



**Bethel Banner 2026**

From the Pastor

It's the new year! It's time to hit the restart button, to make resolutions and think about things we want to do better in the coming year. There is a sense of hope and renewal this time of year. It is a time to look ahead and to believe in possibilities again.

It is easy for us to think of Christianity as being focused on the past. After all, we read the Bible, which was written 2,000+ years ago, as we talk about the “old, old story of Jesus and His love.” However, our Christian faith is more about the future than the past. In Lamentations, the prophet Jeremiah tells us that God’s mercies are “new every morning, great is God’s faithfulness.” The Bible wants us to remember that God is making all things new (Revelation 21:5). In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul writes that “If anyone is in Christ, he/she is a new creation; the old is gone and the new has come.” In Paul’s own life he said that he was, “forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead” (Philippians 3:13).

When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, God forgives us of the sins of the past and heals us from the brokenness that comes from sin. We no longer have to be bound by our past failures, or mistakes, or hurts. We are able to look ahead to the life God is calling us to live; to become more like Jesus each and every day. Every day is a new opportunity to love God and love one another. Every day is an opportunity to draw closer to God. Our faith in Jesus Christ is not about where we have been but about where we are going, which makes every day a day to celebrate that we are children of God, and to help others find the way to what can truly make their lives new as well.

Happy New Year!

Pastor John

Vacation Bible School

It's time to begin planning our 2026 Vacation Bible School. Pastor John will be having a 2026 VBS planning meeting, on Saturday, January 24, at 10am, in the Café. Anyone who would like to help with VBS is welcomed and encouraged to attend.

## Update on UMW Activities

The **UMW** welcomed 100 people at the annual Christmas Tea on December 13<sup>th</sup>. It was a lovely gathering with folks chatting while savoring their delectable repast or buzzing about the speaker's presentation. Kelly Kozel offered the blessing along with a testimonial message, and Holly Smith read a piece about the Lord's creation of honey. The attendees went home with favors of honey, and some were lucky enough to win a door prize as well. The speaker was Peggy Dixon who regaled us with an entertaining and informative presentation about bees.

Methodist Services was the recipient for the collection of goods and monetary contributions. Carole Boughter gave an overview of the community-based services provided by the facility. She was overwhelmed by the generosity of the attendees. The toys, games, dolls, household goods, and our usual hats/scarves/mittens/socks filled a car and a truck. \$1000 in donations was also contributed.

"Save the Date" for the Community Tea for Women on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 1:00.

The UMW met on December 19 to recap the Tea, distribute donations, and approve the budget for 2026. It was decided to forgo the January meeting. The February 18th and March 18th meetings will be at 1:00. The April and May meetings will be held at 7:00 pm to accommodate those unable to attend a daytime meeting, and the June meeting will be a 6pm potluck picnic. All women are welcome!

## Guys and Gals

The Guys and Gals will be having dinner Wednesday, January 28th at 6:00pm. We will be meeting at Italian Delight located at 734 W. Main Street, Trappe, PA 19426.

### Spring City Food Pantry (Project Outreach):

Bethel's donation for January will be:

**Soup**

**Ready-to-eat Chili**

**Pasta**

**Stew**



*They are also in need of shopping bags, either cloth or the ones that can be purchased at the grocery store.. Items may be placed on or under the Food Pantry collection table in the lobby.*

**Our next Project Outreach Food Pantry is Thursday, February 19th at 10:00am.**

**Thank you for your contributions!**

## Lets Un-Decorate Together

Hope the holidays were a great blessing to you and yours. Undecorating will start on January 10th, 9 to 12 pm. (after Epiphany) Let's try to get the sanctuary and the Christmas tree in the lobby put away. If you can spare an hour or two, this goes very quickly. Thanks all and Season's greetings.

-Jean Domin

## 2025 Donations

With a grateful heart, I am happy to report that Donations for 2025 as of Sunday, December 21st, have put us 15% over our budget donation amount. With some very generous, unexpected contributions and your steadfast giving, we will enter 2026 in a very gifted position. Let's make the most of our giving in the New Year! Continued blessings to you and yours.

