

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

Check out Bethany Christian Church  
[www.bethanychristianeansville.com](http://www.bethanychristianeansville.com)



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Worship with Bethany on  YouTube

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCFGE5r0vqpSyL\\_KpphPjgYw/live](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFGE5r0vqpSyL_KpphPjgYw/live)

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**BethanyChristianEvv**



learn the **word**  
live the **grace**  
share the **love**

## *Bethany Newscast—March 2025*

**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](http://www.disciplesallianceq.org)) to learn more!

**AllianceQ**  
Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance



## Bethany's 2025 Outreach and Fellowship Ministry – How YOU Can Help!

Bethany Christian Church has had a wide variety of events that bring us together and reach out to the community. One of the most recent additions to these efforts is our blossoming Mental Wellness ministry. To make room for God's renewed call to Bethany, the church is refining the event calendar for 2025. We invite you to choose from the list below those events you find meaningful and would support with financial or material resources, by attending, or by joining with others to plan and coordinate. Some of these events could be combined, and the names in parentheses are of those who have already chosen to lead certain events. There are several ways you can offer your feedback. Scan the QR code to access a Google form, the Family Ministries page of the church website (<https://www.bethanychristianeansville.com/family-ministries/>) includes a link to this form as well, and beginning March 2, there will be a poster available for you to indicate your choices when you come to worship.



Boys & Girls Club Pizza Party (March 20, Tandy Jones) • 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship (March 30, Pastor Michelle) • Chili Cook-off • March Madness Wing-Ding • Dream Center Pizza Party (April 2, Tandy) • Greater Evansville Youth Dinners (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month; Jean Page, Shawn Sterne, & Pastor Michelle) • GEY Role-Playing Game Club (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month; John Rich) • GEY Crochet Club (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month; Jean & Pastor Michelle) • Easter Egg Hunt (April 19) • Easter Breakfast (April 20) • Gifts of Recognition (Mothers, Fathers, and Grandparents Days, Graduate Recognition, etc.) • River City Pride Festival (June 7, Pastor Michelle) • 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship (June 29) • Summer Picnic • Block Party • Walthers Golf & Fun Outing • 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship (August 31) • Consecration Sunday Meal (September) • Crop Walk • NAMI Walk • Fall Festival (October 6-11, Vanessa Wagler) • Trunk or Treat (October 31) • Gobbler Gathering • 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship (November 30) • Christmas Gifts for Families • Christmas Breakfast (Bethany Elders) • Dinners and Fellowship Events (Thanksgiving, Hanging of the Greens, etc.) • Others?

Thank you SO much for helping Bethany answer God's call to share the love of Jesus in fun ways that feed the members of Bethany and the Evansville Community!

## Bethany Mental Wellness Ministry

We have begun the ministry funded in part by a \$40,000 grant from the Center for Congregations to increase awareness, empathy, and accommodation for people with mental illness and other types of neurodivergence; programs of wellness and healing for members of our congregation and the wider community; pastor self-care; and family support. Below you'll find many of the ways we are bringing this ministry to life:



Sensory Support in Worship (weighted blankets, noise canceling headphones, fidgets, etc.) ♦ Sensory Room (adjacent to the sanctuary) ♦ Trust-Based Relational Intervention Training & Childcare ♦ Mental Health and the Church Educational Event ♦ Stephen Ministry ♦ Art Ministry ♦ Mental Health Support Group ♦ Pastor Spiritual Retreat and Mental Health Support ♦ Parent Support Group ♦ Parental Respite Opportunities ♦ Tai Chi, Yoga, and Meditation Classes ♦ Basement Renovation (to accommodate Art Ministry, meeting space, and Tai Chi/Yoga space) ♦ Therapy Fund

You are invited to share these opportunities as they become available and participate in the healing they make possible for yourself and your loved ones. Together we will answer God's call to bring wholeness and wellbeing to the people of our world. AMEN!!



### Spend Time With Your Pastor!

Arrange an online or in-person visit with Pastor Michelle by phone, email, or scanning this QR code.



### Limbs & Lunch Workday

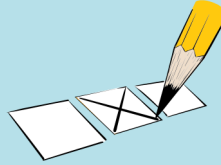
March 29



Wear your grubbies and come to the church at 10am on Saturday, March 29, to spruce up the church grounds and continue preparing spaces in the building dedicated to the ministries of Bethany. We will join in eating lunch at noon to fortify our bodies with food and our spirits with fellowship. WOO HOO!

### Called Board Meeting this Month

The church board will be voting on a business item that can't wait until the regularly-scheduled board meeting this month. If you are a member of the board, plan to stay after worship on March 16 for a short meeting.



