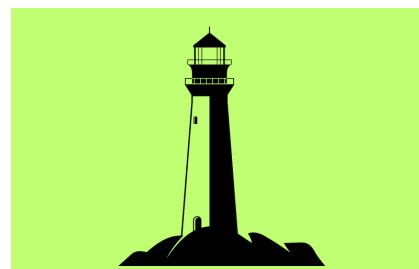


BETHANY NEWS



A Reconciling
and
Lighthouse
Congregation



SAVE THE DATES!

FELLOWSHIP DINNER
September 15th at 6:00
p.m.

MEN COOKING BARBECUE
October 9th
Pick up on October 10
Cost - \$10.00/lb

**BRUNSWICK STEW
COOKING**
October 16th
Pick up on October 17th
Cost - \$12.00/qt





REV. COLE BREIT

The Pastor's Note

Dear Bethany Church Family,

In September we will be talking about stewardship. Like we talked about on the last Sunday of August, oftentimes stewardship is associated with giving money to the church. A stewardship campaign is often thought of as equivalent to a non-profits annual giving campaign. Of course, a church relies on the contributions of every member in order to continue to fulfill its mission and purpose but sometimes the ask for funds can feel disingenuous and sometimes coercive.

I personally have never appreciated when organizations beg me for money or try to guilt trip me into shame-induced giving. Whether the voice is internal or external, sometimes I have heard that if you don't give to the church, especially if you are not tithing (giving 10% of your income), you are not a real Christian, you are not trusting God enough, and you need to have more faith. Maybe you have heard or felt a similar sentiment at some point in your life or maybe not. The reality of today's world is that some view the church as a group who is always taking from others and asking for more. We can't change everyone who holds this view but we can find selfless and generous practices that will show our community the heart of Jesus.

If we look at the life and ministry of Jesus we don't see any scriptures that tell of Jesus asking people for funds for his ministry. None. Yet it was necessary that funds were supplied to Jesus' full-time ministry in order for him and his disciples to be able to journey throughout different parts of Palestine. So how did Jesus pay for his ministry? Well, Jesus may have never asked for funds but he did not deny the gift of those who wanted to donate to his cause. We see that some individuals are named as contributors to his ministry like "Mary Magdalene, Joanna the wife of Chuza, Susanna and many others" (Luke 8:1-3; notice that the main funders of Jesus' ministry were women). Judas Iscariot was in charge of the coin purse and likely acted as a treasurer for Jesus' ministry. Individuals also offered the hospitality of their homes as places for Jesus and his disciples to eat and reside.

I appreciate Jesus' approach to seeking to fund his ministry. Instead of begging for money and guilt tripping people into giving money at some point in his teachings, he instead does the work freely without any expectation of anything in return. He does the good work that his Father called him to and that's it. He knows that those who recognize such good works will seek to join him in whatever way they can. For some that happens through following him and for others that occurs through donating to his ministry from their own means. Jesus understands that ministry requires resources but he doesn't create a business plan that seeks funding avenues but instead brings forward a life-changing "product" (the Gospel) that people want to invest in and be a part of.

I think this is where I hope to fall when it comes to seeking to raise funds for the mission here at Bethany. We do the good work and share that good work with others. We do that good work expecting nothing in return and we openly invite others into that good work, giving them the opportunity to decide whether they will join or not without coercion or our own conclusions. We won't beg for money but will display gratitude if someone decides to give out of what they can. We won't make someone feel bad for not giving any money. Period. Money is a tool that we can use to do good works but it is not ultimate. What is ultimate is love of God and love of people as ourselves. These are the ones who are able to do those good works and no amount of money can buy that compassionate spirit. May we be a church who walks the walk like Jesus and shows the world that Bethany is a place where all invested time, talents, and treasures are utilized to build a better world.

May we steward all the gifts God has given us so that we may close the gap between heaven and earth,
Pastor Cole

Money Matters

NEWS FROM FINANCE

Gifts for August 2026

Many thanks for
your generosity in
August!

