

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SERVICES & MEETINGS

Church Board Meeting – Tuesday – 7:00 PM
Bible Study – Wednesday – 10:00 to 11:30 AM
Intercessory Prayer Gathering – Wednesday – 11:45 AM
Pastoral Relations Committee – Wednesday – 4:00 PM
Intercessory Prayer Gathering – Wednesday – 6:15 PM
Craft Night - Wednesday – 7:00 PM
Tithe.ly Insights Gathering – Thursday – 10:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship Service – May 17 – 9:00 AM
Sunday School Session – May 17 – following worship

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### **WORSHIP STATISTICS**

**5/03/2026**

In Person Attendance – 38  
Virtual Attendance (YouTube Views) – 11

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THANK YOU TO THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Greeter: Lynette Daniels & Laura Miller

Acolyte: Jameson Kleibscheidel

Lector: Steve Brendlinger

Ushers: Laura Miller & Linda Schroeder

Cantor: Rick Foulke

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***Pastor:*** Rev. Robert B. Peiffer, Ph.D.

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***Organist/Choir Director/Chime Choir Director –***

*LeAnne Zettlemoyer*

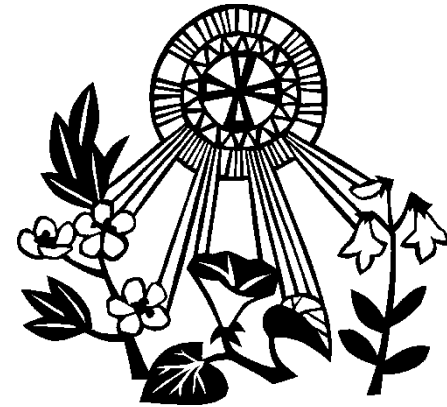
***Email:*** [zett113@ptd.net](mailto:zett113@ptd.net)

# *6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

## *Mother's Day/Mental Health Sunday*

*May 10, 2026*

*9:00 AM*



*Thank you for worshipping with us. Our songs of praise were more meaningful because your voice joined with ours!*

*Please, come again!*

**Good Morning.**

We would like to welcome you to New Bethel to worship with our church family. Visitors know that it is our privilege to have you with us this morning. Please come back again soon. Upon exiting the church, take a moment to sign our Guest Register at the front doors.

**SILENT MEDITATION PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**PRAYER NOTES:** In your conversation with GOD this morning, give thanks for all the Mothers and mother figures in our lives who have given so much to make lives so complete.

*"Believe in more than you can see, for it is faith that brings miracles to light."*



† **ORDER OF WORSHIP** †

**THE PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(^ = PLEASE STAND, AS YOU ARE ABLE)

Worship Reminder: Congregational responses are to be read slowly and expressively. Thank you.

**^OPENING HYMN – No. 84** "Children of the Heavenly Father"

**^CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 66: 8-20**

*Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)*

<sup>8</sup> Bless our God, you peoples;  
let the sound of praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup> **Our God has kept us among the living  
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

<sup>11</sup> **You brought us into the net;  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

<sup>12</sup> You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup> **I will enter your house with burnt offerings  
and will pay you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup> those that I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup> **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of  
rams;**

**I will give you oxen and goats.**

<sup>16</sup> Come and listen, all you who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

<sup>17</sup> **I called out to God with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished evil in my heart,  
the Lord would not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup> **but in truth God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**PASTOR:** Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us,

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

**PASTOR:** Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **TODAY'S LESSONS (HEARING GOD'S WORD):**

*Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.*

### **FIRST READING: ACTS 17:22-31**

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

### **RESPONSE: "Psalm 27: The Lord Is My Light"**

The Lord is my light,  
The Lord is my light,  
The Lord is my light and my salvation.

### **SECOND READING: 1 PETER 3:13-22**

*The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.*

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

### **^ GLORIA PATRI:**

***"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end." Amen.***

### **^ GOSPEL: JOHN 14:15-21**

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

**^THE APOSTLES' CREED:**

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD.*

*He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.*

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.*

*He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.*

*He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.*

**HOMILY (SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN)**

**SERMON (SHARING GOD'S WORD)**

Rev. Robert Peiffer

"Monica of Hippo: Somebody Was Watching Over Me"

**SERMON NOTES**

"She loved me as if I had been her only son, and served me as if she had been my only mother."

