Home & Auto Repair Program continues as we try to utilize our abilities, gifts, and resources to help those in need. Do not hesitate to complete the MOB program card at the Welcome Counter and we will see if we can help!!!

Wednesday night MOB's bible study will begin on Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30 pm in the Theater Room. Please see the front page of this newsletter for detailed information or contact Pastor Jeff



The Men's Monthly Breakfast will be on Saturday, October 14th at the Friedensburg Family Restaurant.



Ladies Monthly Breakfast

All women are welcome, no need to sign-up! Saturday, October 7th at 9 am at Haag's Hotel, Shartlesville. Questions? Lisa at 484-294-6765.



Crochet Circle on October 9th & 23rd at the home of Cheryl Bender.

Savings Banks are now available at the Welcome Counter for the Spring Ladies Retreat. Pick yours up TODAY to start saving for this great event!!



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.

"Under [Christ's] direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body healthy and growing and full of love."
- Ephesians 4:16 [NLT]

Please Note: There will NOT be a Christmas Cantata this year.



Yard Sale at the Social Hall
Friday & Saturday, October 20th & 21st
8 am to Noon

Tables are available for \$7 per table. For more information, contact LaVerne Houtz 345-4998.

For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.- 1 Cor 14:33a



Adult Sunday School Opportunities
Continuing thru November 26th

1: **Spiritual Parenting** – based on the book by Michelle Anthony led by Pastor Stewart in the **Common Ground**. What does discipleship look like in the home setting? Throughout this course parents will be challenged to bring the process of spiritual formation home. Through gaining a deeper understanding of God's expectation for parents as well as practical activities, families will be given the tools necessary to create an organic, fun, and vibrant spiritual life that they can participate in together. ****Please Note: This class is for the whole family, children age 4 thru 12th grade AND their parents.**

2 **Parables: The Mysteries of God's Kingdom Revealed through the Stories Jesus Told** - based on the book by John MacArthur led by *Dean Boyer* in the **Cafe**. Jesus was the master storyteller and the parables He told were simple word pictures with profound spiritual lessons. Jesus told Parables so His people could comprehend His message about the kingdom of God clearly.

Some sections of the Bible give us grand theology. Parables are wonderful stories Jesus used to break the complexity of the Kingdom, salvation, wisdom and folly, Christian life, and judgement into simple concepts for us to use in our daily lives.

3 **Crisis 101 Back to Basics: Making Sense of Life... When Life Doesn't Make Sense** - led by *Pastor Mark* in the **Library**. Crisis literally means "the turning point of a disease". It was used by ancient physicians to describe in an illness when things can go toward recovery or not. In modern times, we use the term to define very difficult, life-changing events in our lives and the lives of others. All of us are either going into a crisis, coming out of one, or in the midst of it right now. We know lots of other people in the same boat. So, what do we do? How do we handle those "life-changing" times? And, just as important, how do we help others in crisis? Join us as we go over 10 basic strategies to navigate those troubles and stormy times in our lives. They will help us see that times of crisis can be faith building. We can be victorious and give praise to the One that has delivered us!

4 **Covenant with God** - led by a rotation of leaders in the **Sanctuary**. Emphasis will be on ... 1&2 Samuel; Nehemiah; Ezekiel; 1 Corinthians; and Hebrews.

Membership Orientation Classes



These classes are open for anyone interested in becoming a member of Bethesda. Each class is two hours and you **only need to attend one**. The classes will meet on:
Tuesday, October 24th at 6 pm
Thursday, October 26th at 6 pm
Saturday, October 28th at 10 am
Sunday, October 29th at 1 pm

If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Jeff.



Missionary Corner
Joe Toy
OAM Ministries

Prayer Requests:

- ◇ Ongoing sharing of the gospel in subway stations, college campuses, on the streets and wherever else God leads us.
- ◇ Our upcoming Christmas stocking outreach.

Praises:

- ◇ Significant encounters through our witnessing trip to London during a major sports event.
- ◇ Distribution of school supplies to local pastors for neighborhood children.