Received for
the General
Fund

\$17,076.15

Designated gifts to other funds:

Building Fund: \$2125.00

Building Fund/Memorials: \$200.00

Cross & Key: \$20.00

Memorials: \$5100.00

Myles' Neigh. Outreach: \$625.00

Rise Against Hunger: \$225.00

Trustees (AC work): \$1800.00

Urban Ministries: \$75.00



FREEBIES

We're cleaning out the
worship resource room to
make space for the
children's Sunday School.
Anything on the cart is
FREE to a new home!



Mt. Calvary Baptist along
with Bethany UMC packed
3000+ meals for Rise
Against Hunger.



PANCAKES!

Community Pancake
Breakfast

8:30-10:30 a.m.

Myles' Neighborhood Outreach

9:00-11:00

September 19th

BACK TO SCHOOL BOOKS & BAGS



United Women in Faith Tuesday Morning Circle

The Tuesday Morning Circle will meet on September 8, @10:30 a.m. in the FC. Bobbi Wheler is the contact..

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Tuesday Evening Circle

The Tuesday Evening circle will meet on September 8, @7:00 p.m. in the FC classroom.



United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will meet on September 8, @7:00 p.m. in the FC.

WORSHIP TEAM

SEPTEMBER

Communion Servers: Dan Portaro & Sharon Stone



Acolyte

Sept. 6 - Joshua Stone & James
Sept. 13 - Janice Stone-Mills
Sept. 20 - Sharon Stone
Sept. 27 - Heather Fisher

Liturgist

Sept. 6 - Gary Crispell
Sept. 13 - Sharon Stone
Sept. 20 - Kate Hakins
Sept. 27 - Lynne Sprague

Open & Close Church

Sept. 6 - Jimmy Truckner
Sept. 13 - John Long
Sept. 20 - John Roberts
Sept. 27 - Kim Wiles

Ushers

Sept. 6 - M. Painter & G. Mels
Sept. 13 - J. Long & D. House
Sept. 20 - Lisa & Gary Kearns
Sept. 27 - P. Hall & C. Klein

A Note on Switching Dates

If you are unable to do your assigned worship activity, please arrange to switch with someone or find a willing volunteer.

Please let the office know if it involves a liturgist or an acolyte, as those names are always listed in the bulletin.

Greeters

Sept. 6 - Marian Williams
Sept. 13 - Lynne Sprague
Sept. 20 - Donald House
Sept. 27 - Cathy Portaro



HOW CAN I HELP?

At this time, the committee needs help finding: local music groups, vendors for the tables, and volunteers. More details will be shared as September progresses. Stay tuned to the Midweek and say, "YES, I can help!"



Bethany's team fed 227 people on 8/28. The August meal was sponsored by the Kearns family in memory of their son, Myles. Thanks to all who helped!





In August, MNO (Myles' Neighborhood Outreach) served 13 individuals, and our need for donations continues. Donated items can be put in the box in the narthex or dropped off at the fellowship center Tuesday-Thursday, 9-12. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate. Be sure to designate MNO on your check. Thanks for the support and generosity towards this amazing outreach. Needs list is UPDATED each month.

CURRENT NEEDS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Women

Size 16 leggings

FOR EVERYONE

Backpacks, purses, reusable totes
Deodorant, bandaids
Reading glasses/sunglasses
Washcloths & towels, and razors
Individual/travel size
hand sanitizer, toothpaste,
soap, shampoo/conditioner

Men

Shorts, jeans, & sweatpants





6th John Long
12th Cathy Portaro
17th Parker Apisai
20th Cheryl Klein

20th Hester Mels
23rd Doris Couch
24th Belton Joyner
25th Joshua Stone



21st Alan and Susan Arnold
22nd Guss and Lauren Dawood

Church Contacts

Sanctuary Address: 2809 Guess Rd
Office Mailing Address: 2903 Guess Rd
Office Phone: 919-477-6659
Church Email: bethanyumc1@gmail.com

Online Links

[Google Calendar](#)
[Bethany Website](#)
[ZOOM Meetings](#)
[Live Online Worship](#)
