



COMMUNION BY INTINCTION

The Little Harbinger

Bethany Memorial
Church

November
2019

Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins Called

Bethany Memorial Christian Church is excited to announce The Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins will serve as its next Pastor and fill the pulpit established by The Rev. Alexander Campbell in 1831.

Dr. Watkins previously held the Office of General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. She is an inspirational preacher, teacher and facilitator who has considerable experience in a variety of ecumenical settings.

She is concluding her role as Director of the Truth and Racial Justice Initiative of the National Council of Churches

(US) as well as Interim Minister of First Christian Church in Weirton, West Virginia. She serves on the Boards of Friendship Press and Christian Theological Seminary.

. Watkins holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Phillips Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity from the Yale Divinity School, and a bachelor's degree in French and Economics from Butler University. She is a graduate of Shortridge High School in Indianapolis, Ind. She has been awarded numerous honorary doctorate degrees.

Dr. Watkins enjoys bike riding and time for personal

reflection. She makes it a practice to take a full day of Sabbath each week. She is married to The Rev. Dr. Rick Lowery, President of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society and Adjunct Professor of Hebrew Bible at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Ky. They have two adult children, Bethany Lowery (married to Joe Zielinski) and Christopher Lowery.

"I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."

Jeremiah 3:15

Rev. Watkins will begin her journey at Bethany Memorial Church on Monday, November 25, 2019. Her first sermon will be on December 1, 2019.

Commitment Sunday - December 1

Whether you “pledge” to give to Bethany Memorial Church, or just drop a few dollars in the offering plate every now and then, your gift is used in the following way: 50% will be designated for program, 35% for the building, and 15% for Outreach.

What a formulaic, telescopic, and sterile way of looking at the finances of the church. Just as we cannot take a picture of the building and see all that BMC is, we likewise cannot make a copy of the budget and see all that BMC does.

Your gifts allow the Church to share the word of God, serve the local and global communities, connect with others, celebrate God’s gifts to us all, and grow spiritually and emotionally. We do these things through our worship services, our newsletters, coffee hours, home visits, and bible studies.

Without your financial support, the Cub Scouts, the GFWC Bethany Woman’s Club, and the Japanese and International Clubs at Bethany College would have no place to hold

meetings and events. The children in Wilkinsburg, the women in Project Recovery in Charleston and the Wheeling Health Right, and the Wellsburg Salvation Army, would have fewer toys, fewer hygiene products, less woman in the Upper Ohio Valley would have access to health care, and fewer cans of soup to warm cold bellies. Your gifts pay for heat to warm the building for funerals, weddings, concerts, and worship services, and allow the church to stay in touch with shut-ins and others who can no longer attend. And, of course, this list is nowhere near exhaustive.

The church took a “leap of faith” when the decision was made to call a full-time pastor. It was agreed that congregational giving must increase if the church is to continue to remain financially secure and the mission of the church continued.

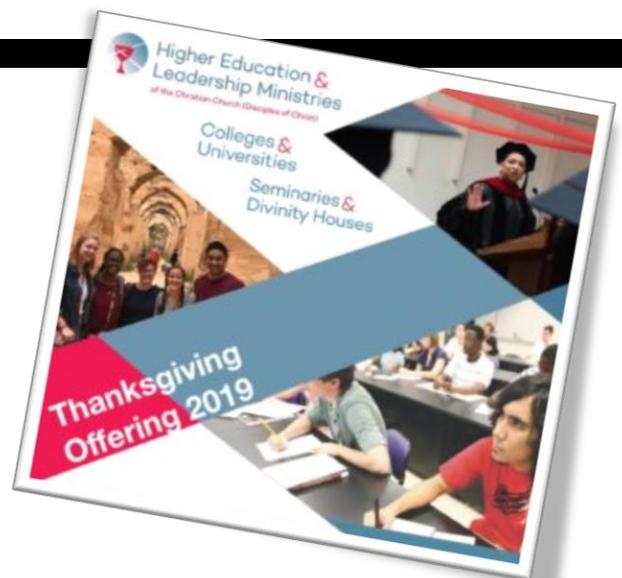
Stewardship letters have been mailed. Take a few minutes to talk to God about your ability to pledge. We ask that pledge cards be returned on **Sunday, December 1st**, when we recognize Commitment Sunday at BMC.

Thanksgiving Offering

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education.

Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses.



The Thanksgiving offering will be collected at the Sunday worship services on November 17th and 24th. We hope you will support higher education through this special offering. You can also give by clicking the donate icon on the BMC web page www.bmcwv.org.



The Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity of Bethany College as participants in "Pink Sunday" worship services.

