NEW BETHEL NEWS
NOVEMBER 2026

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

Office and church: 610-756-6589
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Newsletter: bondart@ptd.net

nbchurchkempton.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00am
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15am

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.

Pastor's Message

That evening they brought to [Jesus] many who were possessed by demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word and cured all who were sick. - Matthew 8:16 (NRSV)

The Gospel accounts of Jesus healing people who are described as "possessed by demons" — or "an unclean" or "evil "spirit" — can be very problematic. I know the Gospels were written long before brain science and modern psychiatry, but these first-century descriptions of what may have been epilepsy, Alzheimer's, or some other neurological condition — or possibly a mental illness such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder — have stigmatized persons with such conditions down through the ages.

So, should we ignore or avoid such scriptures? No, because these first-century stories of Jesus healing those who were "possessed" outnumber all the other healing miracles (sight, hearing, leprosy, etc.) combined. If Jesus cared so deeply and broadly for persons with neurological or mental health conditions, what does that say to us and to our church?

For starters, it says that in our preaching and teaching and praying, we need to engage such stories — put them in context, unpack the terms, and interpret them for our time. It also says that, like Jesus, caring for persons with mental illnesses and neurological conditions is central to our ministries. So, too, is caring for their families and loved ones. (Remember the Syro-Phoenician woman who appealed to Jesus to heal her daughter of "a demon," or the father who pleaded for his son with seizures?)

Finally, many of these stories underscore the vulnerability of persons with mental illnesses or neurological conditions — such as the man forced to live "in the tombs" outside the wealthy imperial city of Gadara. Often isolated and frequently alone, they need the companionship of others willing to walk a difficult road beside them.

Prayer
Compassionate One, thank you for these healing stories. Open us to their wisdom and challenge. Amen.

NAMI Connection
NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS
RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP

NAMI Berks County PA
National Alliance on Mental Illness

NEW SUPPORT GROUP • NOW FORMING IN KEMPTON

Starting Tuesday, November 17

NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group

What is NAMI Connection?

A free recovery support group program that offers respect, understanding, encouragement and hope for adults living with mental health conditions.

- Free and confidential
- For adults 18 years and older
- 90-minute structured group meetings
- Led by trained facilitators who are living in recovery themselves
- Designed to connect, encourage and support every participant

WHEN	WHERE	FIRST GROUP
1st & 3rd Tuesday 6:00 – 7:30 PM	135 New Bethel Church Road Kempton, PA 19529	Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Participant Perspectives

"NAMI Connection is the promise of what is and what can be in our lives."

"I believe NAMI Connection means hope."

"NAMI Connection has made me realize that I can truly feel comfortable around my peers, and I really needed that feeling!"

Contact us to find out more about the NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group

610-685-3000 | info@namiberks.org | www.namiberkspa.org

NAMI Berks County PA • 640 Walnut St, Lower Level • Reading, PA 19601

About NAMI NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI Berks County PA is an affiliate of NAMI Keystone. Our dedicated volunteer members and leaders work tirelessly to raise awareness and provide essential education, advocacy and support group programs for people in our community living with mental illness and their loved ones.

This program is partially funded by Berks County MH/DD

NEW BETHEL ENDOWMENT FUND

2027 GOAL
ADD $10,000

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.

On Wednesday, Nov. 4th, the Bible study group will welcome Jon Bond for an area history talk. Tell your family and friends to join us from 10 - 11:30 that morning for an exciting adventure back in time. As always, everyone is welcome to join our group for learning and laughter on Wednesdays from 10am to 11:30am.
Note: There will be no Bible study on 11/4, 11/25, 12/23, and 12/30.

The new Church Directory is available – pick up your copy today! If you notice you or your family are not listed in the directory it could just be that a release was not signed when you sent in your information. We cannot put your information in without the release.

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 note that they will be phasing out the church code option.

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, 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, Peggy Light, 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.

Join us following worship for our coffee fellowship. Enjoy the coffee and snacks and the fellowship that comes with it. If you would like to bring snacks and/or drinks for any given Sunday there is a sign-up sheet at the door to the choir room. You may also sign up to help set up before worship or clean up following coffee fellowship. Paper products and coffee are provided.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3-Nov	JESSE	RABERT
4-Nov	MITCHELL	MILLER
10-Nov	MORGAN	KUNKEL
13-Nov	JOCELYN	FULMER
21-Nov	KATHRYN	BAILEY
21-Nov	MADALYN	LONG
21-Nov	PEYTON	QUALES
25-Nov	ASHLEE	HOUSEKNECHT

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS: This year we will once again be collecting food for Thanksgiving meals. We hope to collect enough food to benefit 8 families. Three of the families are in our community the other five families are located in the Kutztown Area School District. Look for more information in the narthex or contact Barb Dieter if you have any questions.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Sunday, November 1, 9:00am

We remember those who have passed away in the last year. To include your loved one, please contact Pastor Peiffer or Ruthann Lutz

UPCOMING EVENTS

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP NOVEMBER 25

REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS

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

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

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

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