

NEW BETHEL NEWS SEPTEMBER 2026

New Bethel Church
135 New Bethel Church Road
Kempston, PA 19529



Office and church: 610-756-6589
Email: NBCKempston@gmail.com
Newsletter: bondart@ptd.net
nbchurchkempston.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00am

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15am



Coming Soon !

NEW BETHEL STORY PROJECT

YOUTH ORAL - HISTORY RECORDING INITIATIVE

PURPOSE | Equip our youth to record and preserve the personal, family, church, and faith stories of senior members of New Bethel.

The **New Bethel Story Project** will be carried out through our young people. They will interview senior members of the congregation and preserve their stories in their own voices. The project will teach interviewing, careful listening, field recording, and basic audio editing while creating a growing congregational oral-history archive for New Bethel.

MARK YOUR
PET'S
CALENDAR



New Bethel Church

135 New Bethel Church Road, Kempton, PA

Pet-Fest

Saturday, October 3
11:00am - 2:00pm

Rain Date
October 4
11:00am - 2:00pm

A Joyful Community Celebration of Gratitude
for the Love, Comfort, and Companionship of Pets

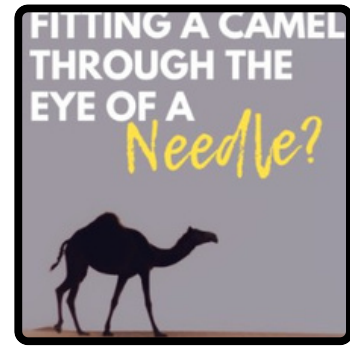
- **Petting Zoo**
- **Pet Photo Booth**
- **Paw Print Station**
- **Individual Pet Blessings**
- **Rainbow Bridge Memorial**
- **Pet Vendors, Trainers and Rescue Organizations**
- **Educational Table Staffed by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary**
- **Pet Food Donations Welcome to Benefit Friend, Inc. Pet Pantry**

Cat Carriers Encouraged

NO
Retractable Leashes

More Info:
Call/Text Tim @610-533-1369
Cronrath2017@gmail.com

Inspired by St. Francis and his reverence for all living creatures, this joyful event embodies New Bethel's mission of welcoming the whole community



Jesus said, "Go, sell everything you have, give to the poor, then follow me." At this the rich man went away sad, because he had great wealth. Jesus said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle." – Mark 10:21-25, abridged (NIV)

A rich man asks Jesus how to inherit eternal life. He's sincere, but "inherit" is a telling word. It means getting a share, a portion. He hopes to add yet another sum to his already disproportionate amount of material wealth. He's so accustomed to accumulating that he can only think of eternal life as an acquisition. But eternal life is a person, not a portion. And that person – it just so happens – loves the rich man and welcomes him to intimacy. With a precondition: the rich man will have to make the same first move toward Jesus that God (in Christ) once made toward humanity : he must empty himself. The rich man can't do it. He simply can't. Jesus names the obstacle. It's wealth, and not just the rich man's attachment to it. Dispossession is indeed an inner attitude, a spiritual posture; but that's not all it is. To follow Jesus really means living life in the red. The disciples were already doing just that. Still, they are shocked by Jesus' severity. Jesus doubles down, "It's easier for a camel..." To save the wealthy, God will have to do the impossible.

We always think someone else is wealthy, not us. Maybe examining that assumption should be our first response to Jesus' hard saying. But that's not for me to say. No one can tell you what it means for you (in practice) to accept Jesus's invitation to life eternal. Only you know what it would take to hope not in goodness and its satisfactions – much less in wealth and its acquisition – but only in what God may yet make possible in you by grace.

Prayer

I keep going away sad, Jesus. But keep inviting me anyway. Grace may yet push me through the needle's eye.



NEW BETHEL ENDOWMENT FUND

Endowment Fund Update: As of July 31 our Church Endowment Fund is valued at \$146,259.00. Thanks to your generosity and substantial gains in the financial market, the fund continues to grow and benefit our church. The committee that oversees the fund will recommend appropriate disbursements to the church board beginning October 2027. By that time the fund will have established a three year return and any disbursements that fulfill the fund's mission can be calculated. Guidelines set forth in establishing the fund nearly two years ago will be followed. Thank you again for your continued support.



