BETHANY NEWS

A Reconciling and Lighthouse Congregation



SAVE THE DATES!

Thanksgiving Potluck

November 8th after Worship

Turkey, dressing, and gravy provided by Hospitality.

Bring a favorite side/dessert.





Henry Garrett Memorial Breakfast

November 22nd, 8:30-9:30 a.m.



REV. COLE BREIT

The Pastor's Note

Dear Bethany Church Family,

The holiday season is here! It's that time of the year where we have multiple major holidays all in a row. We go from Halloween to Thanksgiving to Christmas to News Years all in rapid succession. For me, it always makes this season feel like it passes by so quickly as there is always somewhere to go, something to do, and people to see. Whether we go out of town or stay in, there is an opportunity to connect with others in this season showing love through hospitality, service, and gratitude.

During the life of Jesus, he experienced many different Jewish holidays from Pesach (Passover, including the Feast of Unleavened Bread) to Sukkot (the Feast of Tabernacles) to Shavuot (the Feast of Weeks; Pentecost in Greek) to Hanukkah (the Feast of Dedication). These would have been common feasts and festivals that Jesus would have been educated about and celebrated with his Jewish family and neighbors. We see in the Gospels that his parents took him as a child to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover festival. We see that during Jesus' ministry, he makes pilgrimage to Jerusalem during Pesach, Sukkot, and Hanukkah. He participates in the traditional meal during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Jesus participates in many of these traditional holidays in his own ways through practice, teaching, preaching, and journeying.

And yet we Christians do not celebrate these Jewish holidays. We do not celebrate the rededication of the Temple during Hanukkah to commemorate the Maccabees freeing the Jewish people from imperial and religious rule under the Seleucid Empire. We do not celebrate Pesach by recounting the Exodus story but instead by narrating the passion story. We do not participate in the holidays that Jesus celebrated and vice versa.

Jesus never celebrated Thanksgiving, Independence Day, Valentines, Veteran's Day nor Christmas and Easter (as we currently celebrate them). Jesus celebrated holidays that are completely different from ours that are still practiced today and we still place him in high esteem as his disciples. We do not do exactly as he does culturally, religiously, or personally. In reality, Jesus is very different from us today. He participated in different holidays and traditions than us. He spoke an ancient semitic language that would sound foreign to us. He would have looked completely different from many of us as a resident of the Middle East. He ate different foods than us. He wore different clothes than us. He was a nomad, without a permanent residence.

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To All Veterans:



Bailey's Song is a sweet and moving story told through the mind of Bailey who trains to be not only a service dog to Dan, but a therapy dog for others, especially veterans, and a companion to Cathy.

Bailey is not shy about her faith, and her relationship to Father helps give her life's work purpose. Bailey came to understand that "for every good thing I helped to bring about or every positive reaction, I contributed to the betterment of someone else in need, the blessings I received were beyond comparison." Sounds like a good Methodist!

For all who have loved and lost a pup, read *Bailey's Song*. Dan can surely help you get a copy!

In honor of Veteran's Day, the office will be closed on Nov. 11, 2026.

Money Matters

NEWS FROM FINANCE

October provided many opportunities for donations to ministry and missions. Your generosity was greatly appreciated! To everyone who gave of their time and energy to our stew cooking, THANK YOU!

Received for the General Fund

$14,593.85

Gifts for October 2026

Designated gifts to other funds:

Building Fund: $1325.00
Creative Care Learning: $100.00
Fall Festival: $1177.00
Free Breakfast: $386.00
Myles' Neigh. Outreach: $420.00
Open Table Ministry: $100.00
Pastor's Discretionary: $10.00
Stew Proceeds to date: $10,779.00
Urban Ministries: $200.00
Vets to Vets: $120.00
World Communion: $50.00

COOKIES FOR APPORTIONMENTS

We are behind in our apportionments, so Kim Wiles is going to bake those delicious cookies - chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, and peanut butter. See her on Sunday or call, 919-475-1851, to place your order for cookies to be delivered on November 15th.



The Pastor's Note Continued...

Yet we do not ostracize him for his differences. We actually seem to do the opposite in inviting him into our lives even though he is someone who would be quite foreign and strange to us if he were standing in front of us. He would speak to us in a foreign language and I wonder if we would tell him to learn our language before we listen to what he has to say. He wouldn't look like a majority of Americans and I wonder if he would be welcomed into local communities or ostracized because of where he came from.

During Jesus' time, some people thought that Jesus was a crazy, homeless, demon-possessed man. Some people thought that Jesus was an arrogant phony. Some people thought Jesus was a nobody and came from the backwater town of Nazareth where absolutely nothing good could ever come from. Some people thought that Jesus deserved the death penalty for his actions. I feel like I hear some of these same arguments made against one another today. It saddens me to see such hateful rhetoric used against one another because when we make such judgments of people, we are the same as the ones who judged Jesus.

