

*February 2018
Volume 4, Issue 2*

Bethesda Church
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Dear Bethesda,

Lent is a time for introspection and self-reflection, a time to reflect on the core of what it means to live a Christian life. And there is nothing more central to that life than loving—loving with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. For people of faith, love is not an abstract or feel-good concept, but an urgent call to radically incarnate love in how we relate to God, our neighbor, and ourselves.

Christian life begins and ends with love. Every worship gathering, every spiritual practice, and every season should root us more deeply in the love of God and send us out in the name of love.

Even the season of Lent?
Especially Lent!

That may be hard to imagine this week, when the Ash Wednesday refrain of “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” still rings fresh in our ears. Lent seems to demand a heavy heart: confessing our sins, acknowledging the inevitability of temptation, noticing just how

Bethesda Beacon

By and for the members and friends of Bethesda Church

far we’ve strayed from God.
Where is the love in that?

Simply ask Jesus.
The gospel for this first Sunday in Lent takes us to the River Jordan, where Jesus is baptized by his cousin John. As he emerges from the waters, a voice from heaven declares, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” Before he has the chance to catch his breath or dry his hair, the Spirit drives him into the wilderness. There, he spends forty days fending off every temptation Satan can conjure. Finally, exhausted but not defeated, Jesus emerges and returns to Galilee to launch his public ministry.

Take a closer look at the pattern:

1. Jesus steps forward and accepts the love of God. This is the original love, granted by the grace of God before Jesus performs his first miracle or makes his first prophetic pronouncement.

2. After he hears the announcement of his original belovedness, Jesus steps into the wilderness. He does not go into that dark night alone. He knows himself to be cloaked in the love of God, and that love makes him strong, rooted, protected, and true.

3. Jesus is now prepared to face any challenge, speak any truth and, ultimately, to serve and love as God’s own son.

As it was for Jesus, so it is for us. The Lenten journey does not begin with a catalogue of my sins and temptations, nor does it consist primarily of heavy hearts and nagging voices. If there are essential truths we must speak in Lent, the first is this: You are God’s beloved and God is pleased that you are on this earth.

Now, how will you walk this earth in light of God’s love? How will you share the love you first received? What tempts you to deny that love? What are you hoarding and grasping, and how is that closed fist stopping you from receiving the abundant life God has in store? What practices and disciplines cultivate more room in you for the love of God to dwell richly in you? When you fall short, do you know the path back home to the God who will never stop loving and longing for you?

Wrap yourself in the cloak of God’s belovedness. With it you can go anywhere—even the Lenten wilderness—trusting that you walk in love.

Blessings,

Pastor Heidi



Women's Circle

Women's Circle meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month. All ladies are invited to come. We'll meet again on February 27 at 10 a.m.

Donna Popp will give the devotion Carol Caputo and Jean Feraco will provide the refreshments.

Mariners

The Mariners invite you to join them for enjoyable evening with friends, Saturday, February 17th.

Details for the evening will be posted and announced when determined. So, keep an eye on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall for details.

LCA

The Lincoln Culture Seniors Association will meet on February 20 at 12:15 p.m.

The business meeting begins at 12:15 PM to approximately 12:30 then we'll begin our social time where you can get a great cup of coffee or tea and a delicious Danish for just \$2.

The entertainment for February is Joey Joy.

Hope to see you all there!!!

Grief Support Group

Thursday Feb 8th
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Adult Sunday School Class

Sundays 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
It's never too late to join us as we study of the book of Acts. The teachers are Tony Kazlouski and Debbie Thomas. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Kingdom Keepers

Fridays 7:00-8:30 p.m.
1st - 6th grade

The Kingdom Keepers are back after their Christmas break. Prior to their recess they undertook projects that taught them about giving to others and community outreach. The residents of Midway Manor 3rd floor Personal Care Unity were treated to Turkey Centerpieces, turkey treat cups and individual foam turkeys to be hung from each of their doors.

Musically they have performed at both the anniversary Service and on Christmas Eve.

During January they have been learning about Champion Children from the bible. This was to tie in with the upcoming Olympics. They have also participated in "wacky" Olympic the events that correlated with each story about each Champion child. Now we celebrate other champions – the Eagles – many of whom love the Lord!

Kids Sunday School

Bethesda kids can enjoy our wonderful Sunday School at the 9:30 am and 11 am each week!

Youth Group

Fridays 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Prayer Group

Thursdays 10:30 a.m.

What is the Initial Offering?

Several members have been asking what the envelope designated 'initial offering' is for in our box of tithing envelopes. The boxes of envelopes that each person or family gets costs the church \$8.00. The initial offering is to pay for the boxes of tithing envelopes themselves. The total cost of the envelopes for 2018 is \$548.57. So far, we have received \$211. in initial offerings for 2018.

Want to get your Beacon Electronically?