[Augustine, in *Confessions*]

Augustine wrote these words late in life after years of rebellion, spiritual despair, and choices that caused his mother profound grief. Monica prayed for him through seasons of heartbreak and uncertainty, never giving up hope that God was still at work in her son's life. Looking back after his conversion, Augustine recognized in his mother's steadfast love a reflection of the patient and persistent mercy of God.

**^HYMN – No. 302**

"Holy Spirit, Light Divine"

**PASSING OF PEACE**

**MORNING OFFERING: (RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD)**

**SPECIAL MUSIC – New Bethel Chime Choir**

"Holy Is the Lord"

**^PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS**

**^THE DOXOLOGY:**

*"Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

*All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen*

**^BENEDICTION:**

*May the strength of God pilot us; May the wisdom of God instruct us; May the hand of God protect us; May the word of God direct us. Be always ours this day and forevermore. Amen.*

**^CLOSING HYMN –**

"Dwell In Me"

**^WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

**^POSTLUDE**



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DURING THE WEEK PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

#### **THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS:**

Dick Albright, Michael Aulenbach, Carla Bartholomew, Sandra Bauscher, Tina Billig, Pastor Dave Blitch, Brenda Derr, Darryl Dieter, Jay Drey, Trista Fulmer-Smith, Donna Greenawalt, Sharon (Henry) Griffiths, Tim Haring, Felicity Herring, Tiffany Hoch, Casey Hoffman, Ernie Kanas, Bethany Keck, Emily Keck, Zoie Keck, Blair Keim, Cindy Keiser, Deb Kenney, Davis Knauer, Emma Laigaie, Judy Lenhart, Peggy Light, George Megerle, Mary Beth Mogus, Andy Miller, Diane Miller, Bonnie Moll, Heather Munsey, Lloyd Pettit, Steve Schwoyer, Kevin Smith, Margaret Snyder, Melanie Wessner, Cassie Wolfe, Joanne Zawada-Paskoff, Reuben Zettlemyer, Susan Zettlemyer, and Ben Ziehmer.

#### **THOSE WHO ARE SHUT INS:**

Forrest Graff, Pat Graff, Lillie Henninger, Myrna Kamp, Michael Kirkhoff, Nancy Kleinsmith, Sandy Long, Lester Lutz, Christie Ryan, Delano and Sandra Schucker.

#### **THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY:**

Cooper Dunn, Amanda Kertsmar and Trista Fulmer-Smith.



**INTERCESSORY PRAYER GATHERINGS:** In response to the requests of some and the encouragements of many, the Pastor will begin to host weekly gatherings for intercessory prayer: Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m. (following Bible Study) and 6:15 p.m. (preceding Craft Night). Somewhat informal in nature, these 45-minute gatherings will utilize *A Brief Introduction to Intercessory Prayer (in the Spirit of Martin Luther and the Other Reformers)*. As requested, the gatherings will now include a simple rite of anointing. A deeply biblical (James 5) and pastorally compassionate act, anointing with oil makes evident both the presence and the blessing of God as well as the healing work of the Holy Spirit; it provides comfort and refreshment in suffering.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES:** Some dates to remember. May 17 is the last day of classes for Sunday School and the Confirmation Class. It is also the last Coffee Fellowship Social time; Confirmation this year is May 24, Pentecost Sunday, This year Jameson Kleibscheidel will be confirmed. We will also be celebrating Holy Communion on that Sunday. Following worship on May 24 there will be a Donut Social to celebrate Jameson's confirmation with everyone invited.

**GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST:** As we have done the past few years we will have red geraniums in the sanctuary on Pentecost. So if you would like to purchase red geraniums for Pentecost, the sign-up sheet is now down on the bulletin board. The cost is \$4.00 per plant and this morning is the last day to sign up for plants.

**HELPING OUR NEIGHBOR:** We have a chance to help one of our neighbors and also a member of our extended church family. The Virginville Grange is running their Annual Benefit Chicken BBQ Dinner on June 7 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This year the funds raised are going to the Mummolo Family, who are going through an incredibly tough time since Brian's passing. The cost for the Chicken BBQ is \$13.00 and to order call 484-866-5304. You can also order tickets with Ruthann or at Dietrich Meats. Please purchase your tickets by June 1. Also available the day of the dinner – PA Farm Show milkshakes and homemade desserts. Please help ease the financial burden for Emily and her daughters and get a delicious dinner to enjoy at home.

**OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONALS:** The new regular print Our Daily Bread Devotionals are now available down at the bulletin board. Pick up your copy today.

**BOARD MEETING:** In preparation for their next Board meeting, Board members are encouraged to complete two "homework" assignments: 1) Review the pastor's April 30th email message (***An Emerging Area of Ministry for Board Discernment***); 2) View ***School of Rock***, the 2003 comedy featuring Jack Black and Joan Cusack. Note: ***School of Rock*** may be streamed on Paramount+, YouTube TV, or YouTube; it will be screened at 5:00 p.m. prior to the Board meeting on May 12th.

**RURAL MINDS:** May is ***Mental Health Awareness Month***, a national observance that dates to 1949. Throughout the month, New Bethel will feature the groundbreaking work of ***Rural Minds***, an innovative nonprofit that is aiming "to end the suffering, silence, and stigma surrounding mental illness in rural America." Today a 10-minute video will be screened before and after the worship service (at 8:45 and 10:15 a.m.). Entitled ***How One Family's Tragedy Sparked a Movement to Save Rural Lives***, the video features Jeff Winton (Founder/CEO of ***Rural Minds***) and discusses the origins and mission of the organization. On Thursday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m., New Bethel will become a participation site for ***Removing Stigma and Building Mental Wellness in Farm Communities***, a national webinar sponsored by ***Rural Minds***, ***The National Grange***, and ***Rural Mental Health Connections***.

**BETHELFEEST 6:** This year Bethelfest 6 will be held on Friday, June 5, from 5-9pm. Dave Kline and his musical guests will perform a variety of folk, gospel and bluegrass music. **Please consider volunteering your time or donating Baked Goods or drinks to make our annual event a success.** Sell refreshments, donate baked goods, set up and tear down tables and awnings, sell and collect tickets, place posters and yard signs, grill hot dogs and burgers...you name it-we'll take your help! **Sign-up sheets with additional information on the table in the Sunday School area. Please contact Steve Brendlinger (484-225-3366) if you have any questions.** All profits benefit the New Bethel Local Missions Fund for those in need. A portion of last year's profit was given to the Walnuttown Fire Company to help the families of the firefighters who were tragically killed this past month.

**SAVE THE DATE!!**

**JUNE 30** – Vince's Cheesesteaks will be at the Kempton Fire Co. on Tuesday June 30 from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. For every sandwich sold, \$1.00 will be donated back to New Bethel to support our Local Mission Fund.

This is a take-out only event. Buy sandwiches and support this worthy cause!!

**VBS 2026:** July 20, 21, and 22 are the dates for our summer VBS session. The time each evening is 6:30 to 8:15. This year the theme is "Joseph's Coat of Many Colors. Join in the fun as Joseph and his colorful life is explored with dinner, story time, crafts, songs and of course, games – some of the games may involve water!! Bring your children and grandchildren and have them join in the fun.

**TITHE.LY INSIGHTS:** Earlier this year, *New Bethel Church* entered into an enhanced relationship with ***Tithe.ly***, an international provider of software solutions to churches and other faith-based organizations. Going forward, ***Tithe.ly*** will provide New Bethel with not only an electronic giving platform but an all-in-one electronic church management system. In addition, ***Tithe.ly*** also will provide the church with learning resources, including ***Tithe.ly University*** and a weekly e-newsletter. To introduce some of these resources, the Pastor will host ***Tithe.ly Insights***, a 45-minute informal gathering each Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. To encourage attendance, he will provide donuts, coffee, and an ***AI Hack of the Week***. This week's resource will be ***The Church Directory Playbook: How to Print and Distribute Your New Church Directory***. (Any remaining donuts and selected ***Tithe.ly*** resources will be available at the church throughout the remainder of the day.)

**BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY BY & FOR LAY PEOPLE:** Our Bible Study sessions are every Wednesday morning at the same time – 10:00 to 11:30 AM. Coffee and snacks are available. Anyone is welcome to join even if you have not attended any in the past.

Here are dates to remember for some future Bible Study sessions.

May 13 – The Bible Study Group meets at the home of Sandy Long

June 3 – Bible Study – 9:30 to 10:30 instead of the regular time

June 10 – Irwin Hamm Presentation

July – NO BIBLE STUDY SESSIONS IN JULY

August 5 – Bible Study sessions resume.

**2026 FLOWER CHART:** The 2026 Flower Chart is now hanging down on the bulletin board with many dates available for you to place flowers on the altar. Pick your dates today!

