



John's Journal

Do you say fall or autumn? I heard someone asking that question on the radio the other day. The consensus was "fall." I guess either one is appropriate and it

really doesn't matter which one we use, but the fact of the matter is that fall - or autumn - has arrived. And thanks be to God for that!

My favorite times of the year are spring and fall. I love when new birth takes place every spring as the world wakes up and turns green and warm weather finally arrives.

But I also love it when the heat of summer breaks, and there's a crispness in the air as we see cooler days - and shorter days! Ok, so I don't really celebrate the shorter days, but you know what I mean!

One of my accomplishments of my sabbatical was beginning an exercise routine - specifically walking most every day. I don't go a long way - usually almost 2 miles on a route around our neighborhood, but it's something to get me going each day, and I have reached a point where I actually miss it if I don't do it for a day.

The biggest plus for me has been for my health. I have been blessed with good health for pretty much my whole life, but lately my doctor had been concerned with a little elevated blood pressure. It seems, though, that this walking habit has been the trick for that. My last physical showed normal blood pressure levels for the first time in awhile.

But the other plus is getting me active and beginning the day with that routine. Debbie and I usually walk together which has been good for us as well. During the summer, we liked to get out early to beat the heat. Needless to say, even walking at 7:00 in the morning usually meant that we got back to the house a sweaty mess. Debbie glowed. I sweated!!

With the change of the season though, my morning walk has been very pleasant. In fact, I have had to

change from shorts and a T-shirt to sweatpants and a sweatshirt. And that is a change that I haven't minded. Like I said, I like the fall!

The changing of the seasons makes us more aware of the miracle of our existence and of God's presence in our natural world. I love living in an area where we can feel the change of the seasons. I have lived in Florida a few different times and never could get used to not experiencing those changes.

We worship a God who is master over all and we marvel at the intricacies of nature and how everything works together. So embrace the brisk mornings that we now have. Cuddle up around a fire and rejoice that in these changes we can be assured of God's presence in our lives.

Please note the article on the next page about our plans for returning to in-person worship on October 4th. Yes, it will be different than when we last gathered in our beautiful sanctuary back in March. But we'll be together and that will be wonderful.

Please note the statement regarding our understanding that not all will be comfortable gathering in person. And that is OK. Safety is our number one concern and we certainly understand any reluctance to come to the building. We will continue our Zoom and Facebook live streams so that will be another way to gather.

It seems as though a lot is being crammed into these fall months. With being away for three months, I guess that's how it has to be. I am thrilled with the response to my *Digital Church* sermon series and study, as well as the *Waking Up White* book study. These both have been relevant and rewarding.

I'm looking forward to an exciting Stewardship Season in November, and then a new Advent sermon and study series (see page 4). Christmas will be here before we know it!

Be safe, wear your mask, wash your hands, keep your distance. See you soon!

As always, I am grateful to be your pastor.

Grace & peace,



Dear Bethany Family,

At a called meeting of the Session on September 22nd, a decision was made regarding worship moving forward as of October 4th. Here's what you need to know:

- **Beginning on October 4th there will be three options for worshipping with your Bethany family: in person here in the sanctuary, via Zoom online, or via Facebook live.**
- If you choose to worship in person, here are the guidelines that we will follow:
 - **Masks must be worn at all times.**
 - **Social-distancing** will be observed. Every other pew will be blocked off. We have a beautiful large sanctuary. We can use it all!
 - Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available.
 - Offering plates will be placed at the door to receive the offering.
 - October 4th is **World Communion Sunday** so we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper that day. We will continue to use the individual communion packs with the wafer and juice as we have over the summer.
 - As you exit the sanctuary following worship, you will be asked to observe social-distancing guidelines and not congregate in close groups. It's hard not to because we want to visit, but we must remain safe.
 - No paper bulletins will be available. The service will be on the screen as usual, or the digital bulletin will be available for download to your tablet or smartphone.
- I will preach from the floor as I (and Rick) have been recently, so that we can continue our Zoom and Facebook live worship. Special request: if you worship on Facebook live, please leave a comment so that we know you are there!
- **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE - IF YOU FEEL ANY UNEASE ABOUT ATTENDING WORSHIP IN PERSON, PLEASE STAY AT HOME!** As much as we would like to see you, safety is our number one concern.