-Jean Domin

## Year-End Statements 2025

Your year-end statements will be available on January 11<sup>th</sup> at church.

If you do not receive that day, they will be mailed to you. I will be on vacation January 15<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> (some place warm). If you have any questions, I will be happy to address when I return. Thank you for your continued generosity; it was a great year!

-Jean Domin

# Look What's Happening

## Women's Book Club

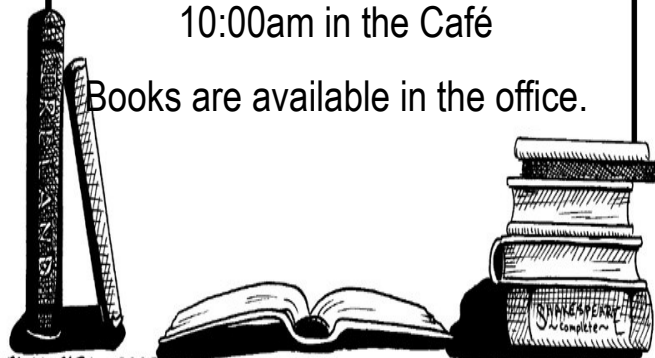
"Frozen River" by: Ariel Lawhon

### Discussion

Monday, January 26th

10:00am in the Café

Books are available in the office.



Nikki O'Shea 2008

## Beacon of Hope - Coldest Night of the Year - 2026 - "Cold Feet Team"

We have reached the Winter Solstice and have had a few snowfalls. We are planning again for another successful walk for Pottstown Beacon of Hope. Won't you join us? There are usually 10-12 of us and we always have a "freezin' good time! Just kidding, we are blessed that we can put layers on, carry hand warmers and be dry during our walk. There are even snacks along the way. Together with other people across the country, we're walking and fundraising to support and serve people and families experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness in our very own community. If you are looking to support needs in your area, this is the mission for you! Donations go directly to Pottstown CNOY. Use this link to donate directly or donate through the church. Let me know any questions you may have.

-Jean Domin

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=1037787>

# January Calendar

Thurs, Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>			
Fri, Jan. 2 <sup>nd</sup>			
Sat, Jan. 3 <sup>rd</sup>			
Sun, Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am 9:00am 10:30am	Praise Service Seekers Worship Service	Sanctuary Library Sanctuary
Mon, Jan. 5 <sup>th</sup>			
Tues, Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup>			
Wed, Jan. 7 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm 6:30pm-8:00pm	AOL Den Pack 4	Board Room Fellowship Hall
Thurs, Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	Webelos	Green Room
Fri, Jan. 9 <sup>th</sup>			
Sat, Jan. 10 <sup>th</sup>			
Sun, Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am 9:00am 10:30am	Praise Service Seekers Worship Service	Sanctuary Library Sanctuary
Mon, Jan. 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:45pm-7:45pm	Troop 4	Board Room
Tues, Jan. 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Trustee Meeting	Board Room
Wed, Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm 6:30pm-8:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm	AOL Den Pack 4 Finance Meeting Church Council	Green Room Fellowship Hall Board Room Board Room
Thurs, Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup>			
Fri, Jan. 16 <sup>th</sup>			
Sat, Jan. 17 <sup>th</sup>			
Sun, Jan. 18 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am 9:00am 10:30am	Praise Service Seekers Worship Service	Sanctuary Library Sanctuary
Mon, Jan. 19 <sup>th</sup>			
Tues, Jan. 20 <sup>th</sup>			
Wed, Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:30pm	Lion Den	Green Room
Thurs, Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>			
Fri, Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup>			
Sat, Jan. 24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	VBS Planning Meeting	Café
Sun, Jan. 25 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am 9:00am 10:30am	Praise Service Seekers Worship Service	Sanctuary Library Sanctuary
Mon, Jan. 26 <sup>th</sup>			
Tues, Jan. 27 <sup>th</sup>			
Wed, Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm 6:30pm	Lion Den Guys and Gals	Green Room Italian Delight
Thurs, Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup>			
Fri, Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup>			
Sat, Jan. 31 <sup>st</sup>			

