

Bethany Presbyterian Church
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December 2025
Volume 27, Issue 11



News of Bethany



"Songs of the Manger" with the Chancel Choir

On Sunday, December 21, The Bethany Presbyterian Chancel Choir will present "Songs of the Manger", a service filled with traditional Christmas hymns, poetry, soloists and anthems. Join the Choir in celebrating the wonder of Jesus' birth through beautiful music, and share the story of hope, peace, and love that began in Bethlehem. Bring your family and friends as we usher in the Christmas season with a service that is guaranteed to inspire and uplift you. We look forward to celebrating with everyone!



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 2025

Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 7

Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 14



Winter Begins
Saturday, December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 21

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24

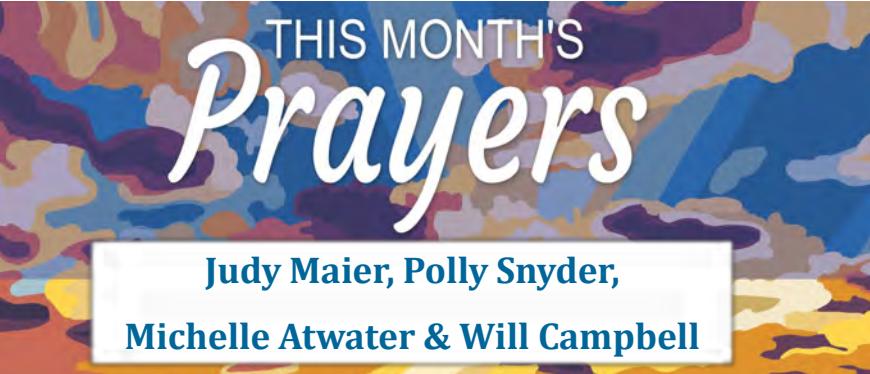


Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25

New Year's Eve
Wednesday, December 31



2025 - 2026
PRESBYTERIAN
GIVING CATALOG
**GIVE with a
PURPOSE**



Judy Maier, Polly Snyder,
Michelle Atwater & Will Campbell



12/12 Derek Martin
12/19 Beverly Birk
12/22 Robert Rine

12/25 Douglas Smith
12/27 Robert Walker
12/30 Kelly Rine

Musings from “The Study”

I have a confession to make! I am an inveterate “discophile!” That’s right, I collect classical compact discs. Operas, symphonies, choral/organ music. I have 100’s of discs! Before the advent of compact discs, I collected vinyl records, many of which I still have. I’m also somewhat of an audiophile. When I was in the Army stationed in Korea, I purchased a complete Sansui stereo system at the PX in Seoul and had it shipped back to the States. (I still have it! I’ve replaced the turntable a couple of times, but the Sansui tuner/amp and the speakers (with their 15”woofers) can still blow-out the windows and part your hair!



That brings me to the topic of Christmas Music. In among the many discs, I have a section dedicated to the music of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. I bring them out the day after Thanksgiving and put them away the day after Epiphany. Choral music, orchestral music, organ music, etc. The music plays almost “non-stop” throughout the whole season. Erin and I sing along, of course, as does Abigail sometimes. She’s not thrilled but she graciously puts up with it. (Actually, she doesn’t have a choice!)

Music is such an integral part of the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany seasons. So much so that we’d be lost without it. If I wasn’t such a “purest,” I’d mix-and-match the hymns throughout the season, regardless of whether they fit the sermon text or not! (Shake things up a little bit!)

When I was “practicing” organist, I loved to play the organ literature that is such an integral part of the season. I would play an afternoon recital of Christmas music in the middle of December which gave me an opportunity to play the pieces which didn’t fit the Sunday morning service.

Come to think of it, I believe we need to add more Christmas hymns to our repertoire on Sunday morning! We only get to sing a small portion of them during the Christmas season anyway, so let’s go for broke! (Don’t tell your friends were doing it, though!)



So, sing lustily and let the anthems and hymns of this season work their magic on you. Believe me, we really aren’t breaking any “liturgical” rules!

**Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!**

Kent

Dear Bethany Family,

The Giving Tree is here! This year, we are assisting residents of Faith Friendship Villa, Mount Joy, PA. We also have chosen to provide gifts to a family from La Iglesia de Resurreccion and we are collecting monetary donations for gifts for our ChildFund Children Milton and Subhi.

Please look for the giving tree and check out the table in the narthex for more information. By doing so you are truly sharing God's love in this community.

Special Envelopes will be on the Giving Tree table for monetary gifts for Faith Friendship Villa and ChildFund. Please make any checks payable to "Bethany Presbyterian Church" and memo either Faith Friendship or ChildFund. Monetary gifts can be placed in the white basket in the narthex, in the offering plates on Sunday, or sent in by mail. The deadline for financial gifts is Sunday, December 21.

