

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MT. BETHEL AND PORTLAND

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Rev. John H. Heinsohn
Minister of Visitation

January 2025
Volume 12, Issue 1

Our church experienced a fine December with a nicely decorated sanctuary, advent wreath lighting, soup and caroling and the candle-lighting service on Christmas Eve.

As we look to January, the annual meeting on the fourth Sunday, the 26th is one of the most important gatherings for the year. We have been blessed with good officers and their reports will reflect faithful competence. All of us know we are facing some real challenges in the next five years. Our numbers have not increased and our finances will become a big concern in the future.

I would like to get a few people together to consider all the possible scenarios for the future of this congregation. We could call it a '*Futures Task Force*'. I believe we should be proactive in our thinking and imaging as we look ahead. Small congregations, with dedicated people, can accomplish great things especially if they are all clear about what future they are working toward. Let's commit ourselves to seeking the will of God in these matters.

In other matters, the Sunday morning Bible study has just started to look at the Gospel of Luke. I have been alternating between Old Testament and New Testament books for the bible study. We finished the minor prophet Hosea in early December. I believe on- going Bible studies are absolutely crucial for any authentic church of Jesus Christ. We cannot make disciples without a commitment to studying and knowing the Bible. The study is 45 minute long and begins at 9:15. We usually have six people in-person and one or more on zoom. Any Sunday is a good time to join us.

Easter is late this year with Lent beginning in early March. I am thinking about offering a Lenten Wednesday soup and study on the Christian martyrs during the Holocaust. Dietrich Bonhoeffer is the most well- known but there were others as well. His writings alone (The Cost of Discipleship, etc.) could occupy many studies.

Blessings in the New Year!



1755 S. Delaware Drive
Mt. Bethel, PA 18343
(570) 897-6766
Email: cpcmbp@gmail.com
Website: mtbethelresbyterian.org



Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study: 9:15 am

Holy Communion:

1st Sunday of the Month

Session Members:

Deb Llewellyn

Laura Bocko

DaraSue Braun

Mike Feeney

Jonathan Rush—Clerk of Session



Below is the link for our Zoom Worship each Sunday.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8336293018?pwd=TmJoNnF1Zy8ranRjT3RMc0l5c3RiZz09>

Meeting ID: 833 629 3018

Passcode: 074935

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,81916811413#,,,,*743486# US (New York)

+13017158592,,81916811413#,,,,

*743486# US (Washington D.C)



Prayer requests are to be made to Laura Bocko, Prayer Chain leader. If you would like to participate in the prayer chain, please contact Laura.

Laura's contact info is: (610) 452-2620 or laurabocko24@gmail.com

Remembering Congregation Members in prayer: Henry Deibel, Betty Meixsell (Warren Haven Nursing Home, Oxford, NJ), Marcia Pensack, Jane and David Horn, Michelle Dinnen, Sandy DePuy, Phyllis Boisselle, Carol Farleigh and Joan Correll.



A new study on the Gospel of Luke will begin on January 5th
All are welcome in person or on zoom.



Sunday morning Bible study will continue on Sunday, January 5th at 9:15 am. The zoom account will also be used so that others who are unable to come to Mt. Bethel can join in. The study will be zoomed each week by Rev. John.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th following worship. Committee reports are due to the office no later than January 12th. A light lunch will be provided.



Session will meet on Wednesday, January 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Our Per Capita Commitment for 2025 to the Lehigh Presbytery is \$50.00 per member or a total of \$2,050.



On December 5th the Women of CPC had their last meeting for the winter months. Afterward, the group went to the Stroudsmoor Inn for lunch.

Pictured (l-r) Laura Bocko, Lillian Williams, Shirley Rush, John and Bonnie Pearce, Joan Correll.

Our Family Photo Album



Merry Christmas to the PUMP children.

Through the congregation's generosity, Christmas presents were donated to the children of PUMP.

Rev. Jenny blessed them all the gifts before they were given out.



Soon and Very Soon. . .A Candlelight Ceremony of Advent



*December 1 - Cher Mount
and Cliff & Elaine Dow*



*December 8 – Rev. Jenny, Isaiah and Ella
A special song “Morning Star” accompanied by
Rev. Jenny*



*December 15 —Joan and Kevin
Correll*



*December 22 —Sharon Potter and
Armstrong*



*December 24 —Tim and Melanie Thiel
and Family*

Our Family Photo Album



On Sunday, December 22nd after worship, our deacons hosted a soup and sing-a-long after worship. DaraSue Braun at the piano, led all in joyous Christmas carols.





Oh Lord, for your mercy, we humbly now ask
May the coming year be much better than the last
We pray for an end to pestilence and plague
Our petition specific, not a little bit vague

Oh Lord, in our exhaustion we cry out to you
May you dwell in our homes and heal our country, too
We pray for an end to the things that divide
Our petition is simple, let it not be denied

Oh Lord, you are majestic, your renown greater still
May you pardon our sins and show us your will
We pray for an end to deception and lies
Our petition is strategic, our very spirit cries

Oh Lord, you are worthy of our worship and praise
May you bless this small remnant for all of our days
We pray for an end to hollow disbelief
Our petition is sincere, we are seeking relief

Oh Lord, we now thank you for keeping your word
May you intervene with a miracle, our request has been heard
We pray for the strength to continue the fight
Our petition is secure, we trust you with our rights

Copyright © 2020 Personal Worth with



January 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

January 21 – Jennifer Nichols



			1 	2	3	4
5 9:15 Bible Study Rev. Nichols 10:30—Worship	6 AA 8:00 pm	7 AA 8:00 pm	8	9 5:15 Girl Scouts	10	11
12 9:15 Bible Study Rev. Nichols 10:30—Worship	13 AA 8:00 pm	14 AA 8:00 pm	15 7:00 Session	16	17	18
19 9:15 Bible Study Rev. Nichols 10:30—Worship	20 AA 8:00 pm	21 AA 8:00 pm	22	23 5:15 Girl Scouts	24	25
26 No Bible Study Rev. Nichols 10:30—Worship 11:30 Annual Mtg. 2:00 Writers Grp.	27 AA 8:00 pm	28 AA 8:00 pm	29	30	31	