Everyday we encounter people who are different from us, including one another at Bethany. No one at Bethany believes exactly the same things, even thinking about those things that relate to Christianity and Jesus. Every single person in the world has a different theology or belief system no matter how much two people have in common with each other. There will always be differences between us yet we are all human. God has made us in God's image and given us all sacred worth. It is inevitable that we will have differences, I mean just look at how different we are from Jesus, but I do believe that God's Spirit has instilled in all humanity a wish for the common good, for the flourishing of all.

So before any of us begin to shout "crucify" to groups or religions or people, we should understand that we are saying such things about Jesus. A man of a different religion, a different ethnicity, a different language, a different situation. There is an Ignatian belief that the Jesuit priests live by and that is to find God in everything and that includes people. I think if we sought to find God in one another, we might think harder about how we judge each other if it is God, if it is Jesus who is standing in front of us. Maybe we could accept our differences and find the goodness, find *God*, residing in one another.

Feel free, in this season, to join me in praying this prayer below. - Pastor Cole

"Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, All I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me." - Saint Ignatius of Loyola



CHRISMON TREE

Please make plans to stay after church on November 22nd to decorate the Chrismon Tree. The first Sunday in Advent is November 29th.



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Tuesday Morning Circle

The Tuesday Morning Circle will meet on November 10th @10:30 a.m. in the FC. Bobbi Wheeler is the contact.

United Women in Faith Tuesday Evening Circle

The Tuesday Evening circle will meet on Nov. 10th @7:00 p.m. in the FC. The Conference book this year is *We Are Not Numbers: The Voices of Gaza's Youth* by Ahmed Alnaouq & Pam Bailey. Please let Kim Wiles know if you have read it.

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will meet on November 10th @7:00 p.m. in the FC. John Long is the contact.

WORSHIP TEAM

NOVEMBER

Communion Servers: Lisa & Gary Kerns

Acolyte

Nov. 1 - Gerhard Mels
Nov. 8 - Janice Stone-Mills
Nov. 15 - Casey Breit
Nov. 22 - Kate Hankins
Nov. 29 - Sharon Stone

Liturgist

Nov. 1 - Dan Portaro
Nov. 8 - Kate Hankins
Nov. 15 - Gerhard Mels
Nov. 22 - Gary Crispell
Nov. 29 - Casey Breit

Open & Close Church

Nov. 1 - Kim Wiles
Nov. 8 - Jimmy Truckner
Nov. 15 - Gary Crispell
Nov. 22 - John Long
Nov. 29 - John Roberts

Ushers

Nov. 1 - P. Hall & M. Painter
Nov. 8 - Lisa & Gary Kearns
Nov. 15 - D. Portaro & C. Klein
Nov. 22 - J. Long & J. Sprague
Nov. 29 - G. Mels & P. Hall

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.

We are especially in need of volunteers to usher and to greet. Please let the office know if you would like to help!

Greeters

Nov. 1 - Cathy Portaro
Nov. 8 - Lynne Sprague
Nov. 15 - Marian Williams
Nov. 22 - Lynne Sprague
Nov. 29 - Donald House



OCTOBER BROUGHT...

Duke Football Concessions

Fall Festival

UMM Barbecue

Pancake Breakfast

MNO

Cooking Stew

Laity Sunday

Feeding @Urban Ministries

On Bethany's Facebook page, you can find more pics and a video posted by Lauren Dawood.

WARMING SOULS MISSION

Our friends from Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist have been a huge help to Bethany's 3rd Saturday outreach missions assisting with the pancake breakfast and donating lots of clothing/supplies to MNO.

Now it's Bethany's turn to support them with their Winter Donation Drive. Any of the items listed can be dropped off in the narthex or brought to the office T-Th from 9:00-12:00 a.m.

Marian Williams is the contact for this.





BACKPACK BUDDIES

Backpack buddies are back and help is need to pack the bags on Thursday, November 12th, @10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Sharon Stone is the contact for this.





It was a chilly and rainy Saturday, but MNO (Myles' Neighborhood Outreach) was ready to assist 30 individuals, and the Pancake Breakfast team was prepared with hot pancakes, sausage, coffee, and juice. Both groups apppreciate recent donations both financially and with other items. Thank you for your support and generosity to these outreach ministries for those in our community!
Next date is November 21st.

CURRENT NEEDS FOR NOVEMBER

Women

Size 10 pants

Men

Size 40 pants, Medium Underwear



FOR EVERYONE

Backpacks, purses, reusable totes
Bag clips
Belts
Blankets
Candy, snacks
Rain ponchos
Small vaseline

Individual/travel size soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner
hand sanitizer, toothpaste,

MARK YOUR CALENDAR- COMING SOON!



FOLLOWING THE CANTATA, HOSPITALITY WILL HOST A HOLIDAY RECEPTION IN THE FELLOWSHIP CENTER.



5th Lisa Kearns
14th Terri Whitfield
14th Chris Wiles
19th Susan Arnold
22nd Jeff Hood



Jennifer and Conn Apisai
17th

Church Contacts

Sanctuary Address: 2809 Guess Rd
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Church Email: bethanyumc1@gmail.com

Online Links

Google Calendar
Bethany Website
ZOOM Meetings
Live Online Worship