

# THE BETHANY BEACON

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BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
(U.S.A.)

March 2019

## Lenten Lunches

There will be no Lenten lunches this year. For the last few years the attendance has been dropping, and now we have only a few churches interested in “hosting” the lunches (last year both Bethany and St. Matthews hosted twice). So it is time to say goodbye to this particular tradition. Yes, it’s okay to miss it; we’ve been doing it since Tom Young was pastor at Bethany.

Maybe it is time for something new. I invite you to think and pray about this and come up with some new ideas. Ideas will be needed by mid-January 2020.

Linda

### MARCH SCRIPTURES

- ◆ 3/3—Ex. 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36
- ◆ Ash Wed. 3/6—Joel 2:12-17; Matt. 6:1-6
- ◆ 3/10—Deut 16:1-11; Luke 4:1-13
- ◆ 3/17—Gen. 15:1-12; Luke 13:31-35
- ◆ 3/24—Is. 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9
- ◆ 3/31—Josh. 5:9-12; Luke 15:1-10

### MARCH LAY READERS

- ◆ Gayle/Carl Van Weerdhuizen
- ◆ Ray Burzota

## Fifth Sunday—March 31

Everyone is invited to attend Bethany’s Fifth Sunday activity on March 31. Immediately following worship, there will be a potluck followed by a workshop on Centering Prayer.

Bring a favorite dish to share at the potluck—main dish, salad, or dessert. The Deacons will provide beverages.

The Rev. Richard (Dick) Green, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, will then hold an introductory program on Centering Prayer.

Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer; prayer in which we experience God’s presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than

thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.



Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer. Rather, it adds depth of meaning to all prayer and facilitates the movement from more active modes of prayer—verbal, mental or affective prayer—into a receptive prayer of resting in God. Centering Prayer emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God and as a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ.

If you are interested in enhancing your personal prayer life, this workshop is for you. So mark your calendars and plan to attend both the potluck and the workshop

## Toth talk

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10)

These words, along with verses 1-14, are usually among the first words we hear in Lent. They remind us of our constant need for God’s mercy and of how much we really do rely upon God’s grace. Lent is also a gift. A time when we don’t have to worry about being perfect and we can concentrate on being fully human. We can put our energies into being children of God and let God be the one who saves the world and makes all things new.



some days it might be just long enough to read the verse. Other days take time to ponder the request you are making to God and what that request means in your life. On still other days, sit quietly with the phrase and let it repeat in your mind and imagination for a few minutes. And don’t forget to pray with and for the other Christians who are praying and reading this verse during Lent.

May God bless you and me as we travel this Lenten journey.

Peace,

*Linda*

This Lent I invite you to join me in a simple, yet profound, exercise. Spend some time each day of Lent with Psalm 51:10.

## About the Presbyterian Judicial Process

By Cliff Looney

For some time I have procrastinated over Kathryn's request that I provide some insights into the "judicial process" with which the bodies of our church resolve disputes.

Presbyterians are fond of saying that everything should be done in "good order." "Good order" has a long process of development within and without the church, and our ideas of what is a fair way to regulate ourselves to minimize controversies as well as to resolve them has evolved from the influences of the secular world as well as from our own experiences. Most people are aware that our secular judicial system has a series of courts which provide for various stages of appeal from the initial decisions that are made so that parties can be sure that the method of resolution is fair, complete and consistent with existing legislation and prior case law.

The Presbyterian church has a history of being involved in the secular world as well as in the clerical world of the church, and the ideas of Presbyterians have long influenced the political institutions of this nation and, indirectly, others. Our idea of "good order" has often been built into the concepts of due process and fair play, with which other governing bodies are concerned to use to regulate their own process.

Most of us are acquainted with the idea that our local churches are grouped in what are called "presbyteries" and somewhat less informed about the grouping of presbyteries into synods and into the national organization, which is known as the general assembly.

These levels of government, the church, the presbytery, the synod and the general assembly then form the framework around which all the governmental entities or bodies of the church are organized. The totality of our national church is guided by our constitution, which is made up of the Book of Confessions and the Book of Order. The Book of Order is one that sets forth the regulatory provisions, which are the equivalent of state or federal statutes, although we refer to the provisions as being constitutional, rather than referring to them as being statutory.

This framework empowers congregations to elect elders, who represent the congregation and act as the legislating and rule-making body for our local church and who make decisions about how those local rules are implemented if there is a local controversy. When there are disagreements within the church, they are usually settled at the session level. If the session cannot resolve the matter satisfactorily, then the involved parties have the ability to appeal to the presbytery.

