



Bethany Church of Richland  
112 Leventry Road  
Johnstown, Pa. 15904

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Prepared especially for the home of:

## **LET US WORSHIP WITH YOU!**

Adult Sunday School

9:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 a.m.

Bethany Church of Richland  
112 Leventry Road  
Johnstown, Pa. 15904  
814-266-9588  
bethanychurchofrichland@gmail.com  
bethanymc.church  
Adam Dotts, Pastor



Dec.2023/Jan.2024



**Flowers:** Holly and Narcissus

**Holly** is best known as an evergreen shrub with red berries that appear later in the growing season. Its branches have long been used in holiday decorations like wreaths and centerpieces.

**Narcissus** (paperwhite) is a bulb best grown indoors that blooms beautiful white flowers.

**Birthstone:** Turquoise

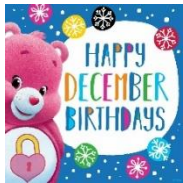


**Flowers:** Snowdrop and Carnation

The earliest garden flower to bloom, the **snowdrop** (*Galanthus*), emerges in late winter or early spring, sometimes when snow is still on the ground.

**Carnations** are intolerant of high heat and might be a poor choice for a southern garden. They bloom in midsummer, preferring bright sun, but can also bloom in temperatures just above freezing.

**Birthstone:** Garnet



- 3 Greg Winger
- Christine Spicher
- 5 Ava Kishlock
- 7 Lori Lechak
- 13 Meaghan Ling Hood
- Hudson Gallina
- 14 Susan Paul
- 15 Aiden Levadnuk
- 16 Charlotte Goller
- Shiwon Chang
- Deborah Morgan
- 20 Vito Vizzini
- 22 Vivian Bowser
- 28 Kaija Holtzman
- 29 Joel Shumaker
- Timothy Levadnuk
- 30 Sarah Levadnuk
- 31 Vicki Hofecker

*Happy Anniversary*



6 Ed & Rene Luther

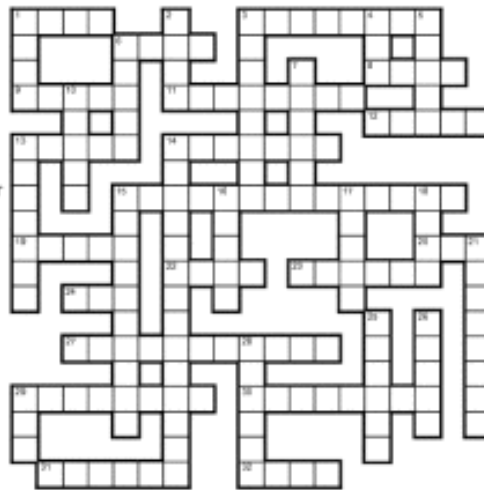
Wise Men  
Seek Him Still



## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Transportation for going over snow (4)
- 3 Mixture of seasoned ingredients (8)
- 6 Baby's bed (4)
- 8 Period from December 24th to January 6th (4)
- 9 Red-breasted bird (5)
- 11 Twelve days after Christmas (8)
- 12 Alcoholic drink normally served in a bowl (5)
- 13 Jolly (5)
- 14 News (7)
- 15 Goes with the turkey (9,5)
- 19 A type of tree used at Christmas (5)
- 20 The colour of Santa's hat (3)
- 22 \_\_\_ log; traditionally burned at Christmas (4)
- 23 Sanctified (6)
- 24 Cured leg of pork (3)
- 27 Christmas song (6,5)
- 29 Found under the Christmas tree? (8)
- 30 Grace (8)
- 31 Snow falls in this season (6)
- 32 Given at Christmas (4)



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

### Down

- 1 Bright celestial body (4)
- 2 Christmas tree type (4)
- 3 Take aback (8)
- 4 No room here! (3)
- 5 Elvish colour (5)
- 6 Sweets; flavoured sugar (5)
- 7 Container usually found in a stable (6)
- 10 Beginning of life (5)
- 13 Amazing event (7)
- 14 Written after Christmas? (5,3,6)
- 15 Formal events (10)
- 16 Ring out from churches (5)
- 17 Accompaniment for food (5)
- 18 Printed or written greeting (4)
- 21 Month in which Christmas falls (8)
- 25 Nature of God (6)
- 26 One was born in Bethlehem (5)
- 28 Sweetened milk drink, with eggs and alcohol (6)
- 29 Pastry dish (3)

