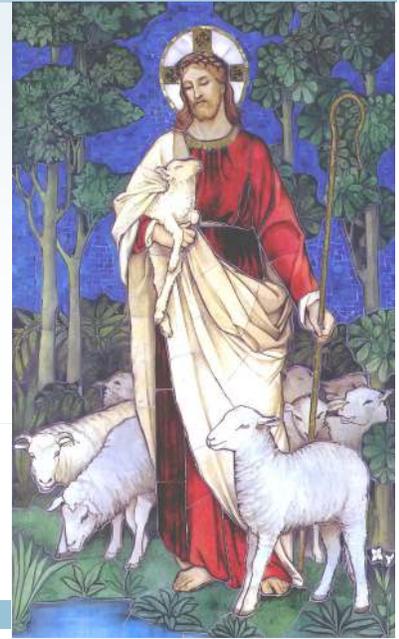


Bethany Presbyterian Church
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Lancaster, PA 17603
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December 2017
Volume 19, Issue 11



News of Bethany

The Giving Tree

Once again it's time to put up the giving tree. This year we are again assisting residents of Conestoga View. These are individuals who most likely would not receive a gift at the Holidays without our contributions. We also have chosen to provide toys to be given at a children's Christmas Party sponsored by La Iglesia de Resurreccion.



As usual we will have tags on the Christmas tree with gift ideas. Please watch for the tree to appear and help "un-decorate" it by choosing a tag and supplying a gift. By doing so you are truly sharing God's love in this community. **Gifts are due no later than Sunday, December 17.** Please be sure to label your gifts for either Conestoga View or La Iglesia de Resurreccion.



***Mission Statement:**
Bethany Presbyterian Church is a church making an impact on the lives of all people through the love of Jesus Christ.*

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Bethany News & Notes

Special Dates in December 2017

1 Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 3

2 Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 10

3 Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 17



First Day of Winter

First Day of Winter
Thursday, December 21

**4 Sunday of Advent/
Christmas Eve**
Sunday, December 24



Christmas Day
Monday, December 25

New Year's Eve
Sunday, December 31



Thanks to all persons who contributed to the 2017 Thanksgiving Baskets. With your generosity, we were able to provide meals for 10 families (25 adults and 23 children). A special thank you to Jim Grossman for shopping, organizing list and baskets. Carol Martin also helped to organize baskets. And Larry Doyle provided sturdy boxes to hold all the food.
~Bethany Deacons

Christmas Poinsettias

Flowers will be put in the Sanctuary Sunday, December 17. Watch for details in the weekly bulletins and order forms on the table in the fellowship area.



Presbyterian Giving Catalog



Looking for gift ideas for the person who has everything and doesn't need/want more "stuff". Copies of the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are on the literature display in the C.E.

corridor. Gift suggestions include ways to help feed the hungry, comfort the brokenhearted, and share our faith with young and old, while letting your gift recipient know of your thoughtfulness in their name.

From Pastor Kent's Desk

We've now arrived at my favorite time of year! The Advent/Christmas seasons have always held a special place in my heart, especially their music. The congregations in which I was raised each celebrated the seasons in a big way, as have the congregations in which I've been blessed to serve.



Looking back, though, it wasn't until I had my first organ position (the fall of 1963, my Senior year of high school) that I really began to appreciate the season from the inside-out.

The position was at First Methodist Church in San Dimas, CA, a short drive from our home in Glendora. (My folks didn't want me driving too far!) It had a very capable

choir with a wonderful director who was very gracious to this "fledgling" organist. I honed my accompanying chops on some pretty dicey choral music, and it held me in good stead throughout the whole of my organist career! I held positions throughout college, in the service, and during seminary, culminating with the position of organist at First Baptist Church, Pasadena, CA.



Their Advent/Christmas season centered around a full-orbed service of "Lessons and Carols" which was established in the 1940's. A "one Grecian Urn, two Grecian Urn" sort of affair. (See: "The Music Man.") It was a bonified big-deal, with all the "bells and whistles" one could ever hope to imagine! It was a large congregation with a magnificent sanctuary which was filled to capacity when the service was presented. It was, as they say, a "fur-dragger." My palms still get sweaty when I think about playing it! (O, to be young and fearless again!)



Whether large or small, every congregation has special ways in which it observes these liturgically rich seasons of the Church Year. Be it a "Hanging of the Greens," or a formal service of "Lessons and Carols," or a "Boars' Head Festival," our traditions bring these seasons to life. Our traditions define us, and speak volumes about what is important to us. That's as it should be, for our traditions shape us and center us in a world which is always in a state of flux.