I am so happy that we have reached a point where we have this option to worship in person. And to come back on World Communion Sunday makes it even better! I am looking forward to seeing you soon - if not in person then on my computer screen. Be safe, wear a mask, keep your distance, so that we can beat this thing!

Grace & Peace,

John W. Johnson
Pastor, Bethany Presbyterian Church



Our Sunday morning study series based on the *Digital Disciple* book and *Digital Church* series continues to meet each Sunday morning at 9:45 in person and via Zoom. The lively and engaging conversations serve as a wonderful intro to John's sermon on the same topic.

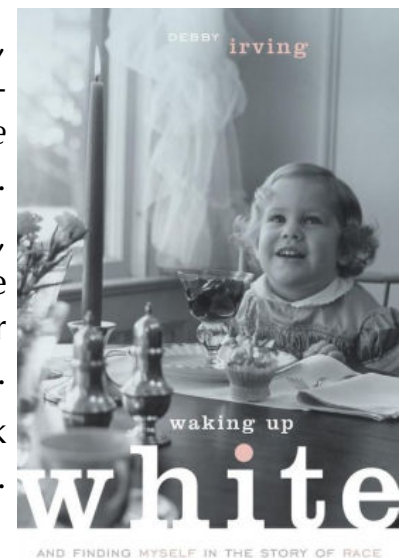
New members are always welcome! The book can be ordered from Amazon (see John for details) and the study will continue through October 18th. We'd love to have you join us!



We are also continuing with our Thursday evening book study, reading through Debby Irving's challenging and thought-provoking book *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*.

Meeting each Thursday evening at 7:00 in person and via Zoom, our discussions have been sincere and honest, as we tackle the issue of racism in our country and in our communities, using our own experiences to inform our conversation.

Contact John if you'd like to join in. This will be a seven-week study, concluding on October 22nd.





OCTOBER WORSHIP THEMES

October 4th - World Communion Sunday:

John 1:1-5, 14

The Digital Church: Empty Minds and Disposable Bodies

October 11th:

Colossians 3:12-17

The Digital Church: Googling Prayer

October 18th:

Psalm 139:1-10

The Digital Church: Tech Sabbath

October 25th:

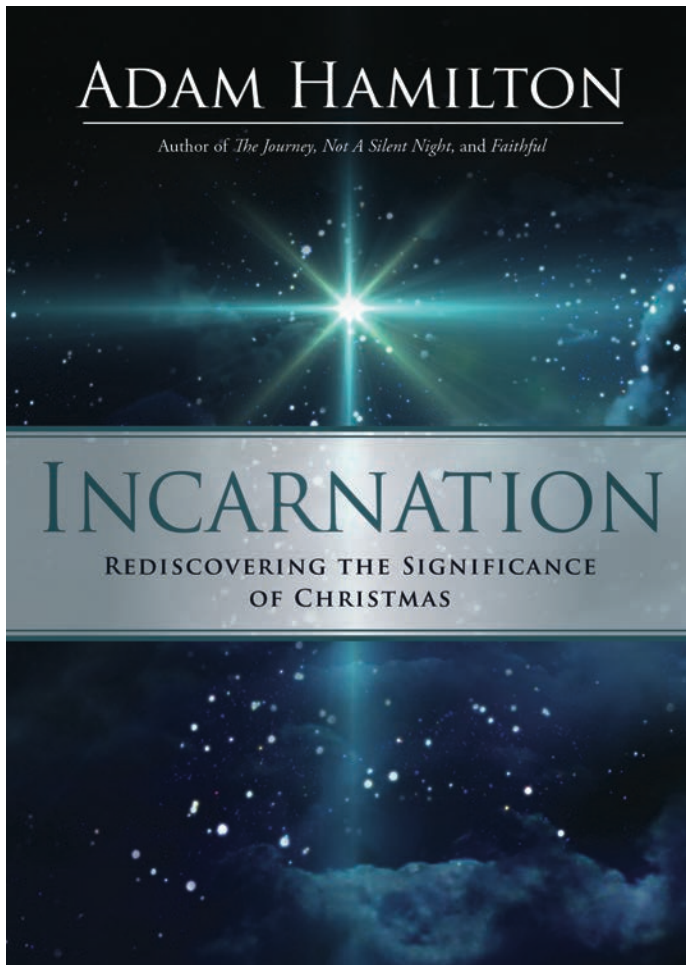
Matthew 22:34-40

The Greatest Tweet Ever!



Missed a Sunday? Check out our sermons online!
There are three ways to listen to audio of our Sunday sermons:

- On our website: www.bethanypreschurh.org
- On our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian
- Or by going to: www.buzzsprout.com/9198



INCARNATION

REDISCOVERING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS

Looking ahead to this exciting new Advent Sermon and Study series - brand new from author, preacher, and teacher, Adam Hamilton. The series begins on Sunday, November 29th - the First Sunday of Advent, and continues through December 20th.

The series looks at all the names we have for the incarnate Jesus. Here's an overview of the series:

- November 29th - *Presidents and Kings*
- December 6th - *The Savior and Our Need for Saving*
- December 13th - *Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic*
- December 20th - *The Light of the World*

Much as we are doing right now in our *Digital Church* series, there will be a Sunday morning study of that particular Sunday's theme, using Adam Hamilton's materials as a basis for our discussion. Make your plans to join us for this unique journey through Advent.

Bethany Presbyterian Stewardship Season 2020

Live in peace

with each other. Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are disorderly. Comfort the discouraged. Help the weak. Be patient with everyone. Make sure no one repays a wrong with a wrong, but always pursue the good for each other and everyone else.

Rejoice always.

Pray continually.

Give thanks

in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:13-18

November 1, 8, 15, 22

Stewardship during a pandemic is an interesting phenomenon. But as we say every week, the needs of the church continue unabated, and so we must plan for our 2020 Stewardship Season. As you can see from the above graphic, we will celebrate this season during the first four Sundays of November. Having Consecration Sunday on November 22nd, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, makes our theme of Gratitude even more relevant!

Our theme passage is 1 Thessalonians 5:13-18, and can be seen above. Taking four imperatives from this passage as our themes for the four Sundays, we will focus on the themes of: *Live in Peace, Rejoice Always, Pray Continually, and Give Thanks.*

Our Generosity Team is beginning to make plans for these important four weeks. Our Consecration Sunday celebration may look a little different from what we have done in the past due to Covid concerns, but we will celebrate appropriately and safely.

Our November newsletter will have more details about the season, so stay tuned! And offer prayers of thanks for all that God provides for us and for the privilege we have of being Christ's hands and feet in the world.



October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27</p> <p>Digital Church Sermon Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Digital Church Study 11:00 AM Zoom Worship 	28	29	30	1	2	3
<p>4</p> <p>Digital Church Sermon Series</p> <p>World Communion Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Digital Church Study 11:00 AM Worship (In-person, Zoom, and Facebook Live) 	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>11</p> <p>Digital Church Sermon Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Digital Church Study 11:00 AM Worship (In-person, Zoom, and Facebook Live) 	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>18</p> <p>Digital Church Sermon Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Digital Church Study 11:00 AM Worship (In-person, Zoom, and Facebook Live) 	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (In-person, Zoom, and Facebook Live) 	26	27	28	29	30	31

Your Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt

Elders:

Bill Abplanalp

Chip Allen

Helen Brown

Randy Cousins

Karen Maxwell (Clerk of Session)

