



Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2020

**Glorifying God by Making, Maturing, and
Mobilizing Enthusiastic Disciples for Jesus Christ**

Vision 2020

**In 2020, in order to live deeper into our mission statement we want to invest more in our community,
our welcome, and our relationships.**

PASTOR'S REFLECTION...

When I was in Seminary, I was assigned a project that required me to visit different churches. The churches had to be ones that I had never been to before, and basically, we just took note of everything we saw and experienced as first-time visitors.

It was an eye-opening experience. I had gone to two churches basically before that. I had been easily welcomed into them and connected to events and such (I think that was mostly due to my parents). But my seminary experience was very different.

I had no idea where I was going. And on top of that some of these churches had very different worship styles than I was used to. I was lost.

If we have attended the same church our whole lives (or for a significant portion of it) we probably have no clue what it would feel like for someone to walk into this church who has never been here before.

Would they know where to sit? When to stand or sit during the worship? What we were signing? What if it has been years since they have been to a church service? Do we speak too much "Christianeez?"

The second thing I shared as part of our vision for this year was "Investing in Welcome." This is so much more than saying Hi to a new person. This is about creating a space, a culture that welcomes. It is about embracing a sense of hospitality that welcomes and includes everyone who steps foot in this door. New people can come, but if they are not welcomed, if they are not connected with and invited in deeper, they might never come back.

So, what does this look like? What role do we play? How do we engage newcomers? How do we follow up and make connections? Last month we talked about Investing in our community. If we do that we are going to connect with new people. Hopefully we can create a welcoming space here at Bethany for them to join us.

This of course can be very difficult, because most likely not everyone who sets foot through this door will be exactly like us. But we are still called to be welcoming, to be inviting. To help them join into this community that is Bethany UMC.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

Sunday February 2, 2020 - 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (Communion)
Sunday February 9, 2020 - 1 Corinthians 2:1-16
Sunday February 16, 2020 - 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 (Sunbeam Choir)
Sunday February 23, 2020 - Matthew 17:1-9

ASH WEDNESDAY- FEBRUARY 26, 2020

Join us on Wednesday, February 26th for our Ash Wednesday service. Worship will begin at 7pm.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Join us for our Lenten Bible Study beginning Thursday March 5th. We will begin with dinner @ 6 and study @ 7. If you can only come to one piece, no problem. Join in the fellowship whenever you can. This year we will be working through the book *Simon Peter*, by Adam Hamilton. More information, including books, will soon be available on the Welcome Table. Questions see Pastor Jared.

UPDATE ON THE FUTURE OF THE UMC

As you may or may not have heard, big news in United Methodist Church broke on Friday January 3. A group of Bishops, Pastors, and layity representing various perspectives about LGBTQ inclusion in the church announced a mediated plan of separation called "The Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation."

This was the result of conversations begun by Bishop John K Yambasu (Sierra Leone Episcopal Area) following the 2019 Special Session of General Conference. The 2019 GC was contentious and did not fully solve the impass over questions of LGBTQ inclusion in the church. While the Traditional plan was passed, portions of it were ruled unconstitutional, and many in the church, especially in the US, felt as though that plan did not speak for them. And so, it seemed as though the stage was set for further turmoil at General Conference 2020. It was in this context that Bishop Yambasu got together diverse voices from across the church to see what agreement for the future of the church could be arrived at. The Protocol is the result of those conversations.

The Protocol calls for the formation of a new Traditionalist Methodist Denomination. That denomination would receive 25 million over the following four years, but have no further claims to the assets of the United Methodist Church. Further monies would be set aside for additional denominations that could form. The Protocol would also set aside money for communities historically marginalized by racism. This money would ensure that there is no disruption in these ministries currently underway to combat these issues.

Also, under the Protocol, conferences and local churches could vote to separate from the United Methodist Church and affiliate with one of the New Demonations. Churches that choose to leave, would leave with all their assets. Finally the Protocol calls for the 'Post Separation UMC' to undergo some restructuring , remove restrictive lanauge concerning homosexuality in the Book of Discipline and repeal the traditional plan.

Despite what some news reports said, the church has not split. This Protocol is one of many proposals before General Conference 2020. In order for it to take effect it would have to win the support of the delegates and be approved by them.

However, the Protocol is unique in wide base of the support it does have. The 16 people that met to arrive at the Protocol represent the various points in the debate (traditionist, centrist, progressive) and represent the international nature of the church.

So what is next? First, be in prayer for the church and the delegates as they discern their votes. Eastern PA Annual Conference will host listening sessions in the lead up to General Conference to connect members to our delegates. The one that will be closest to us will be held at Church of the Good Shepherd in Lebanon on Wednesday March 25. Please, also, feel free to talk to me.

I will try to keep you updated on any more developments. Thanks. -Pastor Jared

SUNBEAM CHOIR...

All children and youth are invited to join the Sunbeam choir as it practices each Wednesday, they meet downstairs from 5-5:30. They perform the third Sunday of the month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Caring Cupboard Sunday February 9th. Their needs for February are hamburger helpers, fresh produce, canned pasta, canned tomato products, pasta sauce, spam, jelly, canned pork, paper towels, napkins, shampoo, bar soap, and lotion.



Sub and pretzel sandwich orders are due February 19th
with pick-up on February 27th.

The order form is on the Information Table in the Gathering Room.

We want to thank everyone who supports our sub sale fundraiser. The profits from December's sub sale was \$144.75 which will be going toward our flat roof.



Ad Council will be meeting Monday, February 10th. @ 6:30 PM. All are welcome to attend.

LOYAL WORKERS...

The Loyal Workers are having a meeting on February 17th to finalize our plans for the flea market and bake sale fundraiser. The date for the flea market and bake sale is March 7, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM. The proceeds from this event will be used to make repairs to the wall in the Fellowship Hall and electrical and plumbing issues in the kitchen. All are welcome to come out and help plan this event.

The Loyal Workers have donation containers on the Information Table and in the back of the church to help with supplies needed for the lunch at our flea market. Also, there is a sign-up sheet for baked goods for the church to sell that day. Anything you can do to help with this fundraiser is greatly appreciated.

FLOWER CHART...

February 2 - Open
February 10 - Open
February 16 - Open
February 23 - Barry & Vicki Smith

The Flower Chart is in the vestibule on the Railroad St. side of the church.
Sign up for your favorite Sunday to sponsor flowers for our church

WORSHIP LEADERS...

Greeters/Ushers: Richard & Sue Lasher and Linda Keller and Tom Gussler
Acolyte: Colton Barnhouse

Scripture Readers:

February 2: Pastor Stoltzfus
February 9: Susan Knipe
February 16: Pastor Stoltzfus
February 23: Barry Smith

Sound System Operators:

February 2: Seth Schell
February 9: Barry Smith
February 16: Dick Lasher
February 23: Don Brubaker

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| February 1 – Isaac Harman | 19 – Carolyn Blantz |
| 2 – David Minnich | 19 – Allison Harman |
| 4 – Larry Strait | 20 – Cindy Patrick |
| 6 – Ellen Eisenhour | 21 – Pamela Patrick |
| 14 – Summer Schell | 24 – Nathan Bloch |
| 18 – John Harman | 25 – Janine Wimmer |
| | 29 - Donald Brubaker |



ANNIVERSARIES

February 21 - Barry & Vicki Smith



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