

Bethany Christian Church (DOC)
601 E. Mill Rd
Evansville, IN 47711

April 2024

Bethany Newscast

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Check out Bethany Christian Church
www.bethanychristianeansville.com



 **BethanyChristianEvv**

Worship with Bethany on  **YouTube**
www.youtube.com/channel/UCFGE5r0vqpSyL_KpphPjgYw/live



Bethany Christian Church is an Open & Affirming Congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
We at Bethany Christian Church are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ seeking to learn the word, live the grace, and share the love, we welcome ALL to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us with grace and unconditional love and acceptance. So, with open hearts, open minds, and open doors Bethany Christian Church acknowledges, accepts, and affirms ALL people as equal children of God and affirms OUR commitment to welcome and accept ALL people. Therefore, **regardless of race, nationality, culture, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status, physical and mental ability, marital standing, or any other designation of individuals who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination by the church and society, ALL are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and mission of our church.**

Check out Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance (www.disciplesallianceq.org) to learn more!

AllianceQ
Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance

Bethany Newscast—April 2024



**Sundays
10:30am**

April 7

Liturgist: Ryan Wagler
Elder: Tandy Jones
CW&W Storyteller: Vanessa Wagler

April 14

Liturgist: Meichelle Paulson
Elder: John Rich
CW&W Storyteller: Jean Page

April 21

Liturgist: Barb Hester
Elder: Jean Page
CW&W Storyteller: Danielle Russell

April 28

Liturgist: Chris Gibson
Elder: Steve Appel
CW&W Storyteller: Sheri Cox



Birthdays

- 4th Danielle Russell
- 6th Debbie Breeden
- 8th Cheryl Schultheis
- 11th Linda Bonnett
- 18th John Rich
- 22nd Amber Duncan

Anniversaries

- 2nd Bill & Gail LaFief
- 11th Stacy & Cindy Robbins
- 28th Mark & Cheryl Schultheis



- Tuesdays, 4:00pmTai Chi Class
- Weds. 10am & 5:30pmBible Study
- Wednesdays, 6:30pmChoir Practice
- April 7, after worship.....Elders Meeting
- April 8 & 9, 6:30pm.....GEY Snacks
@ Patchwork Central
- April 12, 6-10pmBoard Game Night
- April 13, 7pm.....Bowling Night
@ Diamond Lanes
- April 14, 9am.....O & A Meeting
- April 20, 7:30-11:30am...Pancake Extrvrgza
@ Patchwork Central
- April 25, 11:30amKeenagers
- April 25, 6pm.....GEY Crochet Club
@ Patchwork Central
- April 28, after worship.....Board Meeting



venmo

Bethany now accepts offerings on Venmo. Find us @BethanyCCDOC on Venmo or visit the giving page of the church website:

*Bethanychristianevasville.com/
giving*



If you have additions to the prayer list, please call the church office Mon-Fri from 8:30a to 12:30p (812-422-5439).

Caroline Ashby, Stacy Baier, Steve Buckert, John Bunner, Stevie Chivlare, Dave Cox, Steve Cox, Ron Dennis, Michelle Gilles, Cale Harper, Donna Harper, Barb Hester, Mary Jane Hunt, Katie Kelly, Lisa King, Ruth & Joe Lenko, Jeff Main, Nancy McGuyer, Debby Miller, Wes & JoAnn Mitchell, Lisa Russell, Frank Rynkiewich, Nancy Slaton, Sheila Smith, Peter Thorp, Julia Wood, Myra Woolsey

Need prayer?

Pastor Michelle will be there for you. She has office hours listed on the included calendar or you can reach out to her by phone, text, or email to arrange a time to visit.

Bethany Goes Bowling on April 13!

Join us at 7:00 p.m. on April 13 at Diamond Lanes (2400 US-41, Evansville, IN 47711) for a night of knocking down pins (or throwing gutter balls if you are like Pastor Michelle 😊). See you there!



Bethany Accepted Into Mental Health Initiative Grant Program



To expand the ministries of Bethany Christian Church and gain resources to offer healing to those affected by trauma, John Rich and Pastor Michelle applied for the church to be accepted into the Mental Health Initiative conducted by the Center for Congregations. "The Mental Health Initiative is an education and grant initiative designed to assist Indiana congregations in addressing mental health and wellness among their members. This opportunity includes educational sessions and a grant of up to \$40,000 to fund expenses and activities that support mental health programming in congregations."

On March 18, we received word that Bethany has been accepted into the program! A team from our congregation will attend two in-person and two remote education sessions during 2024; if we are awarded funding, it will be made available in time to begin new programming in 2025. Interested in knowing more? Visit www.centerforcongregations.org/mental-health-initiative/ or contact Pastor Michelle or John Rich. Hurrah!!

