



it's the most
DECEMBER
 wonderful time of the year 2017

Christmas at Bethesda



Christmas Card Distribution by BYM - Sunday, Nov 26th thru Wed, Dec 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!

Children's Christmas Musical Dress Rehearsal - Sat, Dec. 9th, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Christmas Caroling - Sat, Dec 9th, Luther Ridge at 2:00 pm; Providence Place at 3:00 pm - Bring your family and join us at one or both locations as we spread Christmas joy to those living in these facilities who may not have family to celebrate with this holiday season. Sign-up at the Welcome Counter by December 6th.

"Jingle Bell Beach" - Sun, Dec. 10th, 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 10th, 1:30 pm in the Library - Special presentation for to help those dealing with grief during the holidays.

Adult (18+) Christmas Party & Dinner - Sat, Dec. 16th, 5:00 pm, in the Common Ground - See JOY write-up for more information.

BYM Christmas Party - Sat, Dec 17th 11:45 am - 2:00 pm in the Common Ground - Please bring a white elephant or gag gift (keep it clean, keep it funny, and keep it sanitary).

Christmas Pizza Party - Sun, Dec 17th, 4:00 to 6:00 pm - Children ages 4 through 5th grade are invited for a pizza dinner followed by an awesome Christ-centered Christmas party including Bible truths, songs, games, and crafts. Pre-register your child or grandchild on-line at bethesdaec.org or at the Welcome Counter.

College Christmas Chow Down - Wed, Dec 6:30 pm at the Parsonage - College students, come reconnect with your Bethesda Family during the holiday break. More details to follow.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service - Sun, Dec. 24th, 7 pm



Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

8:00 am Traditional Service

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Contemporary Service (child care provided)

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT October 2017

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Beginning Balance		\$ 68,370	
Income	\$ 398,454	\$ 371,018	\$ (27,436)
Expenses	\$ 337,653	\$ 338,454	\$ (801)
Transfers In/Out	\$ 33,846	\$ 65,000	\$ 31,154
Ending Balance		\$ 35,934	

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



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



Adult Sunday School Opportunities Starting December 3rd

1 How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth - led by Pastor Jeff in the Cafe. Understanding the Bible isn't for the few, the gifted, the scholarly. The Bible is accessible. It's meant to be read and comprehended by everyone from armchair readers to seminary students. A few essential insights into the Bible can clear up a lot of misconceptions and help you grasp the meaning of Scripture and its application to your 21st-century life.

2 A Clash of Kingdoms and When God's Spirit Moves - based on the books by Ray Vanderlaan and Jim Cymbala led by Connie Wright in the Library. The first half of our Sunday School semester we will once again be exploring the Middle East with Ray Vanderlaan. In his 15th volume of That The World May Know Series, he follows Paul as he ministers to the cities of Philippi and Thessalonica. You will be challenged to proclaim God's name in your world as you maintain your citizenship in heaven.

The second half of our semester we will be pondering Jim Cymbala's study. Jim says "Understanding the ministry of the Holy Spirit is key for anyone who wants to live a vibrant and victorious life. His power and presence is what makes life exciting as we follow Jesus." This study may challenge you to think beyond your current level of attention to the Holy Spirit's work in your life to pursue a deeper relationship with Him.

3 Faith In Action - led by a rotation of leaders in the Sanctuary. Emphasis will be on Daniel, Matthew, Acts, Ephesians, I Timothy and James.

Regular Sunday School classes for students in nursery thru 12 grade resume this quarter in their respective classrooms. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Stewart at 570-789-4952.

Fellowship of Prayer 6 pm in the Café December 10th



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 the Library on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm to pray for the needs of our community and congregation.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

- Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)

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.



Missionary Corner Dave & Concé Roof OMS International - Brazil

Praises:

- ◆ Opportunities to celebrate Children's Day at Icoaraci and Moju.
- ◆ A desire to know the truth in Moju

Prayer Requests:

- ◆ US Ministry on Moju - island which can only be reached by boat.
- ◆ Follow-up and consistency in the children's ministry at the church in Icoaraci.
- ◆ David is a student in a postgraduate - church planting and revitalization.

Pick up a copy of their most recent Newsletter on the wall at the Welcome Counter!

December 10th & 24th 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 presentation of Griefshare to help for those dealing with grief during the holidays. It will be held on Sunday, December 10th at 1:30 pm in the Library.