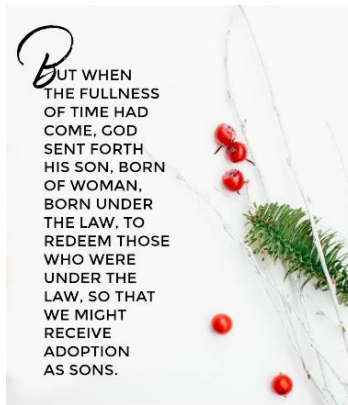


- 2 Jennifer Stahl
- 3 Miles Hess
- 5 Brandon Stahl
- Caitlin Stahl
- 8 Bill Moyer
- 15 Levi Koval
- 20 Sean Lear



8 Dustin & April Coval

There is strength in the Spirit. As long as we have breath, we have work to do.


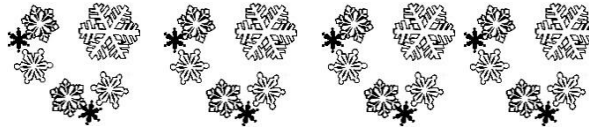


GALATIANS 4:4-5





Dec.2023/Jan.2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> NEW YEAR'S DAY	<b>2</b> 9:30 am Wellness Warriors	<b>3</b> 9:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Bible Study	<b>4</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
<b>7</b> COMMUNION 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship Service	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:30 am Wellness Warriors	<b>10</b> 9:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Bible Study	<b>11</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
<b>14</b> 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship Service	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30 am Wellness Warriors 7:00 pm Ladies Fellowship (Lori Lechak – Leader)	<b>17</b> 9:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Bible Study	<b>18</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
<b>21</b> 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship Service	<b>22</b> 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm Council/ Finance Meeting	<b>23</b> 9:30 am Wellness Warriors	<b>24</b> 9:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Bible Study	<b>25</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
<b>28</b> 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10 am Worship Service Pizza/Game Day	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30 am Wellness Warriors	<b>31</b> 9:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Bible Study			

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE - January 2024

Jan 7

### Counting Stewards

Lori Lechak  
Andy Koval

### Acolyte

Levi Eash  
Emryk Mahl

### Liturgist

Cade Shumaker

### Children's Sermon

Lori Lechak

Jan 14

### Counting Stewards

Lori Lechak  
Nate Manges

### Acolyte

Levi Eash  
Kolton Shall

### Liturgist

Amanda Peretin

### Children's Sermon

Lois Graham

Jan 21

### Counting Stewards

Nate Manges  
Cindy Koval

### Acolyte

Levi Eash  
Isla Evans

### Liturgist

Joel Shumaker

### Children's Sermon

Kaylin Gallina

Jan 28

### Counting Stewards

Nate Manges  
Andy Koval

### Acolyte

Levi Eash  
Emryk Mahl

### Liturgist


Lois Graham

### Children's Sermon

Kris Manges

# December

Dec.2023/Jan.2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
3 COMMUNION ADVENT 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	4	5 9:30 am Wellness Warriors	6 9:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Bible Study	7 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	8	9 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
10 ADVENT 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	11	12 9:30 am Wellness Warriors 6:00 pm Preschool Board Meeting	13 9:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Bible Study	14 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	15	16 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
17 ADVENT 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Round Table Carol Sing	18	19 9:30 am Wellness Warriors	20 9:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Bible Study	21 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	22	23 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
24 ADVENT 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	25	26	27 9:30 am Quilters (tentative)	28	29	30 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
31 CASH DAY 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service						

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 2023

Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24	Dec 31
<b>Counting Stewards</b> Andy Koval Lori Lechak	<b>Counting Stewards</b> Cindy Koval Nate Manges	<b>Counting Stewards</b> Lori Lechak Cindy Koval	<b>Counting Stewards</b> Andy Koval Nate Manges	<b>Counting Stewards</b> Lori Lechak Nate Manges
<b>Acolyte</b> Levi Eash Kolton Shall	<b>Acolyte</b> Levi Eash Isla Evans	<b>Acolyte</b> Levi Eash Emryk Mahl	<b>Acolyte</b> Levi Eash Kolton Shall	<b>Acolyte</b> Levi Eash Isla Evans
<b>Liturgist</b> Cade Shumaker	<b>Liturgist</b> Amanda Peretin	<b>Liturgist</b> Lois Graham	<b>Liturgist</b> Joel Shumaker	<b>Liturgist</b> Nate Manges
<b>Children's Sermon</b> Lori Lechak	<b>Children's Sermon</b> Lois Graham	<b>Children's Sermon</b> Kaylin Gallina	<b>Children's Sermon</b> Kris Manges	<b>Children's Sermon</b> Joel Shumaker