Send an email to info@bethesdapc.com and let us know you would like your beacon emailed! Beacons are also posted on bethesdapc.com – just click on mission and then beacon.

Liturgist for February

4 – Joan Wilson

11 – Freda Fulton

18 – Tony Kazlouski

25 – Janet Miller

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Session

Session met January 28 in the sanctuary briefly after the congregational meeting. The session voted to change the lease for the Harvest church to include usage of the multipurpose room on Saturday nights for 2 hours and begin on Sunday mornings at 8 AM with a rental increase to \$375 a month. The finance team presented a request to increase the returns on the investments. For 2017, stocks made up 55% of the investments portfolio. The request is to move the portfolio to 70% stocks for 2018. The elders voted to approve this request. We adjourned to the February 13 meeting.

Deacons

Our last meeting was held on Wednesday, January 10th. The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. Since 4 Deacons will end their term the end of January only 1 new Deacon is needed. Pastor Heidi took the names of the nominees and will give them to the Session. There were a lot of Poinsettias remaining from Christmas, so the Deacons volunteered to deliver them to the shut-ins. Joan Case sent cards to Jane Lawrence, Tom Neely, the Jacobs Family and Mary Auwarter.

Ken Alexy expressed the need to provide more social functions for Bethesda in order to create an atmosphere of fellowship with our church members and guests. The Mother/Daughter dinner was mentioned and Marilyn Shaw said that she was already on that and is going to head that committee.

Also, Ken was hoping the dinner could be held on a Saturday night rather than a weeknight. Starting in February Ken Alexy will be the new President-Moderator, Jane Mitchell, Georgia Hopely and Judy Baird will be the new Communion Team. Janet Perretti will be sending out cards to those for encouragement or illnesses. Jane Mitchell will be the Treasurer for 2018. It was decided not to have a February meeting but that has been changed. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 13 at 7pm.**

Musical Notes

The choir is back after Christmas recess though our return is saddened by the loss of both Jeanne Scott and Ernie Lawrence. We thank all former choir members who joined us to tribute to both.

We look forward to participating in a combined choir for the Ash Wednesday Service at Elkins Park on Wednesday, February 14th as well as being the Special Music at the PPH Hymn Sing on Sunday, April 15th.

There are still gowns available for those who made joining the choir a New Year's Resolution (even though you're a month late).

Minute for Mission

Our Mission for the month of February is American Keswick. America's Keswick is a multi-generational, cross-cultural ministry where Biblical teaching and worship lead to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, resulting in

a transformed life. They serve people with excellence through addiction recovery, conferences (events), retreats and outreach. For more info go to www.americaskeswick.org

We have committed to supporting them with \$500 for the 2018 year. On February 25th we will have our minute for mission during the service. Please pray and consider how might God be calling you to contribute to this wonderful mission reaching out to those with challenges and substance abuse.



February Birthdays

- 1 – Marge Zimmerman
- 3 – David Larkin
Carol Cardy
- 4 – Georgia Hopely
- 18 – Alice George
- 24 – Betty Bedford
- 27 – Paige Gianforture



February Anniversaries

- 7 – Carol & Joe Bonsted
- 17 – Marge & Woody Zimmerman

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Financial Update

Jan. Income: \$11,697.00

Jan. Expenses: \$14,910.40

YTD Income: \$11,697.00

YTD Expenses: \$14,910.40

Rental Income

(Included in reported income)

\$1,350.00 **January**

\$1,350.00 **YTD**

Figures as of 1/31/18

Scripture for February

“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Galatians 5:13-14

***Bethesda Presbyterian Church
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February 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 10:30 am Prayer Meeting 7:30 pm Choir	2 7 pm Youth Group	3
4 9:30 am Contemporary Worship 9:30 am Adult S.S. 11am Traditional Worship	5 6 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	6 6 pm Property Team Mtg	7	8 10:30 am Prayer Meeting 2:00 pm Grief Support Group 7:30 pm Choir	9 7 pm Youth Group 7pm Kingdom Keepers	10
11 9:30 am Contemporary Worship 9:30 am Adult S.S. 11am Traditional Worship 12:15 pm Planning mtg. for Mom/Daughter banquet	12 12 pm Finance Team meeting	13 7 pm Deacon's Mtg. 7 pm Session Mtg.	14 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service at Elkins Park Presbyterian Church 234 Cedar Rd Elkins Park 19027	15 10:30 am Prayer Meeting 7:30 pm Choir	16 7 pm Youth Group 7pm Kingdom Keepers	17 Mariners Event TBD
18 9:30 am Contemporary Worship 9:30 am Adult S.S. 11am Traditional Worship	19 7pm Christian Ed Mtg.	20	21	22 10:30 am Prayer Meeting 7:30 pm Choir	23 7 pm Youth Group 7pm Kingdom Keepers	24
25 10:30 am Combined Worship Service 11:45 am Congregational Meeting	26	27 10 am Women's Circle	28			