Star-Cross Nativity
Allison t Régnier

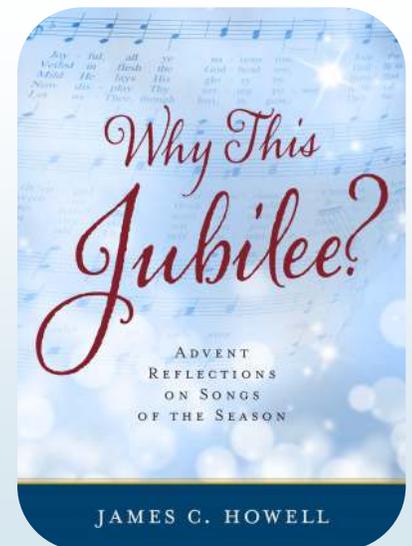
Advent is a time of preparation, a time of anticipation as we prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child in our midst. Even though we've experienced it countless times before, each year brings a new understanding of the significance of the Incarnation. The God who creates the Cosmos deigns to tent amongst us, experiencing all the joy and misery that we ourselves experience. The Babe born in Bethlehem ensures that we have the hope that our future is bright with promise if we but allow Him into our hearts and our lives.

This year, I'm going to bring one of the traditions we celebrated in Punxsutawney to life here at Bethany. Each Advent Season our soprano soloist and I presented a program of music which captured the essence of the season. This year, Katelyn Martin, and I are going to do the same. On Sunday morning, December 17th, we're going to dispense with the sermon and allow the majesty and intimacy of beautiful vocal music to bring the messages of this extraordinary season to life. I encourage you to invite your family and friends to join you for what should be a marvelous morning of music making, all presented in the Spirit of the Season. I believe you'll be blessed and nourished by the experience.

Grace & Peace, *Kent*

Why This Jubilee?

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Pastor's office for a delightful three-week Advent study, "Why This Jubilee?" Author, James Howell, takes us to the most familiar Advent/Christmas hymns and songs and makes us pay attention to them in new ways. He invites us on a journey into the heart, history, and meaning of Christmas carols that deepens our experience that is unexpected and unforgettable. The accompanying book also acts as a daily reflection on the Season of Advent. Copies of "Why This Jubilee" will be available on Sunday morning. The study will begin on Wednesday morning, December 6th.



Christmas Eve Cantata ~ Sunday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.

Our Annual Christmas Eve Service will take on a very special glow this year as our Chancel Choir, under the direction of Derek Martin, presents a “Christmas Carol Celebration: A Cantata for Choir and Congregation.” Brimming with fresh arrangements of favorite carols by Benjamin Harlan, and a creative narration written by Ragan Courtney, “A Christmas Carol Celebration” offers a unique and poetic perspective of the Birth of Christ.

As the title indicates, there will be plenty of opportunity for the congregation to join with the Chancel Choir, as together, we celebrate the Savior’s Birth. As is our Christmas Eve custom, we will be sharing the Lord’s Supper, and ending with our traditional Candle-Lighting Ceremony. The service will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Invite your friends and family to join you for this festive celebration of Christ’s Birth. You, and they, will be blessed and spiritually enriched by this wonder-filled experience!



No Sunday Morning Worship on December 24

Given the fact that Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, the Session has decided that there will be no Sunday morning worship on December 24th. Rather than splitting our attendance that day, having one service on Christmas Eve gives us the opportunity to gather our whole worshipping community together for a festive celebration of the Christ’s Child’s Birth. It also gives the Chancel Choir an opportunity to focus their attention on their Christmas Eve cantata. Mark your calendars now so you can join your family and friends on Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

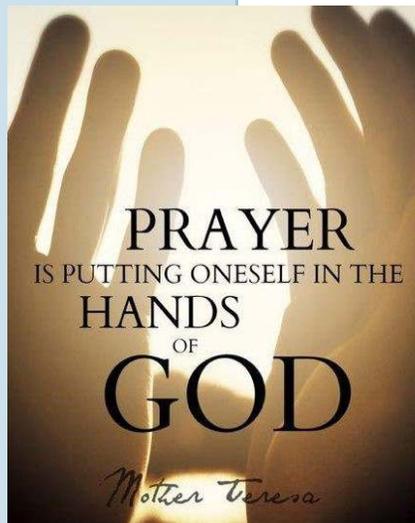


December Birthdays

12/12	Derek Martin	12/26	Anne Trach
12/19	Beverly Birk	12/27	Betty Gehman
12/22	Robert Rine	12/27	Robert Walker
12/25	Douglas Smith	12/30	Kelly Rine

