



congregational meeting



Sunday, December 3rd, 2017

All church members are asked to attend this meeting where important discussions will take place to shape the 2018 ministries of Bethesda.

Sunday School: 9:15 am

Combined Worship Service: 10:30 am

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

Meeting: 12:30 pm

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

8:00 am Traditional Service

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Contemporary Service (child care provided)

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

September 2017

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Income	\$ 353,175	\$ 371,567	\$ 18,392
Expenses	\$ 295,854	\$ 273,674	\$ 22,180
To Reserves	\$ 30,000	\$ 94,293	\$ 64,293
From Building Fund	\$ 42,000	\$ 29,293	(\$ 12,707)

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.

On Sunday, October 8, close to 200 volunteers from our churches in Ashland, Cressona, Reedsville, and Schuylkill Haven served together at about 30 worksites as well as nursing homes, prayer support, and kitchen duties at the Hawk Mountain Boy Scout Camp – painting, landscaping, cleaning, and a variety of assignments. We appreciate everyone's involvement with helping to make this day be successful – participants, business leaders, prayer partners, and residents. Some flexibility was necessary during the day's event as the threatening rain caused some projects to be delayed, and workers shifted to new jobs. We still have about five projects to complete. So we may be requesting some of you to give another day to help finalize these projects. If you want to help, please contact one of the pastors.



Lastly, we pray that this vision extends beyond the one day event of The Church Has Left the Building and continues throughout the year—that we might see the needs of our neighbors more readily, and move to respond to assist them sacrificially.

Christmas Card Distribution by BYM

**Sunday, November 26th thru
Wednesday, December 13th**



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!!!

FALL CLEAN-UP
Grab your rakes and come help prepare the grounds for winter.
Saturday, November 11th
8:00 am

What's For Dinner Wednesdays
November 1st & 15th
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!

Christmas DECORATING
 Help decorate the church for Christmas after 2nd service, **Sunday, November 26th.**



VOLUNTEERS

CALLING ALL HELPING HANDS

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Schedule

KIDZ KLUB


Open to all students age 4 thru 4th grade.
Meeting in the Common Ground.



New this year! *BYM Junior* (5th thru 7th grades) which will meeting in the Café from 6:30 to 8 pm.

Missionary Corner

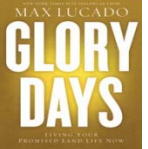
LIFE Prison Ministries



Schuylkill FCI prison LIFE program is on hold due to staffing cuts. Pray that staffing funds are released so that we can resume the Monday night LIFE program. There may be some Sunday chapel services that we will be invited to participate in.


Rockview SCI prison is going strong with the **Capstone seminary level teaching**. Seven students are participating and have successfully completed 2 of the 16 modules. Pray for the family of John Kelly who started with the class but has recently lost a battle with cancer.

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.


November 12th & 26th
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.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS There will be special presentations of Griefshare to help for those dealing with grief during the holidays. They will be held on **Tuesday, November 21st at 7 pm in the Library** and **Sunday December 24th at 1:30 pm in the Library**.

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.

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

November 6th - Triumph Over Trauma
November 13th - Smile....
November 20th - Lonely
November 27th - Religious Freedom

If you or your group are planning to use the church facilities, (including the Social Hall), please call the office, 570-739-2241 so that we can put your event on the calendar. **By doing so, this eliminates conflicts and helps us better plan heating/cooling needs. Thank you!**



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.

- Nov 1st - BYM Jr (5 thru 7th grades)
- Nov 5th - BYM Sr (8 thru 12th grades)
- Nov 8th - BYM Jr (5 thru 7th grades)
- Nov 12th - BYM Sr (8 thru 12th grades)
- Nov 15th - BYM Jr (5 thru 7th grades)
- Nov 19th - BYM Sr (8 thru 12th grades)
- Nov 22nd - NO BYM Jr
- Nov 24th - Ozzy's Lock-in
- Nov 26th - NO BYM Sr

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.

women
of Bethesda
healthy, growing & full of love

Ladies Monthly Breakfast

All women are welcome, no need to sign-up!
Saturday, November 4th at 9 am at Haag's Hotel, Shartlesville. Questions? Lisa at 484-294-



Crochet Circle on November 13th & 27th
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]*



Bingo Night
Saturday, November 18th
6 pm in the Library

Sign-up online or at the Welcome Counter starting 11/29. For more information, please contact Linda Bollinger at 570-739-4580 or Wayne Blankenhorn at 570-739-2533.



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!!!



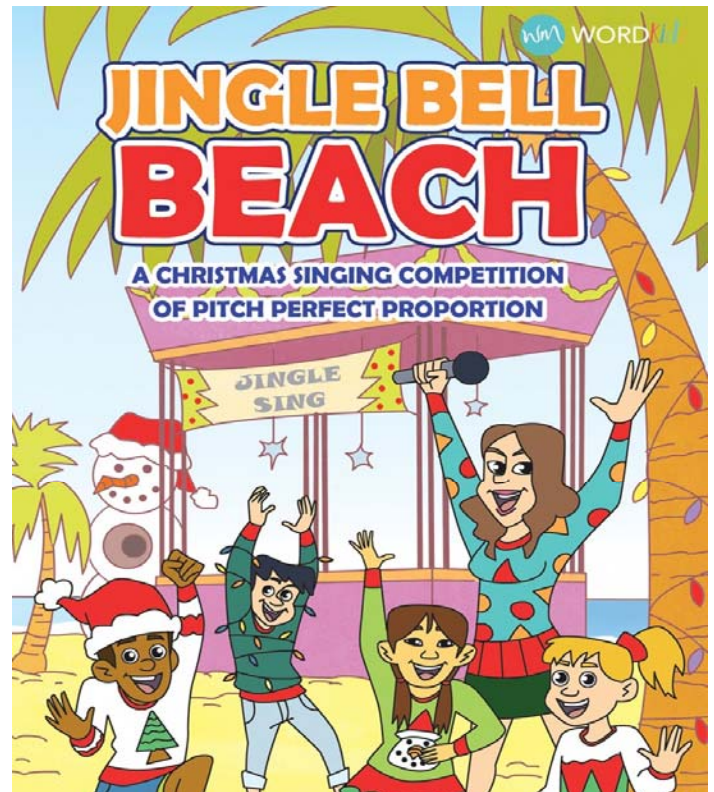
There will NOT be a Men's Breakfast in November due to the fall cleanup.