### Welcome Indiana Regional Minister Rev. Dr. Christal Williams!



Come to Bethany on March 9 when Dr. Christal will be preaching and visiting with us. Bring a side dish or dessert and stay after worship for a pitch-in fellowship lunch. Bethany will supply meatloaf, fried chicken, and food for sandwich construction.

Dr. Christal became our Regional Minister in January 2024 and has brought a spirit of hope and revival to Indiana Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations.

### Meditating on Ash Wednesday

Modified from Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath's Salt Project blog <https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-blog/2015/2/18/ash-wednesday-meditation>.

March 5 is Ash Wednesday. It is the beginning of Lent and the day in the church calendar that we are called upon to face our own mortality. It is the day that we are called upon to face the deep truth that as mortals we are dust, and to dust we shall return. It can be scary, but I find it a little bit refreshing. After all, we live in a culture that tells us if we work hard enough, have enough money, buy enough skin care products, eat healthy enough, or exercise with enough vigor, we might just live forever. And yet, we know that is not true. So this week, we proclaim the truth that we shall return to the dust over which God first breathed life.

And I, at least, breathe a sigh of relief. Because admitting and facing my own mortality, allows me to admit that God is God, and I am not (and we should all be very thankful for that). It allows me to lay down my attempts to manage my own human brokenness, and step into the deep and holy mystery that is the Christian life. Having confessed my sins, and admitted my own mortality, it allows me to live freely this incredible, mortal life that is my reality right now. But perhaps more than that, it helps me to let go of my fear. Because Ash Wednesday reminds us that in spite of it all, death does not have the last word. While we and others have the power to destroy our mortal flesh, God has destroyed death. As the pastor lays her hands on my forehead to impose ashes, I hear the quiet words of Matthew's gospel mixed with hers:

"Be not afraid. I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The beauty of Ash Wednesday is that it gets to the very heart of everything. It reminds of God's infinite promises to us. It reminds us there is beauty in our brokenness, and freedom that we don't have to live up to some earthly falsehood about perfection. So, shout it from the roof tops, sing it in your heart, whisper it quietly, but tell that truth... Then, breathe a sigh of relief and be free. O mortal, you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Thanks be to God indeed.

# March 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2</b> FOOD PANTRY OFFERING 10:30a - Worship 12p - Elders' Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10a-2p Pastor Office Hrs 4p - Tai Chi	<b>5</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 11a-2p - Pastor Office Hrs 6p - Ash Weds Service @ St. Peter's UCC	<b>6</b> 6:30p - Choir	<b>7</b> 11a-2p Pastor Office Hrs	<b>1</b> <b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 10:30a - Worship Rev. Dr. Christal Williams preaching! Choir Singing! 11:30a - Strat Plan Mtng 12p - Pitch-in Lunch	<b>10</b> 5-8p - GEY RPG Club 6p - GEY Dinner	<b>11</b> 10a-2p Pastor Office Hrs 4p - Tai Chi	<b>12</b> 10a - Bible Study 11a-2p - Pastor Office Hrs 5:30p - Bible Study 6:30p - Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6-10p Board Game Night	<b>15</b> 8:30a-5p Church Leader Retreat
<b>16</b> BDAY & ANNIV. OFFERING 10:30a - Worship 12p - Called Board Mtng	<b>17</b> 6:30p GEY Crochet Club	<b>18</b> 10a-2p Pastor Office Hrs 4p - Tai Chi	<b>19</b> 10a - Bible Study 11:30a - Keenagers 5:30p - Bible Study 6:30p - Choir	<b>20</b> 4:30p Boys & Girls Club Pizza Party	<b>21</b> 11a-2p Pastor Office Hrs	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10:30a - Worship 12p - Board Meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 4p - Tai Chi	<b>26</b> 10a - Bible Study 11a-2p - Pastor Office Hrs 5:30p - Bible Study 6:30p - Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 11a-2p Pastor Office Hrs	<b>29</b> 10a - Limbs & Lunch Workday
<b>30</b> 10:30a - Worship 12p - 5th Sunday Fellowship	<b>31</b>					

# Mercy in March

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ABSTAIN  
 DISCERNMENT  
 FASTING  
 HUMILITY  
 LOVE  
 PREPARATION  
 REPENT  
 SIN

ALMSGIVING  
 DISCIPLINE  
 FORGIVENESS  
 JESUS  
 MERCY  
 PURPLE  
 RESTORE  
 TRANSFORMATION

ASH WEDNESDAY  
 EXAMINATION  
 FORTY DAYS  
 JOURNEY  
 PENITENCE  
 REFLECTION  
 SACRIFICE  
 TURNING TOWARD GOD

BLESSING  
 FAITHFULNESS  
 GRACE  
 LENT  
 PRAYER  
 RENEW  
 SELF CONTROL  
 WORSHIP