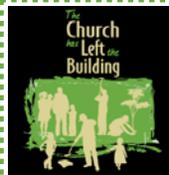
Discipleship Corner



Discipleship does not just happen – you need a plan. If you are interested in developing or improving the plan here at Bethesda, we have a deal for you!!!

3DM Discipleship and Mission Workshop is coming to a church near us!!!

Anyone interested in being part of this 2-day training at the Middletown First Church of God October 16-17, please sign-up at the Welcome Counter or contact Pastor Mark. All your expenses for this opportunity will be covered!!!



THANK YOU FOR...

...volunteering with The Church Has Left the Building!!! Taking place **Sunday, October 8th**, volunteers from Bethany, Bethesda and Grace EC Churches will invade homes and properties in the communities surrounding our churches to do yard work, painting, and repairs to structures. **Please sign-up online at bethesdaec.org/outreach, at the Welcome Counter, or in any of the Sunday School classrooms.**

As we begin planning for our Winter and Spring Sunday School programs, we are in need of individuals willing to teach a Sunday School class, be a helper for the classes; be a helper for Junior Church; and lastly to help with childcare during second service. If you are willing to help in any way whatsoever, please contact Pastor Stewart at 570-789-4952 as soon as possible. Planning for these semesters is on-going.



Heaven & earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.
- Matthew 24:35

**New Ministry to Help Those Who Need
Help Navigating the Medical Field**



Navigating through the medical processes for even the most minor procedure can be quite daunting and stressful! Preparing for joint replacements or receiving a diagnosis about a chronic condition or terminal illness can be devastating in so many ways, particularly dealing with the stress of understanding medical terms, forms, appointments, short- or long-term care or therapies and short- or long-term after care. **Often we have a navigator or advocate from within our family or from among close friends to help us through each step; but what if we don't, who do we turn to?** Please feel free and encouraged to turn toward your church brothers and sisters for help, God's Helping Hands Outreach can help you.

We can help you by being right by your side for prayer time, appointments, conversations with medical professionals, note-taking during appointments or education sessions, reporting to family who aren't local, and other helps to you. **In other words, we can help you navigate through the medical "jungle" in any way that will help your life be less stressful ... for you and your family.**

You can contact this aspect of God's Helping Hands through Maggie Arbushites at 570-573-0412, Pastor Mark at 570-573-2824 or the church office at 570-739-2241.



Fellowship of Prayer
6 pm in the Café
October 8th and 22nd



A time of adoration and worship followed by small group prayer focused on specific requests. Everyone is welcome to join this fellowship of prayer. Questions or for more information, please contact Connie Wright at 570-754-2259.



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.

Building Expansion Update

The following people have been named Team Leaders:

Demolition & Construction Team - Jim Martin 570-345-8528

Facility Usage & Program Team - Michelle Canfield 570-754-7253 & 2nd Co-Leader Under Consideration

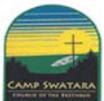
Interior Design & Decoration Team - Norma Minnich 570-617-0931

Communications Team - Lisa Minnich 484-294-6765

Prayer Support Team - Connie Wright 570-573-1450

YOU NAME IT Team - Deborah Babb 570-739-7310

If you have an interest in being a part of any of these teams and have not yet signed up, please contact the Team Leader listed.



Camp Swatara Camporee Weekend June 22nd to 24th, 2018

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, but spaces fill up fast! If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, please contact Jim or Tammy Munster at 570-739-1647 or e-mail tammymunster@yahoo.com.



A Change Has Come.....

A new approach is being taken toward Bethesda's prayer list located in the monthly newsletter. Once a prayer concern is passed on through the office or pastoral staff, if that request is not updated within four weeks, it will be removed from the list. Because much time is spent every month following up with prayer concerns, the goal is to place this responsibility to the "giver" of the initial prayer request. **The purpose of this change is to change the responsibility of follow-up, while we continue to emphasize praying for others. Thank you - and continue praying!!!**

Church Directory

UPDATE



During the months of September and October, we will be working to update our church directory. Keep an eye out for an announcement to check your current information on file. In the meantime, if your family's picture was not included in last year's directory and you would like it included this year, or if you would like a different picture in the directory, please drop it off in the office or e-mail it to office@bethesdaec.org.