# Upcoming Meetings

## Trustee Meeting

Tuesday, January 13th at 7:00pm

In the Board Room

## Finance Meeting

Wednesday, January 14th at 6:30pm

In the Board Room

## Church Council

Wednesday, January 14th at 7:00pm

In the Board Room

## VBS Planning Meeting

Saturday, January 24th at 7:00pm

In the Café



- Make Hot Cocoa
- Volunteer
- Play with Snow Inside
- Family Game Night
- See Christmas Lights
- Blow Frozen Bubbles
- Go Sledding
- Indoor Mini-Golf
- Try a Winter Sport
- Shovel for a neighbor
- Snow Painting
- Paper Snowflakes
- See a Show
- Homemade Candy
- Bake Cookies
- Make a Birdfeeder

Every good and perfect  
gift is from above.  
- James 1:17



Let it  
Snow

Jan 5	Christine Ferriss
Jan 5	Amy Keller
Jan 6	Gail Nesspor
Jan 8	Makenzie Platchek
Jan 10	Lucas Starner
Jan 11	Pastor John Keretzman
Jan 11	Robert Graeff
Jan 15	James Hetrick, Jr.
Jan 15	Eleanor Moore
Jan 15	Paul Wolf
Jan 17	Kaleigh Long
Jan 17	Barbara Moore
Jan 17	Patricia Richards
Jan 17	Katelyn Murray
Jan 18	Kaye Weikel
Jan 19	Betty Jo Borzick
Jan 19	Roger Smith
Jan 20	Barbara Cutillo
Jan 21	Howard Walleigh
Jan 22	Max Starner
Jan 23	Jennifer Burdshall
Jan 23	Tina Deemer
Jan 23	Lee Urner
Jan 23	Matthew Spiece
Jan 28	Jeff Daubert
Jan 28	Jeff Bardsley
Jan 29	Sarah Moore
Jan 30	Justin Bradbury
Jan 30	Meredith Evasew
Jan 30	Dana Rae McKinley
Jan 31	Amber Nesspor



We recycle in different ways. Check out the Mission table at the top of the stairs.

Drop off used ink cartridges in the basket. These give the church credit towards purchases at Staples.

Redner's receipts continue to be collected. After submission to Redner's, 1% comes back to the church. It takes some effort, but it's free money.

Pull tabs continue to be collected for Ronald McDonald House.

Used glasses are collected for the Lion's Club.



BETHEL UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

# Bethel Banner

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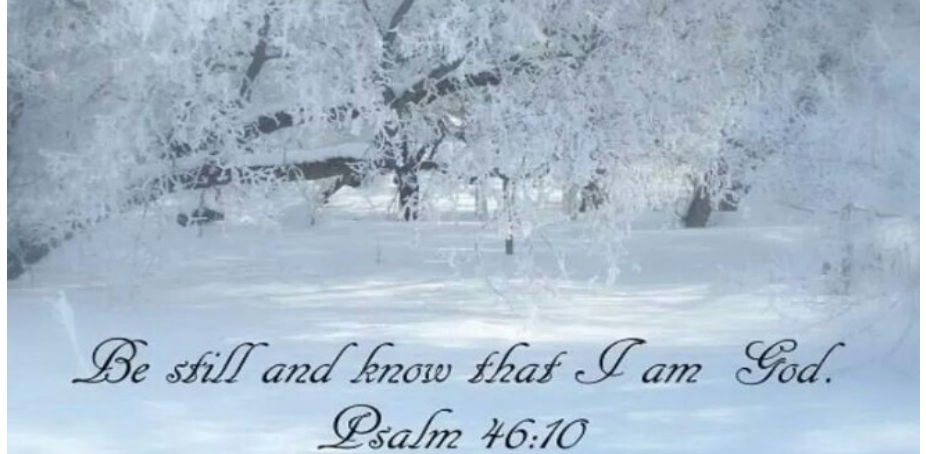
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## Articles for Next Issue

Due:

February 21st, 2026

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Instagram