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

Glenn Patterson (Treasurer)



The Session met for its regular monthly stated meeting on September 8th. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a devotion from Karen Maxwell
- Heard joys and concerns of the congregation
- Received a treasurer's report from Glenn Patterson
- Received an report from Glenn Patterson concerning an offer on our property that is for sale.
- Discussed options for returning to in-person worship services
- Received a report from the virtual meeting of Salem Presbytery from Chip Allen and John.
- Initiated plans for Stewardship Season 2020.
- Heard info regarding upgrade of church wi-fi.
- John reported on upgrades to church website.
- Were reminded of the two ongoing book and Bible studies this fall, as well as the sermon series that John is offering as a follow-up to his sabbatical.
- The Session rejoiced in the opportunity to meet socially-distanced, but in person!

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER
NANCY PURCELL AND RANDY COUSINS**





We have tried to keep you informed of the many changes taking place with our presbytery, and the summer of 2020 certainly saw much in the way of transition. As mentioned last month, August 31st saw the retirement of our Transitional General Presbyter, whose ministry was celebrated and honored at the virtual meeting of Salem Presbytery on August 15th.

The search committee for a new Transitional General Presbyter has been hard at work and we are thrilled to welcome Rev. Dr. Barbara Smith to Salem beginning in November. She comes with much experience and glowing recommendations in working with presbyteries in transition. We look forward to her ministry with us here

in Salem Presbytery.










The staff of the presbytery continues to adjust to new working environments following the sale of the presbytery office. Laurie Scott, the office manager is working from her home, and Renee Carter, financial secretary, and Peggy Trenchard, administrative assistant, are working in office space provided by Clemmons Presbyterian Church.

The office phone number remains the same and works just like everyone is in the same building.

Continue to offer prayers for our presbytery as we continue in this period of transition and adjusting to new ways of being. And continue to offer prayers for our presbytery committees as their work has increased with fewer staff in place.



Several of you have ventured into the digital world to download our **Interactive Digital Sunday Bulletin** to use during worship on Sunday mornings. Here's what you need to do to join in:

-  Bring your iPad or tablet or smartphone to worship with you (either at home or when we return to the sanctuary).
-  Scan the QR code (you can use your smartphone camera or there are many QR code apps available) that will be in that Sunday's regular bulletin, or on the screen (see below)
-  That will take you to the webpage where our bulletin resides.
-  You probably can just begin using it there, or you may need to download it.
-  It will appear on your screen just like a regular Sunday bulletin.
-  For the hymns, just tap on the hymn title and the hymn will appear on your screen just like you would see it in the hymnbook.
-  Tap on the scripture and it will come up also.
-  If John uses graphics or images during his sermon, those will be indicated as well so you can link to them and then back to the bulletin.
-  The QR code here will link to the bulletin for September 20th so you can practice!





“Queen of Hymns and Gospel Songs”

In last month’s newsletter we examined why we sing hymns in the church, including some of the biblical references and mandates related to congregational singing as a worship ministry. We also took a look at one of many lists that include some of the all- time favorite hymns of the Christian church.

Two of the hymns on that list (“Blessed Assurance” and “To God Be the Glory”) were both written by the same person. In fact, other hymns that are included among the most sung in the church like “All the Way My Savior Leads

Me”, “Rescue the Perishing”, “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior” and “ Savior, More than Life to Me” were all penned by this same prolific composer.

In all, over 8,000 hymns were written by Frances Jane van Alstyne, more commonly known as **Fannie Crosby**. Often referred to as the “Mother of modern congregational singing in America”, this women who was blinded shortly after her birth in 1820 was born in in the village of Brewster, CT. about 50 miles north of New York City. Her father, John Crosby died when Fanny was only six months old and she was raised by her mother (Mercy) and maternal grandmother.