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.

Look to the Lord and his strength. - 1 Chronicles 16:11



Children's Christmas Musical
Sunday, December 10th
9:15 am



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

Camp Swatara is a Christian campground with lots of fun activities like the splash pad, swimming pool with slides, bike track, hiking trails, mini golf, canoeing, paddle boating, and a gaga pit! 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.



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.



Fellowship of Prayer
6 pm in the Café
November 12th & 26th

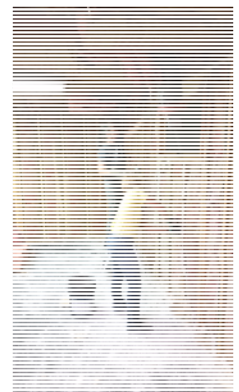
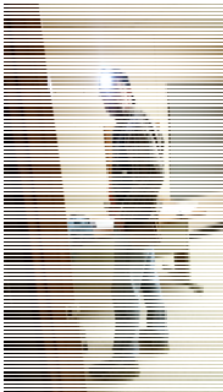


A time of adoration and worship followed by small group prayer focused on specific requests. Everyone is welcome to join this fellowship of prayer. Questions or for more information, please contact Connie Wright at 570-754-2259.

Be still and know that I am God. - Psalm 46:10

Building Expansion News & Updates

Demolition continues Wednesday mornings starting at 8 am and Thursday evenings starting at 6:30 pm. If you are free either of these times and would like to come out and help, please stop by, we will put you to work!



A Building Expansion Update Communication Bulletin Board will be coming to the hall near the Library. Check it out for updates, pictures, and more information as teams continue to meet and work progresses!

Our first **Community Trunk or Treat** at the new building was an overwhelming success!! Thank you to all who helped with this outreach!!



Team Leaders:

- Demolition & Construction Team - Jim Martin 570-345-8528
 - Facility Usage & Program Team - Michelle Canfield 570-754-7253 & Charlie Killian 570-754-7528
 - 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, please contact the Team Leader listed.

PRAYER CONCERNS

November 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

Bonnie Betz (catarac surgery 10/24)
Rod Betz (recovery)
Bob Brennan (cancer)
Joe Conway (recovery)
Irene Conway (cancer)
Diana Curry (cancer)
Don DeWeese (cancer)
Janene Ditzler (medication)
Glenn Ebert (healing)
Gloria Ebling (cancer)
Donna Evans (cancer)
Eileen Goodwin (rehab)
Mary Ellen Hering (recovery)
Pat Johns (Alzheimer's)
Jerry Knauf (Hernia)
Henry Larsen (transplant)
Dennis Lauffer (respiratory)
Leah Lauffer (recovery)
Andrea Long (eye)
Sandy Long (recovery)
Don M (recovery & employment)
Jim Martin (heart)
Marilyn Matthias (recovery)
Caitlin McGarry (rehab)
Bill Mills (recovery)
Evelyn Joy Mowrey (recovery)
David Novatnak (cancer)
Jenn Oswald (recovery)
Amber Pavalko (recovery)
Donna Platts (cancer)
Jennifer Rader (arthritis)
Derek Reber (recovery)
Mary Reinhart (recovery)
Riley Renjyak (cancer)
Clyde Rhen (legs)
Howard Rio (heart)
Carol Rolshausen (cancer)
Rose Saul (cancer)
Glen Sleinkofer (recovery)
Vicky Sleinkofer (recovery)
Judy Snyder (recovery)
Ron Stine (recovery)
Diane Stock (cancer)
Jennie Stoltz (diabetes)

Shut-ins

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

Military

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

Mary Ann Subalesky (cancer)
Joan Wall (rehab)
Charles Walton (surgery 10/25)
Flo Walton (pain)
Richard Welker (cancer)
Brenda Wessner (knee)
Randy Wessner (heart)
Maria Wolfe (heart)
Viola Yoder (heart)
Helen Youse (heart)
Beth Zimmerman (cancer)

Family

Daniel Behler family (loss)
Margaret Coleman family (loss)
Cullen Miles Dewire (birth)
Kendra Dzedzy family (loss)
Richard Freeman family (loss)
Charolotte Marie Hartman family (birth)
Billy Haynes family (recovery)
Biran Irwin family (loss)
Rich Kreager family (loss)
Jerimiah Lozada family (loss)
William Long family (loss)
Tom & Danette McPoyle (fire loss)
Rafael & Milagros Pacheo family (recovery)
Ariel Eluria Rautzhan family (loss)
John Stoner family (loss)
Waschko family (support)
David Wright 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, PR, & 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

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

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

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