We hope this newsletter finds you well. We have been very busy in our classrooms! November ended with the most parent community helpers that the four-year-old class has seen in many years! The students loved it as there were a lot of interesting careers shared with them. You just never know who will grow up to be a Doctor, Interior Designer, Detective, Nurse, Teacher, Fireman, Police Officer, Military etc. influenced by the Community Helper Month of November at Bethany Church of Richland Preschool. Very exciting! December brings many fun things our preschoolers will experience, including wear red day, pajama day, our Christmas program, and a visit from Santa to name just a few. December's Bible verse in the four-year-old class is: *She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus because He will save His people from their sins. Matthew 1:21.* January's verse is: *Jesus said to them, "follow Me and I'll make you fishers of men". Matthew 4:19.* The three-year-old class will also have a Christmas Program and a visit from Santa. The Gingerbread Man will make his way to the 3's students. The December Bible verse in the threes classes is: *When you go through deep water, I will be with you. Isaiah 43:2.* January's verse is: *The Lord is good to all. Psalm 145:9.* Praise be to God that these little ones are being taught who Jesus is.

#### Fours Program



#### Threes Program



Our sincerest condolences and sympathy to the families and friends of Elaine Bennett and Lois Wingard, please remember them in prayer. Please lift up Jay and Cathy Adams whose daughter has been called home to be with the Lord. Praying for comfort and peace in this most difficult and sorrowful time.

### Just So You Know

**Just a reminder:** Bethany's policy on hospital visitation is that the Pastor will visit patients who are on hospice or if a visit is specifically requested. Hospitals no longer contact churches. If you would like to be added to our Shut-in list and receive pastoral visits, please contact the church office at 814-266-9588.

**If you would like to have** a 1993 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative plate of BUMC please see Karen, Pauline, or call the church office.

**Bridges Cooperative Ministries** (Formally UMC Human Resources) provides emergency diapers to homeless families. They have an ongoing need of diapers, baby wash, diaper rash cream, & wipes. Monetary donations are also accepted.

**We are in need** of prayer shawls and baby blankets. There is yarn to be used for these projects in the back of the church, Thank you all for your help and support with this project and especially all your prayers.

**We are very grateful for the faithful giving of your tithes and offerings.** There are several ways to tithe at Bethany Church. On-line giving is available, go to: [bethanymc.church](http://bethanymc.church) & click on giving. This takes you to the donate page. You can mail us at: Bethany Church of Richland 112 Leventry Rd. Johnstown, Pa. 15904, and the traditional way of the Sunday Morning Worship offering plate.

**Our next Cash Day** offering is December 31. This offering helps to maintain our church building & property. Thank You for your kind and very generous support.

**If you would like your** birthday/anniversary posted in the newsletter, please call the church office at 814-266-9588.

**We would like to thank all the many volunteers** and folks who faithfully serve our church, often times with no recognition. We are grateful for our Counting Stewards, Acolytes, Liturgists, Children's Sermon Ministers, Choir, as well as our Sunday School teachers, card ministry, and those who serve on committees. Many hours are spent organizing and planning all the drive-thru dinners and a special thanks to those who, with little notice, cook and serve funeral meals. We are very grateful for all the folks who help maintain our church and thanks be to God for sending us our Pastor and his family. God is blessing Bethany Church of Richland, and it shows.

### What's Happening

**Bethany Church had our Thanksgiving Service** during worship service, November 19, in which an insert was placed in the bulletin asking the congregation what they are thankful for and some of the responses were: God, Family, Doctors, good health, our church family, sunshine, Pastor Adam, children, spouse, the Cross, parents, having the Lord to lean on, pets, friends, guidance, healing, wonderful neighbors, the Promise of heaven. God is good.

**Thank you to everyone** who took part in buying gifts for our Christmas families this year. You helped bring some Christmas Love into a little child's heart.

**Every Saturday**, Bethany Church hosts a Men's Prayer Breakfast from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. This is open to all men and is nondenominational. They come together for food and fellowship, as well as to hear an inspiring message from one of the many guest speakers. This ministry has been going strong since 1983 - come and be a part of it this Saturday! All men are welcome. Come join us! (No meeting December 23.)