Pink Sunday

More women are diagnosed with breast cancer than any other cancer, besides skin cancer. This year, an estimated 268,600 women in the United States will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer, and 62,930 women will be diagnosed with in situ breast cancer. An estimated 2,670 men in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

It is estimated that in the year 2019, 42,260 individuals in the United States (41,760 women and 500 men) will die from breast cancer.

Early detection is essential. If cancer is discovered early and is located only in the breast, the 5-year survival rate of women with breast cancer is 99%. The month

of October is designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and with the assistance of the Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity of Bethany College, a "Pink Sunday" service was held at BMC on October 27. The national philanthropy of the Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity is breast cancer awareness and education. For the second year, the Zeta sisters participated in the Pink Sunday worship service by serving as greeters, providing information about breast cancer, and taking part in a special litany for women and men with breast cancer.

The American Cancer Society recommends that women between the ages of 45 and 54 have annual mammograms, the first means of detecting breast cancer.



Veterans Day

The GFWC WV Bethany Woman's Club will hold a special coffee hour before worship on Sunday, November 10 to honor all veterans. Come early for church and fellowship and honor those who have served.

The Town of Bethany and the Bethany Woman's Club will sponsor a program to honor veterans at the Town Community Center beginning at 4:00 pm on Monday, November 11. The Brooke High School Madrigal Choir will be performing.

Following the program, there will be a spaghetti dinner at the church beginning at 5:00 pm and running until 6:30 pm. The cost is \$7.00. All veterans can eat for free. We hope to see you all at these events, and a special invitation is extended to veterans.

Like the Cliff Swallows....

.....who return annually to San Juan Capistrano, Jack and Pam Carpenter of St. Clairsville return to Bethany Memorial Church each year on the Sunday closest to their anniversary. The couple were married at BMC on October 19, 1996.

A life-long member of the Disciples of Christ Church, Jack Carpenter attended youth camp at Bethany College. Pam graduated from Bethany College with a degree in elementary education. When their paths later crossed and they decided to get married, it seemed only natural to return to the town to which they had separate ties.

In twenty-three years of marriage, they have yet to miss an anniversary Sunday worship service at Bethany Memorial Church. The congregation has come to expect them, as evidenced by the church sign on the morning of October 20th.



For those of you who are “armchair” ornithologists, the cliff swallows are generally leaving San Juan Capistrano about the same time the Carpenters are coming to Bethany—mid October.

Gaming at BMC

Bethany College Students studying board game design are hosting an Unpub Mini at Bethany Memorial Church. At an Unpub mini people come to playtest board game prototypes to help board game designers improve their games. There will be a mixture of published and unpublished designers seeking feedback for their latest and greatest new game designs. The event is free and is being held in the fellowship hall at Bethany Memorial Church November 9th from 10am to 5pm.

THE UNPUBLISHED GAME NETWORK
UNPUB
 Bethany College UnpubMini at Bethany Memorial Church
 Game Designers Get Help Building Better Games
 With Free Board Game Playtesting
 Sign Up at: www.unpub.net/events/
 Door Prizes for Playtesters
 Admission - Free
 November 9, 2019 - 10AM to 5PM
 303 Main ST Bethany WV 26032




See All the People

By Sydma Hatzopoulos

*Here is the Church
Here is the steeple
Open the doors
And see all the people!*

Like me, many of you may remember that rhyme – along with its hand gestures – from your childhood.

A harmless childhood poem, or at least that is the way I look at it. However, not all agree.

The Reverend Charlie Holt, an episcopal priest, has the following to say:

“The childhood rhyme is Biblically incorrect! While we often call the physical building and place of worship for the people of God, a Church, that is a misnomer. I go so far to call it a little lie. Little lies like this have been taught to us as children, and they have done great damage. Subtly and powerfully, they shape our vocabulary and thus our thinking and values as the people of God. The Church is NOT a physical building with a steeple and doors. Yet, we persist in using the word with that reference and meaning.”

Rev. Holt has a point, one with which I agree. The people are the Church. The building is the building. When worship services are over on Sunday morning (or afternoon depending on how long-winded the minister has been!) the Church leaves the building.

What I am not sure I agree with is whether this simple little poem is one of those little lies that has done “great damage.” Threats of hell, fire and damnation, the preaching of hate, and abuse by clergy have done “great damage.” Damage that is difficult to “undo.”

But since I agree that the people are the church, I share with you pictures of the church. From the top, the congregation rejoiced at seeing Millie Ferry at worship on Sunday, October 27. Millie was accompanied by her son Doug and daughter-in-law.