Ms. Crosby was a mission worker, poet, lyricist and composer. Some hymnal publishers were hesitant to use so many hymns by the same person, so she used nearly 200 pseudonyms during her career. Crosby wrote more than 1,000 secular poems and had four books of poetry published as well as two best-selling autobiographies. Additionally, she co-wrote popular secular songs and at least five cantatas, including The Flower Queen which was the first secular cantata by an American composer. She was also known as a public speaker and for her teaching and her rescue mission work.

She died in 1915 after a six-month illness at the age of 95 and was buried in Bridgeport, CT. In honor of the 200th anniversary of her birth, I will include some of the great hymns of Fanny Crosby in my musical offerings.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher A. Bagley, Director of Music





GIVE+Church

Giving to your church is as easy as 1-2-3

Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to download for FREE.

Due to an increase in fees, we have transitioned to a new platform for online giving to the church. We believe this option will be easier to use, decrease fees that the church pays, and will increase our giving. This giving platform is sponsored by and run through The Presbyterian Foundation.

For those who are currently using our online giving on our website, you may continue to use that for the next little bit, but it will be disabled soon. Pam will be contacting those who are using it, to notify them of this action. The link to the new website is already on the home page of the website.

One added feature - also free - is the option of using an app on your smartphone. Just go to your app store and search for "GivePlus Church" and download it for free. You can then search for Bethany and follow the instructions.

There are two documents that you will find useful in answering your questions about this new electronic giving portal. They are on our website here: <http://www.bethanypreschurch.org/online-giving-faq.html>

In this time of upheaval in our normal routines, it is important to remember that the work of the church continues as we continue to live up to our commitments. We are confident that this new platform for electronic giving will be a great enhancement to our stewardship efforts at Bethany.

Please make every effort to keep your pledge up-to-date, either giving by check or using this convenient method of giving online - securely and safely.



FINANCIAL REPORT - END OF AUGUST 2020

Year-to-date Actual Income	\$89,671.29
Year-to-date Actual Expenses	\$116,086.03
YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-\$26,414.74

Scan this QR code for direct access to our new Online Giving Platform



October Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Happy Anniversary to:

Sue & Ron Kimrey October 12
Shelby & Danny Smith October 12

Happy Birthday to:

Carolyn Thompson October 4
Lila Dampier October 7
Robert Sykes October 8
Barbara Cousins October 11
Pat Flythe October 11
Salina Russell October 11
Mandy Snyder October 13
Lauren Kimrey October 17
Lisa Donley October 22
Joan Perdue October 22
Eli Smith October 24
Brenda Sykes October 25
Christopher Bagley October 31
Lou Crutchfield October 31



Children & Youth Ministries

- **Sunday school for Youth and Children** / Meets on second floor of Education Building at 9:45 each Sunday
- During **Worship**, children are invited to sit in designated pews (front rows on north side) / there are activities provided
- Our **Nursery** is staffed by a professional, paid worker, as well as volunteers each Sunday.
- Watch your calendar and inbox for special activities for our young people throughout the year.



Find your place!

ADULT MINISTRIES

Christian Education Opportunities

The Fellowship Class - Bible study class using our denomination's *Present Word* curriculum. The class will resume when we return to our normal schedules.



Bethany Prays

Christopher Bagley
Frederica Beatty
Jean Berry
Jack Cook
Bill Faucette
Christy Lutterloh
Norma Proctor
Joan Richardson
Nancy Sutton
Tiffany Tauchren
Eleanor Thompson
Randy Thompson
Grace Johnson

Carol Brooks
Pat Kennedy
Mary Moore
Peter Slater
Diane Miller
Barbara Cousins
Ben Johnson
Joey Leake
Pete Campbell
Shannon Russell
Alex Thomas
Sylvia Donley
Norman Whitney

Janie Holt Clapp
Stewart Dillard
Richie Fishburne
Jeremy Harden
Shirley Lane
Ruby Martin
Anne McDaniels
Shelvia Russell
John & Ann Sutton
Mike Sutton
Katherine Turner
Ida Whitney
Frank Wrenn

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