WINTER PRAYER REQUESTS

Agnes Taylor
Jo Fleckenstein
Polly Snyder



Homebound of Bethany

<p>Betty Gehman Homestead Village, Apt.#218 P. O. Box 3227 Lancaster, Pa. 17604</p>	<p>Agnes Taylor 65 Mill Pond Dr. Lancaster PA 17603</p>	<p>Helen Cumpston Mennonite Home 202B Jackson Run Lancaster, Pa. 17601</p>
<p>Jane Sweringen Homestead Village, Apt.#119 P. O. Box 3227 Lancaster, Pa. 17604</p>	<p>Adeline Henderson The Glen Room 310 635 Willow Valley Square Lancaster, Pa. 17602</p>	

December Worship



December 3, 2017 @ 11:00 a.m. - First Sunday in Advent

Joint Worship Service with Iglesia Resurreccion & Oromo Evangelical Congregations
Advent Luncheon Following Worship

December 10, 2017 @ 10:00 a.m. - Second Sunday in Advent

The Message: "In the Wilderness"
Scripture: Mark 1:1-8 Preaching: Rev. Holmes

December 17, 2017 @ 10:00 a.m. - Third Sunday in Advent

The Message: "How Beautiful, How Charming, How Blessed!"
Songs of the Season: Katelyn Martin and Kent Holmes

December 24, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve

"Christmas Carol Celebration" A Cantata for Choir & Congregation
The Lord's Supper and Candle-Lighting Ceremony
NOTE: There will not be a service Sunday morning!

December 31, 2017 @ 10:00 a.m. - First Sunday of Christmas

The Message: "The Presentation"
Scripture: Luke 2:22-40 Preaching: Rev. Holmes

January 7, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m. - Epiphany of the Lord

The Message: "Follow Your Star" Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12
Preaching: Rev. Holmes Celebration of the Lord's Supper



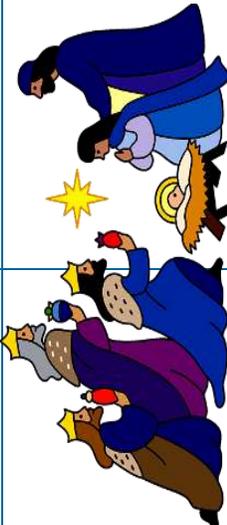
Holy
IS
HIS
NAME.

LUKE 1:49

	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
Greeters	Susie Paxson	Michelle Atwater	Elaine Bornstein	Maurine Smith	Jim Grossman
Fellowship		Derek & Katelyn Martin	Elaine Bronstein		Jim Grossman
Ushers	Sue & Fred Fetterman	Jim Grossman Eva Lauer	Robert & Jean Schwartz	Larry & Sylvia Doyle	Doug & Maurine Smith
Liturgists	Barb McCrary	Judy Maier	Betty Duncan	Lori Pickell	David Schwartz
Flowers	Betty Irwin	Jim Grossman	Poinsettia Tree	Betty Irwin	Bob Waldeck

December 2017



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 1 Sunday of Advent 11:00 A.M. Combined Worship 12:00 P.M. Advent Lunch 	4 6:45 P.M. Scouts 7:00 P.M. Cub Scout	5 7:00 P.M. Scout Committee Meeting	6 10:00 A.M. Why This Jubilee? 8:00 P.M. AI Anon	7	1 7:00 P.M. AA 8:00 P.M. AI Anon <hr/> 8 7:00 P.M. AA 8:00 P.M. AI Anon	2 8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast
10 2 Sunday of Advent 11:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection 2:00 P.M. Oromo 	11 6:45 P.M. Scouts 7:00 P.M. Cub Scout	12 7:00 P.M. Cub Scout Leaders	13 10:00 A.M. Why This Jubilee? 8:00 P.M. AI Anon	14	15 7:00 P.M. AA 8:00 P.M. AI Anon <hr/> 6:00 P.M. Scout Camp Out	16 6:45 P.M. White Deer Run <hr/> Scout Camp Out
17 3 Sunday of Advent 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection 2:00 P.M. Oromo Scout Camp Out 	18 5:30 P.M. Scout Christmas Party	19 7:00 P.M. Pack Meeting	20 10:00 A.M. Why This Jubilee? 8:00 P.M. AI Anon	21 First Day of Winter 	22 7:00 P.M. AA 8:00 P.M. AI Anon	23
24 4 Sunday of Advent/ Christmas Eve 11:30 A.M. Resurrection 2:00 P.M. Oromo 7:00 P.M. Worship 	25 Christmas 	26	27 8:00 P.M. AI Anon	28	29 7:00 P.M. AA 8:00 P.M. AI Anon	30
31 New Year's Eve 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection 2:00 P.M. Oromo  	FORGIVEN TO US A SON IS				Office Hours: Tues - Thurs 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.	