PRAYER CONCERNS

October 2017

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

Daniel Behler (hospice)
Donald Behler (treatment)
Bonnie Betz (heart)
Rod Betz (recovery)
Margaret Coleman (hospice)
Joe Conway (recovery)
Irene Conway (cancer)
Diana Curry (cancer)
Janene Ditzler (medication)
Glenn Ebert (healing)
Gloria Ebling (cancer)
Donna Evans (cancer)
Eileen Goodwin (rehab)
Glen Heisler (recovery)
Mina Horan (leukemia)
Pat Johns (Alzheimer's)
Janet Kramer (recovery)
Henry Larsen (leukemia)
Dennis Lauffer (respiratory)
Leah Lauffer (recovery)
Andrea Long (eye)
Sandy Long (recovery)
Don M (recovery & employment)
Marilyn Matthias (recovery)
Caitlin McGarry (rehab)
Evelyn Joy Mowrey (recovery)
David Novatnak (cancer)
Jenn Oswald (recovery)
Amber Pavalko (recovery)
Donna Platts (cancer)
Jennifer Rader (arthritis)
Riley Renjyak (cancer)
Clyde Rhen (legs)
Howard Rio (heart)
Carol Rolshausen (cancer)
Vicky Sleinkofer (recovery)
Judy Snyder (recovery/treatment)
Diane Stock (cancer)
Jennie Stoltz (diabetes)

John Stone (hospice)
Mary Ann Subalesky (cancer)
Maria Szumlanski (recovery)
Gene Voydik (rehab)
Joan Wall (rehab)
Charles Walton (surgery 10/25)
Flo Walton (pain)
Richard Welker (cancer)
Brenda Wessner (knee)
Randy Wessner (heart)
Maria Wolfe (heart)
David Wright (hospice)
Helen Youse (heart)
Beth Zimmerman (cancer)

Family

Daniel Behler family (loss)
Kendra Dzedzy family (loss)
Sam Fry family (loss)
Charolotte Marie Hartman family (birth)
Billy Haynes family (recovery)
Biran Irwin family (loss)
Rich Kreager family (loss)
Jerimiah Lozada family (loss)
Tom & Danette McPoyle (fire loss)
Helene Motley family (loss)
Ariel Eluria Rautzhan family (loss)
James Strauss family (loss)
Waschko family (support)
Weeble family (loss & recovery)
Jennifer Wilder family (loss)
Paula Winn family (loss)

Local, National and Global

CEF, Schuylkill County
EC Officers:
Bishop: Bruce Hill
Exec Director: K. Henry
Associates: J. Byerly, L. Cool,
G. Kuehner, & R. Sizemore
Hurricane Recovery - TX, LA, & FL
President Donald J. Trump
Vice President Mike Pence
US Military Forces
PSP Troop L - Frackville, Jonestown
& Schuylkill Haven

Congregational

Appalachian Trail Ministry
Celebrate Recovery
Coffee @ the Corner
Griefshare Ministry
Lifetree Café
L.I.F.E. & TUMI Prison Ministries
Students, Teachers, Support Staff, and
Administrators returning to school

All articles for events held during November 1st through December 15th should be submitted by the 10th of October in order to be included in our November issue. A copy of this newsletter can also be found on-line at www.bethesdaec.org.

Shut-ins

Margaret Bender
Walter Bilger
Dorothy Blankenhorn (recovery)
Bert Heydt
Edith Houtz
Ruth Liddle

Ardeth Luckenbill
M. Jean Luckenbill
Hazel Minnich
Ron & Karen Roundtree
Flo Walton
Hilda Yeager

Military

Josh Behler (Air Force)
Ryan Brooks (Air Force)
Caleb Jennings (Marines)
Issac Long (Coast Guard)
Nicole Perkins (Army)

Thomas Perkins (Army)
Steven J Russell-Rhen (Army)
Zehn Schropp (Air Force)
Zach Siple (Coast Guard)
Joe Sweigart (Army)