**Pastor Adam's Bible Study** on 1 & 2 Corinthians, began Wednesday, November 29 and will continue Wednesdays, thru February 28 at 7:30 pm in the fellowship hall. (13 weeks - Not meeting the week between Christmas/New Year) It is a Time of Worship – Time of Fellowship – Time of Study & Reflection.

**There will be no** Trustees, Council/Finance, or Ladies Fellowship meetings in December.

**Round the Table Carol Sing** will be held in the fellowship hall at 7 pm on Sunday December 17. If you would like to host/decorate a table and/or bring a dessert, please speak with Carol Peretin with any questions or more information.

**Bethany Church of Richland Christmas Eve Services:** Worship Service at 10 am and an Evening Service 5pm.

**A State of the Church Conference** will be held Sunday, January 21, 2024, immediately following worship service. This is in place of the Charge Conference held before.

## Person/s of the month – Barry &amp; Jean Burns



Hello, we are Barry & Jean Burns and over the last year, we became members of Bethany. Previously, we belonged to Beulah in Dale.

Barry is retired from Wonder/Hostess as a district sales manager. He has been retired over thirteen years and now enjoys golfing at Oakbrook. He is also an avid reader, especially enjoys James Patterson, Lee Child, and David Baldacci novels.

I retired in 2022 from DaVita dialysis as a registered dietitian. I graduated from Penn State in 1974. I started my career at Lee Hospital in 1972 and also was a consultant at several nursing homes, including Arbutus Park Manor for nine years. My hobbies include sewing, reading, piano and over the last year I have been taking banjo lessons. (Poor Barry has to listen to me practicing!)

We are the parents of two sons. Brandon is married to Rebecca (Sheehan) from Cresson. They reside in Hollidaysburg. Brandon is a chemical engineer and is director of manufacturing operations at Veeder-Root. Becky is a speech therapist for UPMC. They have two children, Logan, 13 and Eliza, 10.

Johathan is married to Lauren (Kerekes), also from Johnstown. They reside in Lancaster. Jonathan is an entertainer who has been on David Letterman, Jay Leno and America's Got Talent. He entertains at colleges, on Disney Cruises and throughout Europe in the summer. Lauren is a first-grade teacher at Lampeter-Strasburg. They have two daughters, Charlotte, 10 and Lydia, 7.

Both of our sons are active in their church, and we are so thankful our grandchildren are being raised in a Christian home.

We are backyard neighbors to Ed and Rene Luther. Barry refers to him as "Uncle Ed" and often calls on him when something breaks at our house – he can fix anything – best neighbors ever! We enjoy attending Bethany – everyone has been so welcoming. Pastor Adam's sermons are inspirational and the whole atmosphere in church is caring and comfortable.

We thank everyone for their kindness and friendship. Bethany feels like home to us.

<sup>37</sup> *Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”*  
*Matthew 9 37-38 ESV*

Brothers and Sisters



I cannot believe how blessed I am to share another Christmas season with you. Last Sunday, I was excited to see the members filling the sanctuary, singing, and decorating for the coming of our Lord Jesus. The decorating inspired me to bake my favorite

Pillsbury Christmas cookies for a pre-Christmas treat. I want Christmas to be essential for everyone. I often need to remind myself that Christmas is different for everyone. So, I spent some time in prayer today, thinking about my message for this year's letter.

I want you to know, Christmas is about the birth of Jesus and his return. Christmas is not about spending money or giving gifts, though nothing is wrong with doing those things. Next, Christmas is a time to seek Peace and not dwell on the past. Last, Christmas is an opportunity to be a blessing, not a burden. I'm sure you have heard most of these things before; however, give yourself time to let this sink in and to pray.

I have listened to many of my contemporaries suggest that there is a war on Christmas. I, for one, do not believe that. However, what I think is an effort to reduce or even eliminate Jesus from Christmas. Because of this, I am concerned that we are missing the Joy of getting to know Jesus at Christmas. I have discovered some startling statistics to support what I suspect and have seen. Approximately 65% of Americans profess to be Christians; however, only 18% regularly attend a church. What is also disturbing is that about 89% of Americans celebrate the Christmas Holiday, which means that most Americans who celebrate Christmas do not set foot in a Church. As you can see, the war is not on Christmas. The battle is on Jesus.

I am not telling you this to discourage you. I tell you this because the harvest is ready, and we have an excellent opportunity to celebrate and prepare for Christmas.

Blessings

Pastor Adam