In the case of such a controversy, the presbytery would hold a trial to determine the facts of the matter and then apply the rules of the church, usually meaning the Book of Order, to resolve the controversy. In such a case, if one of the parties was dissatisfied, they would appeal to the synod. At both the synod and the presbytery level, there are "permanent judicial commissions" which act as the courts

to decide the facts and apply the law within the bounds of the Book of Order and the case law that has been handed down from the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission in order to resolve such controversies.

Does all that sound familiar? It is. Presbyterians have always been involved in the matters of the government of this country because they were concerned with "good order" and "due process."

Sometimes there are controversies between a presbytery and another presbytery or between a presbytery and a church within the presbytery. Those matters would usually have the initial trial of the facts heard by the permanent judicial commission for the synod. If the parties were not satisfied with the decision of the synod, they could appeal to the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission, which is the court of last resort for all controversies within the church.

Naturally, if there are controversies which involve the construction of our statutory and constitutional provisions, which are of broad concern to the entire church, the decisions of the Permanent Judicial

Commission become important, and the pressure on the parties to make their case appropriately heard as "test cases" before the Permanent Judicial Commission of the General Assembly is substantial.



**DID YOU  
KNOW THAT  
THE PC(USA)  
HAS A JUDICIAL  
ARM OF  
GOVERNANCE?  
CLIFF TELLS US  
WHAT THAT  
MEANS.**

Our church has suffered from controversies which are tinged with emotion to the degree that some individual churches are inclined to rebel if their view is not adopted by the national church. Attempts by the General Assembly in its legislative function when it meets every other year to resolve all of those issues and satisfy the parties with some degree of compromise, while maintaining the integrity of a legislative wisdom being involved, are not always satisfactory to everyone. We hear from time to time of individual churches leaving the national organization and foregoing the benefits of being a connected church.

The role of the Permanent Judicial commission for the General Assembly is to make the final call on what the legislative process of the church has accomplished by construing the provisions of that process, and it has the further impact that its decisions are accorded equal weight with that of the legislative body as to those matters on which the legislative body has not spoken directly. There is always a potential for controversy about whether or not the Permanent Judicial Commission has properly construed the constitution of the church or made the correct decisions on policy and procedural matters, but that will not be a matter that we can change as long as we need a body that makes final decisions for our church.

The next installment in the *Beacon* will discuss the different kinds of matters that come before us and the difference in the procedure that applies to those matters throughout our church judicial system.

*Cliff has served on the Permanent Judicial Commissions at all levels of the PC(USA)*

## I Go to Sing

I might be exhausted and the children might be cranky,  
 but I will be going to church on Sunday.  
 I get up,  
 get clean,  
 get dressed,  
 possibly get mad (at not-ready kids, at empty coffee pot, at traf-  
 fic)  
 get going,  
 get there,  
 get seated,  
 get comfortable,  
 get focused  
 and when the music starts,  
 get saved.



It's the singing.  
 I go to sing.

It's the willingness to stand if you are able,  
 the common agreement on page number,  
 the voluntary sharing of songbooks with people on your row,  
 even ones you rode there with -

but most of all,  
 it's the collective in-breath before the first sound is made,  
 the collective drawing upon the grace of God,  
 the collective, if inadvertent, admission  
 that we are all human,  
 all fragile,  
 all in need of the sustaining air, freely dispensed,  
 all in need of each other to get the key right and not sound  
 discordant --

it's the hidden life-celebration  
 in the act of making a joyful noise,  
 all together.

We don't even have to sound that good.  
 Singing together still brings home  
 the we-ness of worship,  
 the not-alone-ness of life in God,  
 the best of all we have to offer each other.

When we are singing, I think that I might actually be able to  
 forgive you  
 for being so terribly human,  
 and you might be able to forgive me  
 for being so terribly not there yet,  
 and we might be able to find peace now,  
 not postpone it for some heavenly hereafter  
 but live and breathe it today,  
 drawing in the grace of God,  
 voicing out our need and hope and gratitude and longing.

When we are singing, I can feel the better world coming,  
 and if I get to be a part of it, you do too . . .

so sing with me,  
 and we'll make our way down that blessed road together,  
 collectively better  
 than we ever thought  
 possible.

*By Lindy Thompson  
 Manager of Tennessee United Methodists for Inclusion  
 Used with permission—www.lindythompson*

## Presbytery meets at Boone

Marilyn Blair-Clausen, Linda Toth, John Armstrong, Joey Mills, Kathryn Baker and Joya Hill attended Presbytery on February 2. Joya and John represented Bethany as elder commissioners, Linda attended as pastor, Joey as lay pastor, and Marilyn and Kathryn as committee chairs (Finance and Nominating respectively).

Presbytery voted to try a new model for meetings. May and August meetings will be held on a weekday beginning business in the mid-afternoon.

Linda's 2019 contract with Bethany was approved by Committee on Ministry, and Joey's evaluation was also received and accepted.