Greater Evansville Youth Snacks & Crochet Club

Bethany's outreach ministry includes support and involvement with the Greater Evansville Youth (GEY), a youth group that supports middle school and high school LGBTQ+ students and their allies. Each month, the church serves snacks and conducts a Crochet Club for GEY. Both of these offerings show God's love and acceptance to those accustomed to being rejected by the church. In this way, we give God's Realm a firmer foothold in the world. Want to participate? Check out the church calendar for dates & times.



AllianceQ Donation Day April 28

As part of Bethany's Open + Affirming commitment, Bethany will be collecting a quarterly donation to support the ministries of Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance (aka "AllianceQ"). The mission statement of AllianceQ is "We, the Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance, are members of the Body of Christ, called to join in God's work of transforming the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) into a just and inclusive church that welcomes persons of all gender identities and expressions and sexual orientations into full life and leadership of the church." As an Open + Affirming congregation, Bethany Christian Church will be listed on the AllianceQ website and included in an online map of Disciples congregations with that designation. As of March 30, 2024, the closest Open + Affirming Disciples of Christ congregation to Evansville is in Louisville, Kentucky. Clearly there is a need in our area! Consider this your invitation to offer a portion of your financial resources on April 28 to take the gospel and extend our welcome to the Evansville LGBTQ+ community.



Patchwork Central's PANCAKE EXTRAVAGANZA

APRIL 20, 2024
7:30 AM-11:30 AM

100 Washington Ave. ☀️ (812) 424-2735

Breakfast is \$6 for children
and \$8 for adults. ❀

All proceeds benefit Patchwork Central's programming.



Patchwork Central's Arts & Smarts

FREE after school program
for 1st - 5th Graders
M-Th 3:15-5:45pm
100 Washington Ave.
Evansville, Indiana 47713
812-424-2735



**Patchwork
Central**
Creating Community

A Different Kind of Cliffhanger—Mark 16:1-8

When I was in my 30s, I attended Bible Study Fellowship in Indianapolis. Once a week, we would get together first as a large group of about 100 people for an introduction to the lesson and then as 5 or 6-person discussion groups to really dig into the scripture reading for that day. During the opening session one week, the director focused her lesson on the provision of God and said that she and her family had experienced the perfect example. Her story went something like this, “In September, my family and I went on a camping trip in the Smoky Mountains. We drove up a winding road to an out-of-the-way spot that we had all to ourselves, parked the car, and then hiked further into the woods to our tent site. It was a wonderful experience, but after roughing it for a week, we were ready to go home. Unfortunately, when we got back to the car, we found out we left the headlights on and the battery was completely dead. We were stranded. No food, no water, no cell reception, and there wasn’t a person in sight...” Suddenly she looked at her watch, and said, “Oh! Good grief! Is that the time?? We’d better get to our small groups!” And then she sent us off. Wait...*what happened?* How could she leave us hanging like that?! We knew she’d survived; she was with us, after all, and not still stuck in the woods with her family. But what miracle did God work to get them out of the fix they were in? How did God provide for them when all seemed to be lost? I can’t think of a worse way to end a story. Take a look Mark’s version of the resurrection of Jesus; you might think the way it ends leaves a little something to be desired as well. These are the words from the Gospel according to Mark 16:1-8:

¹ *When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.* ² *And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.* ³ *They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”* ⁴ *When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.* ⁵ *As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.* ⁶ *But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.”* ⁷ *But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”* ⁸ *So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*