**TINY DEVOTIONAL LIBRARY:** Looking for a new devotional? Take a moment and check out our tiny devotional library in the corner of the vestibule by the chair lift. There are many choices for you to use to enhance your devotional time.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:** We are always looking for people to serve as worship assistants. So if you are looking for a way to offer your time the Worship Committee is looking for more worship assistants – greeters, ushers, lectors and communion assistants. The time involved is minimal and time is something that anyone can donate! If you are interested, contact Ruthann.

**CRAFT NIGHT:** Join the crafters Wednesday evenings as we gather to craft and enjoy fellowship time in the comfort of the Sunday School area. Craft Nights are held 2 hours, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. It doesn't matter what the craft is, come and enjoy! Even if you do not have a craft that you are working on you are invited to join us for the fellowship.

**WEIS GIFT CARDS:** Since we have been offering Weis Gift Cards we have raised an average of \$500 a year for our local mission Community Outreach. So if you are looking for a gift card for a gift? Why not purchase a Weis gift card Everyone has to shop for food and by purchasing a gift card you can benefit our Community Outreach. That's two pluses in one! Our Weis program benefits New Bethel's Community Outreach, so every card sold is a gift twice over! Please see Vicki or Shirley Wessner after church or contact Vicki at 484-357-6371 or [wessner@verizon.net](mailto:wessner@verizon.net) to purchase a card. The cards may be used in the Kutztown, Hamburg or Fogelsville Weis stores. Thank you to anyone who has purchased one or more of these gift cards over the years.

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS:** If you are a Thrivent member and receive Thrivent Choice Dollars did you know you could designate them to New Bethel Church? It's easy to do but if you need the information on how to designate them there is a flyer down at the bulletin board or talk to your Thrivent representative.

**TITHE.LY:** If you would like to contribute or make your weekly offering to New Bethel and can't make it to church try TITHE.LY! By donating this way you are able to make a one-time donation or set up recurring donations. Tithe.ly deposits the funds directly to the Church's bank account at the same time tracking your donations on a yearly basis. Their website is <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1308566>

**NEW BETHEL ENDOWMENT FUND:** As you plan your financial legacy please consider New Bethel Church in your plan. Our endowment fund will accept monetary gifts including stock that would be deposited into our brokerage account. Having a strong endowment fund will help to keep New Bethel going strong for future generations.

**ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE:** Thank you! Recent financial donations have been earmarked for our church endowment fund. The fund balance as of mid-April is now \$122,462.00. Your donations to this ongoing fund help to ensure a financially healthy church for generations to come. Heartfelt thanks to all who support our endowment!

**ON-LINE SERVICE INFORMATION:** Can't get to church on Sunday morning? If you would like to view the service just go to [nbchurchkempton.org](http://nbchurchkempton.org) and click on the Youtube link on our home page. There you will find videos of our recent services that are available for viewing.

**PASTORAL CARE:** When you are in need of pastoral care, please have a family member contact Pastor Peiffer at 570.778.1245 or call the church at 610.756.6589. If you are in the Lehigh Valley Hospital, please let admissions know your church code is #457.

**2026 NEW BETHEL CHURCH BOARD**

|                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jon Bond – President         | Linda Foulke – Vice President    |
| Barb Dieter – Secretary      | Lynette Daniels                  |
| Marge Hamm                   | Penny Rhodes                     |
| Janelle Stump                | Sherry Stump                     |
| Luisa Follweiler – Treasurer | Tanya Lang – Financial Secretary |





### **ALBANY TOWNSHIP PANTRY**

**First Tuesday of each month** - 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
Kempton Community Center

Food pantry and social services are open to Albany Township residents and families in need. Resources are also available for those who are struggling with financial challenges (ex. Utility bills) or need help applying for food or medical assistance. If you have any questions about your options, contact Friend, Inc. at 610-683-9011.

### **FRIEND, INC. Food Pantry**

During these times let us not forget those less fortunate than we are. If you are able, please consider donating any nonperishable items. For the month of May we will be collecting cereal and breakfast items.

In addition to food items, please consider donating personal items such as shampoo, soap, etc. and household items (laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, etc.). These last items are things that we often overlook.

Friend, Inc. also collects pet food to help families in need provide for their pets. These items will be distributed by Friend, Inc.

***Thank You All For Your Generosity!***