An additional Mission Partnership Grant was

approved in the amount of \$3,120 in support of the Community Church, King Hill.

Application forms for Presbytery Peace and Global Witness Offering grants were approved. Kevin Starcher (Covenant) shared a thank you for the water well repair, which had been approved for funding, in a small community in Ethiopia,

The Bethany Mission Committee, with approval from Session, submitted a grant application to support the Treasure Valley Relief Nursery's home visitation program in the amount of \$2,500 through the Presbytery Peace and Global Witness Offering. The Mission Strategy Committee has approved the application. The application will go before the Presbytery for full approval in May.

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**PRESBYTERIAN  
 WOMEN IN THE  
 PRESBYTERY OF  
 BOISE WILL MEET AT  
 BETHANY ON  
 MARCH 16. SALADS  
 AND COOKIES ARE  
 NEEDED FOR THE  
 LUNCH.**

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## Madi Booth featured in BSU performance

Madison Booth grew up in Ontario, Oregon. One of the biggest musical influences in Madison's life is Dr. Nicole Molumby, the flute professor at Boise State University, from whom she took private lessons for several years. Because of Dr. Molumby's positive influence in her life and her musicianship, Madison is a fourth-year double major at Boise State studying music education and music performance with an emphasis in flute. Madison will be graduating next spring in 2020 with two degrees in music. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a master's degree in flute performance and then pursue a doctorate in music. After achieving these goals, she hopes to earn a position as a flute professor at a university. Madison's Boise State experience and accomplishments would not have been possible without scholarships. If not for scholarships, she would not have been able to attend this university and achieve her goals. Madison performed a piece for solo flute entitled *The Great Train Race* by Ian Clarke. The piece featured a variety of extended flute techniques that embody the sounds and experiences of being on a train.

## Soup'r Bowls sell out quickly

Most of this article was written by Marilyn Rowe for the *Ontario Argus Observer*. The rest is contributed by the Editor of the *Beacon*.

Nearly all the bowls have been sold for this year's Soup'r Bowl Fundraiser, which benefits the Next Chapter Food Pantry. "Through the previous five years, funds raised have been between \$30,000 and \$50,000," wrote Marilyn Rowe, treasurer for Next Chapter Food Pantry and Garden, in an email. The Soup'r Bowl is the primary fundraiser for the non-profit, and was created to help increase operating funds. Nine years ago, the board decided on the idea, feeling it was unique. Rowe said it has worked well to raise funds.

The Next Chapter Food Pantry board comprises representatives from several local churches, including St. Matthews Episcopal, Ontario First Christian, Bethany Presbyterian, St. Paul Lutheran, Pilgrim Lutheran and Ontario Community Church. "NCFP employs an extremely efficient pantry manager; otherwise, pantry workers are all volunteer.

We have a great garden manager who volunteers endless hours. We also use folks who are looking to participate in community service," Rowe said, adding, "Additional volunteers are always needed."

The money raised from the Soup'r Bowl goes toward purchasing food for the pantry, manager payroll and other operational costs. This is the 13th year the pantry has served people in need of emergency food in the Ontario area.

Marilyn thanks everyone who purchased a bowl this year. They are very popular as evidenced by someone who was looking for one of the original "chucker" (partridge) bowls to replace his broken one. Marilyn told that story during the last meeting of Bethany's Mission Committee. Linda retrieved one from a shelf in her office, held it out to Marilyn, and asked, "Like this one?" It was exactly what was required, so Marilyn was able to fill the bill and answer the unique request from a faithful bowl purchaser.

## Bethany bulletin board

Congratulations to new grandparents, Conrad and Nancy Anderson. Baby girl, Thorgan (pronounced Torgan) Hadley Grover was born on February 22, weighing 7 lbs. 11 oz. and 20 inches long. Thorgan and mom, Katie, are both doing well. Conrad and Nancy headed to Salt Lake immediately upon hearing the news.

Great Grandmother, Jeanette Moore, has

been with daughter, Jan, for several weeks. They are waiting for the roads to clear so they can bring Jeanette home to Ontario.

Thank you to all who found it possible to contribute to Bethany's 2019 Per Capita.

Jenna Bolyard is a new sound and video technician on Sunday mornings. Thank you, Jenna, for your willingness to help.

## Letterbox

Thank you, Bethany family, for the calls, cards, prayers and thoughts due to the loss of my grandson, Frank Bashon. Frank attended Bethany when he was younger and the church was downtown. My thanks to Jeanette and Lois for attending the celebration of his life. Over 200 family and friends were there.