CHURCH FUNDRAISER

OCTOBER 13
11:30-6:30

KEMPTON FIRE COMPANY



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY BY & FOR LAY PEOPLE: Bible Study sessions will be resuming this week on Wednesday mornings. If you would like to attend they are held from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. Come and join in – all are welcome!

FIRST RESPONDERS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13 WORSHIP SERVICE

Reflecting on the 25th Anniversary of 9/11



Cooper Dunn graduated in May 2026 from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a bachelor's in nuclear engineering. At the same time he was commissioned as an ensign in the US Navy. He is now on active duty. In June he moved from the Capital Region of New York to Monterey, California to attend the Naval Postgraduate School. There he will earn his Master's in Mechanical Engineering. After postgraduate school, he will move back to Charleston, South Carolina for Nuclear Power School. He will spend at least eight years as a submarine officer on active duty. He is grateful for his time at New Bethel and still attends a Lutheran church in Monterey. Praise be to God

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS

Dick Albright, Michael Aulenbach, Carla Bartholomew, Sandra Bauscher, Pastor Dave Blitch, Sarah Burns, Brenda Derr, Jay Drey, Donna Greenawalt, Sharon (Henry) Griffiths, Tim Haring, Felicity Herring, Tiffany Hoch, Casey Hoffman, Ernie Kanas, Bethany Keck, Emily 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, Melanie Wessner, Cassie Wolfe, Joanne Zawada-Paskoff, Reuben Zettlemoyer, Susan Zettlemoyer, and Ben Ziehmer.

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 August we will again be collecting food items that can easily be prepared for lunch. 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.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



4 SEPT	JENNA WESSNER
10 SEPT	KELLY CRONRATH
11 SEPT	CHRISTIAN GRAFF
11 SEPT	MARIE LUTZ
12 SEPT	REUBEN ZETTLEMOYER
14 SEPT	AMY STERNER
14 SEPT	JEAN RAUCH
18 SEPT	ELLEN CHRISTMAN
20 SEPT	RICHARD ALBRIGHT
24 SEPT	TRACEY DIETER
27 SEPT	LUISA FOLLWEILER

CHURCH HUMOR



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

UPCOMING EVENTS

New Bethel and Our Community

FIRST RESPONDER SUNDAY



SEPTEMBER 13

NEW BETHEL PET FEST



OCTOBER 3

COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT



OCTOBER 17

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP



NOVEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



DECEMBER 24

REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS

Lila Kramer
420 Krocks Road,
Apt. 236
Wescosville, PA 18106

Ray Bilger
Maidencreek Place
105 Dries Road #56
Reading PA 19605

Myrna Kamp
Lutheran Home at Topton,
Rm 17
1 S Home Ave
Topton, PA 19562

Pat Graff
601 St John St
Rm 211B
Allentown, PA 18103

George and Judy Megerle
Fellowship Community
The Villa Room 323
3000 Fellowship Drive
Whitehall, PA 18052



New Bethel Church

The Board at New Bethel Church is looking to gather information with hopes of shedding some light on our current attendance levels. The historical decline is reflected below:

Average weekly attendance in 10 year increments:

1999 – 127 members

2009 – 98 members

2019 – 52 members

2021 – 35 members (post covid)

2025 – 33 members

Your opinion and needs are very important in this process as we continue our mission:

“Our aim is to share the gospel of Jesus, celebrate the sacraments, build up believers to maturity of faith who will value prayer, praise, the sharing of their faith and service.”

Please consider sparing a few minutes of your time. It is with much hope that you are willing to respond to our inquiry and provide insight on three important questions.

- 1. What obstacles do you face when looking to attend 9am Sunday worship service?**
- 2. What about worship service do you most look forward to?**
- 3. What would you like to see/hear at a church service that a traditional service hasn't provided?**

Responses can be made via email to calbright@albrightsmill.net. If you prefer to be contacted by a member of the worship committee via telephone, please call or text 484-357-6361. A group setting for discussion will also be offered if there is interest expressed. Date/time to be determined.

**Best Regards,
Your friends at New Bethel**