The end? Does this match the way you remember hearing about the resurrection of Jesus? If you’re like me, you heard many more details of this story and a WAY more satisfying ending. Do you remember the earthquake and the guards around the tomb fainting when they saw an angel appear or the women filled with the angel’s message leaving the tomb in joy eager to tell the disciples about Jesus’ resurrection? That’s from Matthew’s Gospel. Do you remember *two* men in dazzling clothes giving the good news to the women? That was the Gospel of Luke. Do you remember Mary Magdalene weeping at the tomb meeting a man she thought was a gardener only to discover it was Jesus himself? That’s the Gospel of John. The early church didn’t care for Mark’s original ending that left those details and many others out of the story. They needed a message of triumph – a clear victory for the good guys. When you get down to it, what they needed was just a few more verses. The translation of the Bible I use includes two different endings that later editors tacked onto Mark’s text to make it more agreeable: the “shorter ending” and the “longer ending”. The shorter ending reads, “And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterward Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.” The last seven words of the shorter ending are found nowhere else in Mark – or the rest of the Second (New) Testament, for that matter – and fails to capture the full meaning of the gospel as Mark understood it. In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus begins his ministry by saying: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” This is not “the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation” – Jesus doesn’t even mention eternity, and his proclamation is only the beginning. The good news is that God’s Realm has come near and will be revealed when people turn back to God. Jesus showed God’s Realm breaking into reality with more than his words. He healed the sick and fed thousands, he cast out evil and silenced storms, he challenged religious authorities when they honored tradition more than mercy, he brought the dead back to life. The “longer ending” of Mark combines several gospel accounts of the resurrection. In it, Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene as in John’s Gospel, he met two disciples who were walking in the country as in Luke’s Gospel, and he appeared to the 11 disciples and commissioned them to proclaim the gospel to the whole world as in Matthew’s Gospel. The longer ending also includes a bit of theology, having Jesus say, “The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.” This is another idea that doesn’t appear in the earliest and most reliable versions of Mark’s Gospel. The Gospel of Mark isn’t about believing correctly, getting baptized, and being saved; it is about what it means to follow Jesus. While both the shorter and longer endings tie up all the loose threads and may include historically accurate details, they weren’t what the author of Mark had in mind. There was a reason he ended his Gospel the way he did, with frightened women and scattered disciples, and that point gets lost if we try to tidy it up. Mark 16:1-8 may seem like a cliffhanger to us, but the man in white doesn’t leave the women hanging. He points to Jesus: he tells the women at the tomb where Jesus has gone and that he has gone *ahead of them* to that place. There is no question about what will happen next. If I know I’ll be arriving at church before you will, then I might say something like, “See you when you get there.” When the man in white tells the women at the tomb that Jesus has gone to Galilee ahead of them and the remaining disciples, he means they will be going there too, and they’ll see him when they get there. Mark’s point wasn’t to tell us what happened next but to include us in it. We know the women didn’t stay silent. If they had, we wouldn’t be followers of Jesus. By leaving the ending open, Mark leaves the next step to the disciples reading his Gospel in the generations to come. We are those disciples, we are on the threshold of the rest of the story with the entire world waiting for what we will do next. As believers, we play two roles in the resurrection story – each of them equally important. We are the women at the tomb, in the midst of a bleak situation, confused and afraid and given a choice: do we run toward Jesus or away from him? We are meant to go to Galilee, far from the official places of worship, to continue Jesus’ ministry of proclaiming the gospel and bringing it to life. We will do this by healing the broken and feeding the hungry; we will do this by stilling the storms of chaos and driving out evil; we will do this by challenging injustice and raising up those who are crushed by it; we will do this by bringing the dead back to life. We are also the man in the white robe meeting disciples who have lost hope. We are not only messengers from God offering guidance to those who don’t yet believe; we are offering these things to the ones who do. We are the ones who encourage believers to continue following Jesus despite being faced with what seems like an impossible job. We are the ones who speak the good news that Jesus is alive and waiting for them, and we are the ones who charge others to spread the word. We are the brilliant light of God shining in a place of deep darkness and death, showing the empty tomb, and saying, “See?! All is not lost. *Nothing* is lost. It is just time to turn the page to what happens next.” What happens next is up to us, and the original ending of Mark’s Gospel makes that clear. By leaving off the stories of how the women at the tomb and the rest of the disciples continued the ministry of Jesus, Mark keeps us from getting stuck trying to replicate what was done in the past. We live in a radically different situation than the earliest followers of Christ. The challenges we face in proclaiming and living out the gospel are unique to us, and what we do in response to these challenges will be unique as well. Where has Jesus gone before us? We must figure it out and follow him there. Who are the people we are meant to serve? Jesus will reveal them to us. What are we supposed to do next? Jesus will show us. Will we do it?

Oh! Good grief! Is that the time? We’d better get moving!

April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 11a-2p - Pastor Office Hrs	2 11a-2p - Pastor Office Hrs 4p - Tai Chi	3 10a - Bible Study 11a-2p - Pastor Office Hrs 5:30p - Bible Study 6:30p - Choir	4 11a-2p - Pastor Office Hrs	5	6
7 FOOD PANTRY OFFERING 10:30a - Worship 12p - Elders' Meeting	8 6:30p - GEY Snacks	9 11a-2p - Pastor Office Hrs 4p - Tai Chi 6:30p - GEY Snacks	10 10a - Bible Study 11a-2p - Pastor Office Hrs 5:30p - Bible Study 6:30p - Choir	11 11a-2p - Pastor Office Hrs	12 11a-2p - Pastor Office Hrs	13 7p - Bowling Fellowship
14	15 6:30p - GEY Snacks	16	17	18	19	20
PASTOR MICHELLE ON VACATION						
		4p - Tai Chi	6:30p - Choir			7:30-11:30a - Pancake Extravaganza @ Patchwork Central
21 B-DAY & ANNIV. OFFERING 10:30a - Worship	22 11a-2p - Pastor Office Hrs	23 4p - Tai Chi	24 10a - Bible Study 11a-2p - Pastor Office Hrs 5:30p - Bible Study 6:30p - Choir	25 11:30a - Keenagers 6-7:30p - GEY Crochet Club	26	27
28 ALLIANCEQ.OFFERING 10:30a - Worship 12p - Board Meeting	29 11a-2p - Pastor Office Hrs	30 11a-2p - Pastor Office Hrs 4p - Tai Chi	Notes:			