Beth Magrini



Dear Bethany Family,

Thank you for the beautiful cards, visits and prayers of support while I was in Washington. To be able to care for my mother and be with family during her last days was such a blessing and definitely an experience I will never forget. I appreciate all your texts and prayers throughout the 25 days I was gone. All my extended family knows about the Bethany love. We appreciate you all so very much.

Gayle & all the rest of the VW's

## Session & Deacon notes

Boy Scout Troop 400 is disbanding. Session met with Charles Oakes who explained that he does not anticipate another troop forming to take up the charter. A few young men from Troop 400 will be finishing up merit badges under the guidance of a troop in the New Plymouth area. Session voted not to renew the charter, which is in Bethany's name, and to use any assets to support scouting in the Eastern Oregon/Western Idaho areas as much as possible. Charles will be responsible for distribution of the assets, keeping Session apprised.

A small sub-committee of Session has been working on a proposed sexual misconduct prevention policy, which is now in the hands of Session for approval. It will become part of Bethany's handbook of

operations. Thanks to Charles Oakes who has helped with legal advice.

The Deacons are gathering hygiene products already on hand and putting them into zip lock bags for anyone who would like to take some to give away as needed in the community. Ask a deacon for details.

Deacons continue to send many cards, make telephone calls and visit shut-ins on a regular basis. Marilyn Rowe is the 2019 Deacon Moderator.

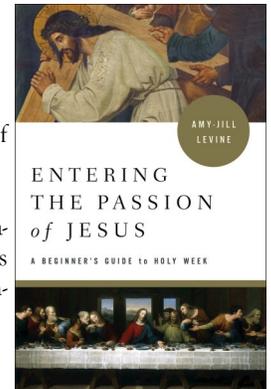
## An additional idea for Lenten devotions

Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger and the potential for a great loss or great reward. In *Entering the Passion of Jesus* author, professor and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story and elaborates on the risk we all face in our Christian experience. The book's six chapters include:

- Jerusalem: Risking Reputation
- The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger
- Teachings: Risking Challenge

- The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
- The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends
- Gethsemane: Risking Temptation

The book can be purchased through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or Cokesbury. It has been recommended by Presbyterian Women, Churchwide.



# March 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Coffee available every Sunday					1	2 9:30 PW
3 9:00 music rehearsal 10:00 worship	4	5 7:00 Deacons	6 7:00 Session	7	8	9 Dave Henderson (b)
10 9:00 music rehearsal 10:00 worship	11	12	13 Linda Toth (b)	14	15 Tim Grim (b)	16 9:00 PW in the Presbytery
17 9:00 music rehearsal 10:00 worship Alice Armstrong (b) Ayden Peterson (b)	18	19 Ray Burzota (b)	20 Noon—Mariners 2:00 Mission 3:00 Worship	21	22	23
24 9:00 music rehearsal 10:00 worship Carl VW (b)	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 music rehearsal 10:00 worship Potluck and Centering Prayer Workshop						

Bethany Presbyterian Church  
(U.S.A.)

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**Prayer of the Month**

**Rev. Daryl Wilson**

**Church of the Redeemer,  
Weiser**

## Just a few words...

Dear Hearts:

Just recently it has come to my attention that an enterprising young woman has a Netflix show about de-cluttering your home. The way she got my attention was by saying one should have only 30 books in your home. Say whaaaatttt? She has become so popular that donations to charity thrift stores have risen approx. 40%. I say...wow, she has apparently filled a need.

That got me thinking, what if we all started de-cluttering our minds? What if we begin to sort through all the facts and fiction that resides there and throw out the junk and the old hurts, prejudices, failures etc.? People who spend time trying to figure out dreams and where they come from often say that our dreams indicate the brain's attempt at de-cluttering. Perhaps we should examine that more closely instead of getting moony over the charming ones and running away from the nightmarish ones.

But dreams aside, what if we set aside time to be alone and quiet and to look into our behaviors, thinking about why we feel the way we do. I can remember in elementary school being called stuck-up. Lucky for me I don't remember who said it, nor do I care, but even then I was into some childish version of soul searching to figure out why anyone might think I was stuck-up. I was friendly, but even then I was not inclined to small talk, nor did I feel a need to tell all to my

friends; therefore, I was not inclined to listen to others drone on and on either. My problem or theirs? I don't know, but it did cause me to work on being a good listener; something I continue to work on.

So it would seem to me that if we decide to de-clutter, we need to decide what gets tossed and what gets kept. Easy answer, if it is something that will benefit others or promote a healthy mentality... that's a keeper. If it is negative or plays to your need to have problems greater than anyone else...that's a kicker-outer. No one goes through life without problems, but if you cling to the negative and your mind is cluttered, how in the world does the Light of Life, Jesus, enter to heal and cleanse? Poor baby. There was no room for him in the inn and now we need to make room for him in the recesses of our minds.

In Christ,

*Joey*