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

- December 4th - Secrets of Finding Contentment
- December 11th - Children with No Place to Call Home
- December 18th - Mental Illness
- December 25th - Overcoming Hardship
- January 1st - Inside the Gun Debate

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. - *Meetings are on hold till after the Holidays, please keep an eye out for the new schedule later this month!*

December 17th - All BYM Students are invited to join us for a Christmas party in the Common Ground immediately following 2nd service! Please bring a white elephant or gag gift (keep it clean, keep it funny, and keep it sanitary).

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.



Ladies Monthly Breakfast

All women are welcome, no need to sign-up!
Saturday, December 2nd at 9 am at Haag's Hotel, Shartlesville. Questions? Lisa at 484-294-6765.



Crochet Circle on December 11th
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]



Christmas Party & Dinner
Saturday, December 16th
5 pm in the Common Ground

Bring a "not so new" wrapped gift. Dinner will be catered, cost is \$5 per person. All 18+ are invited! Sign-up online or at the Welcome Counter. For more information call Linda Bollinger at 570-739-4580.



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!!!



Men's Monthly Breakfast, Saturday,
December 9th at 8 am at Friedensburg Family Resturant.

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.

And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. - Luke 2:12 (NIV)



Winter Small Groups Resume in January

Please stay tuned for more details. If you are interested in hosting a small group, please connect with Norma Minnich at 570-617-0931

We will be collecting sneakers for the **6th grade class at Minersville Elementary** over the next 2 weeks. Please take a tag with size information off the display at the Welcome Counter and return the sneakers by **Sunday, December 3rd.**



Reedsville Cemetery Association

The Cemetery trustees are encouraging families or individuals to consider the purchase of burial lots to alleviate placing this responsibility on your descendants. Present lot prices are **\$175 for members and \$350 for non-members.** For more information, please see any of the cemetery trustees: Rod Betz, Wayne Blankenhorn, Bob Degler, Harold DeHappart, Glen Heisler, Rich Luckenbill, Jr., or Steve Luckenbill.

PRAYER CONCERNS

December 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

Curt Behler (testing)
Bonnie Betz (recovery)
Bob Brennan (cancer)
Linda Christman (recovery)
Joe Conway (recovery)
Irene Conway (cancer)
Diana Curry (cancer)
Don DeWeese (cancer)
Janene Ditzler (medication)
Glenn Ebert (healing)
Gloria Ebling (cancer)
Donna Evans (cancer)
Chris Garcia (recovery)
Eileen Goodwin (rehab)
Mary Ellen Hering (recovery)
Pat Johns (Alzheimer's)
Jerry Knauf (recovery)
Henry Larsen (transplant)
Dennis Lauffer (respiratory)
Leah Lauffer (recovery)
Andrea Long (eye)
Sandy Long (recovery)
Don M (recovery & employment)
Jim Martin (recovery)
Caitlin McGarry (rehab)
Bill Mills (recovery)
Lisa Minnich (recovery)
David Novatnak (cancer)
Jenn Oswald (recovery)
Amber Pavalko (recovery)
Donna Platts (cancer)
Joe Powell (eye)
Jennifer Rader (arthritis)
Derek Reber (recovery)
Harold Rehl (recovery)
Mary Reinhart (recovery)
Dawn Reiter (testing)
Riley Renjyak (cancer)
Clyde Rhen (legs)
Howard Rio (heart)
Carol Rolshausen (cancer)
Rose Saul (cancer)
Glen Sleinkofer (recovery)
Vicky Sleinkofer (recovery)

Shut-ins

Margaret Bender
Walter Bilger
Dorothy Blankenhorn
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)

Judy Snyder (recovery)
Lori Steffy (recovery)
Ron Stine (recovery)
Diane Stock (cancer)
Jennie Stoltz (diabetes)
Marty Stoyer Sr (recovery)
Mary Ann Subalesky (cancer)
Maria Szumblinski (recovery)
Joan Wall (rehab)
Charles Walton (recovery)
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

Margarita Algarin family (loss)
Elinor Cheri Chin (birth)
Margaret Coleman family (loss)
Rev. Robert Daneker, Sr family (loss)
Richard Freeman family (loss)
Carol Hartman family (loss)
Esther Kerwick family (loss)
Jerimiah Lozada family (loss)
William Long family (loss)
Tom & Danette McPoyle (fire loss)
Rafael & Milagros Pacheco 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

Celebrate Recovery
Coffee @ the Corner
Griefshare Ministry
Lifetree Café
L.I.F.E. & TUMI Prison Ministries

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