Jan Forsty, Debra Hull, and John Rodenberg enjoy hors d’oeuvres at the Meet and Greet held for Rev. Sharon Watkins during the Search and Call process.

Vicki NeCastro, pianist/organist for BMC demonstrates that the beat indeed goes on.

And finally, Church board moderator Helen Moren talks with then- candidate Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins at the Meet and Greet.



All Saints Sunday and Alishah



Searching for a new pastor is not an easy task. Filling the pulpit on Sundays in the interim period is probably just as difficult.

Bethany Memorial Church has been blessed to have heard the good news from a number of individuals during this interim period. Among others, John Hull, Rev. Dr. Rick Lowery, Jan Forsty, Connie McVicar, Bonnie Thurston, and Dorothy Brownlee have all taken on the task of providing quality and thought-provoking Sunday messages, and BMC is grateful.

One person has filled the pulpit more than others, and that person is Alishah Hardway. Her boundless joy and enthusiasm are welcomed and appreciated. Her care and concern for the members of BMC is evident, and it is difficult to



Prior to the November 3 service, Alishah emailed and suggested a special acknowledgement of All Saints Sunday during worship. Thus, a special litany was prepared, and flowers were readied. As individuals entered the narthex, they were asked to take a flower or flowers, and write the name(s) of loved ones who had passed. During the sermon portion of the service, Alishah read those names, and individuals placed their flowers in vases on the communion table.

In the words of Katie Shockley, a United Methodist minister:

“When we gather in worship, we praise God with believers we cannot see. When we celebrate Communion, we feast with past, present and future disciples of Christ. We experience the communion of saints, the community of believers -- living and dead. This faith community stretches beyond space and time. We commune with Christians around the world, believers who came before us, and believers who will come after us. We believe that the church is the communion of saints, and as a believer, you belong to the communion of saints.”



Thank you, Alishah. For enlightening us with your sermons, sharing your soul, and bringing sunshine into our lives.

Do you like to sing? A seasonal choir will be starting practices after church on Sundays to prepare some special music for Advent and Christmastide. If you are interested in singing, please contact Vicki NeCastro @ 304-312-9433.

Prayer List

So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

- Mark 11:24

- The family of Dan Draper, who passed away in October 2019.
- Katrina Beery (mother of Debra Hull)
- Mary Sutherland (sister of Pat Sutherland)
- Pam and Allan Clifford (Connie McVicar's sister and brother-in-law)
- Della & Ed Rodgers (Parents of Vicki NeCastro)
- Holly Cramblet Bowman
- Mike Cunningham (Sydma's Dad) and Dottie Hanners
- Caden Knisley
- Joanne Sykes
- Ellen Sanford
- Nancy Sandercox
- Barbara Chambers
- Mary Jane Jackson
- Ruth Tye
- Holly, Frank, and Sharley Hillgardner
- Elizabeth DeJong
- Donna Norman (Becky Ayers' sister)
- Nancy Pietrangelo (sister of Penny Tittle)
- Dottie Smith
- Robert Andrews
Linda Owens Walters
- Paul Gardner
- Kerry Kerr
- Dara Cobb Lews and Family
- Chib Gratz (friend of Kim Lawless)

Birthdays and Anniversaries

November 2 – Harry and Bev Chambers (33 years)

November 7 – John Hull (B)

November 11 – Sarah Webb (B)

November 14 – Ted and Becky Pauls (27 years)

November 21 – Anda Weaver

Upcoming Happenings at BMC

Wilkinsburg Trip

The annual trip to Wilkinsburg to help with Santa's workshop is scheduled for **Saturday, December 7**. If you would like to attend, contact Deb Hull or the church office (304-829-7138). Donations of small toys, games, stuffed animals, books, and accessories will be collected this month.

Hanging of the Greens

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for the Christmas season on **Saturday, November 30, at 10:00 am**. BMC has much joy to celebrate, so let's make the building look celebratory and festive while enjoying fellowship and Christmas music!

Christmas Party

The annual BMC Christmas party and potluck is scheduled for Sunday, December 8 immediately following worship. At this same time, we will be welcoming Rev. Watkins to the pulpit. Additional details will follow.

Christmas Bazaar

We are trying to carry on the tradition of a Christmas bazaar to be held on Saturday, **December 14**. If you can help with food, please contact Karen McFadden or the church office. If you know of any potential vendors or can help with the bazaar itself, please contact the church office.

WE NEED 42 MORE CANS OF SOUP TO MEET OUR GOAL OF 100 CANS. CAN YOU HELP BY DONATING ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 17?

The
Little
Harbinger
Bethany
Memorial
Church

PO Box 149
Bethany, WV 26032