The names of the La Iglesia de Resurreccion family are as follows: Father, Roberto Valdez; mother, Gretel Valdez; son Yanier (age 15) and daughter Silvia (age 12). Details for the types of gifts requested and/or clothing will be included on the card on the Giving Tree. Gifts for the La Iglesia de Resurreccion family should be brought to the church on Sunday mornings since the church is not open during the week. The deadline for family gifts to be placed under the tree is Sunday, December 14.

If you have any questions, please call me.
Thanks for helping make the holiday
brighter for others in our community.

Blessings,

Betty B. Duncan
Giving Tree Coordinator
Phone: 717-393-9029



Catherine Cox should have listened to God. But the 25-year-old from Alabama, wasn't paying attention, at least not at first, when she decided to leave her hometown to attend Xavier University in New Orleans. She hated it there. She didn't want to go back, but it was hard for her not to because she had gotten a full ride. But when she discovered midway through her first semester that she was expecting twins, she went back home to seek the support of her extended family in raising her children.

Initially she took a break from school, working a variety of jobs to support herself and her children, but then she began to think about her education. She had started college as a business major because her dad said that there was no money in teaching. But she hated accounting, and she always knew she was supposed to be a teacher. "God told me a long time ago that I needed to be a teacher," she said.

And this time, she listened. She enrolled in Stillman College, founded in 1876 by the Rev. Dr. Charles Allen Stillman, a Presbyterian — and never looked back. She graduated this year as a Dean's List Scholar with a degree in Mathematics, which has allowed her not only to fulfill her dream of teaching, but also her dream of teaching math. Stillman College is the only historically Black college in covenant relationship with the PC(USA).

Preparing the way for aspiring young professionals is what both Stillman — and the PC(USA)'s Christmas Joy Offering — are all about. A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering distributes gifts equally to the Interim Unified Agency's Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, including Stillman, and to the Assistance Program of the PC(USA)'s Board of Pensions.

Originally founded by the Presbyterian Church as a training school for African American ministers, Stillman's picturesque, 105-acre campus sits within the bounds of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley and the Synod of Living Waters.

Shortly before graduation, Catherine accepted a position teaching mathematics at Stillman's newest education partner, the I Dream Big Charter School. She credits Stillman's close-knit community and engaged faculty for being instrumental in helping her to succeed.



Catherine is grateful that gifts from the Christmas Joy Offering will help future generations. "Stillman promotes the Presbyterian mission of education," Cox said, "of giving back and of reaching out to those who are lost."

Together, our gifts are preparing the way for more teachers who embrace that shared mission. Thank you for giving whatever you can ... for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

DECEMBER

WORSHIP



December 7, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. - Second Sunday of Advent

The Message: "Good Fruit" Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12

Preaching: Rev. Holmes



December 14, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. - Third Sunday of Advent

The Message: "My Soul Magnifies the Lord"

Scripture: Luke 1:47-55 Preaching: Rev. Holmes

December 21, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Songs of the Manger with The Chancel Choir
and The Rev. Dr. Erin S. Cox-Holmes



December 24, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve

Candlelight & Carols Preaching: Rev. Holmes
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

December 28, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas
The Message: "The Story Continues"
Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Erin S. Cox-Holmes



December 7

December 14

December 21

December 24

December 28

Greeter & Fellowship

Elaine Bornstein

Jean Schwartz

Eckman Family

Eckman Family

Elaine Bornstein

Ushers

Patton Rineer & Linda Eckman

Cam & Emily Nicola

Eckman Family

Eckman Family

Doug & Maurine Smith

December 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Second Sunday of Advent 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	December 1 6:30 P.M. Cub Scouts Westminster Hall 6:45 P.M. Boy Scouts	December 2 7:00 P.M. Troop Committee Mtg. Westminster Hall	December 3 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 8:00 P.M. Al Anon	December 4 7:00 P.M. Sense of Direction Westminster Hall	December 5 7:00 P.M. AA Donegal Hall 8:00 P.M. Al Anon Parlor	December 6
 Third Sunday of Advent 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	December 8 6:30 P.M. Cub Scouts Westminster Hall 6:45 P.M. Boy Scouts Donegal Hall	December 9	December 10 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 8:00 P.M. Al Anon	December 11 7:00 P.M. Sense of Direction Westminster Hall	December 12 7:00 P.M. AA Donegal Hall 8:00 P.M. Al Anon Parlor	December 13
Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	December 15 6:30 P.M. Cub Scouts Westminster Hall 6:45 P.M. Boy Scouts Donegal Hall	December 16	December 17 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 8:00 P.M. Al Anon	December 18 7:00 P.M. Sense of Direction Westminster Hall	December 19 7:00 P.M. AA Donegal Hall 8:00 P.M. Al Anon Parlor	December 20 First Day of Winter
First Sunday of Christmas 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	December 22 6:45 P.M. Boy Scouts Donegal Hall	December 23	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 25 Christmas Day	December 26 7:00 P.M. AA Donegal Hall 8:00 P.M. Al Anon Parlor	December 27
Second Sunday of Christmas 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Resurrection	December 29	December 30	December 31 New Year's Eve			