



The Echo

November 2019

A publication of Bethany United Methodist Church, Weyers Cave, VA

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 From the Pastor's Desk
- 3 Trunk or Treat
- 4 BUM BITES
- 4 Mission Opportunities
- 5 Mission Update
- 6 Finance Update
- 7 Advent Calendar
- 8 Birthdays & Prayer List
- 9 November Calendar



Community Thanksgiving Service

There will be a Community Thanksgiving Service, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 24, 2019 at 7 p.m. at the Weyers Cave Community Center.

As the newest preacher on the block, Pastor Susan will bring the message and the offering taken up during the service will benefit the Bethany Food Pantry.

Afterward there will be a brief time of fellowship.

Also participating in the worship service will be people from Weyers Cave UMC, Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren and Life Christian Fellowship.



If you would like ... and currently don't receive the church newsletter and other important updates by email, please send your email address to Cindy Kite at office.bethany@gmail.com.

From the Pastor's Desk

Grounded in Love

As I mentioned in a sermon a few weeks ago, my first Sunday at High Street UMC in Franklin, VA was marked by a terrible accident that took the lives of three boy scouts and a scout leader. One of the boys, Carter, who was the same age as my daughter Rachel, had come by the house with his older sister to welcome her to the neighborhood just a few days before. We didn't know we would never get the chance to know this young man with the 100 watt smile more fully. It was a tragedy for the families involved and the whole community grieved with them. And then slowly, little by little there was healing. Still, the wreck on Route 35 changed me.

The day after it happened, my daughter, Rachel, was walking out the door when I told her, "I love you." She stopped and said to me, "Mom, are you saying 'I love you,' because of what happened to Carter?" I answered truthfully. I said, "Yes, I want that to always be the last thing I

say to you when we part. I never want to take it for granted that you know I love you." Since that time, I do not say good-bye to one of my children whether it is on the phone or in person without saying, "I love you." That is part of the legacy that Carter, Jackson, Luke and John passed on to me. Love is too important and life too fragile not to express how we feel to the ones nearest and dearest to us as often as possible.

The words that Jesus spoke to his followers keep coming back to me:

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God (Matthew 5).

Jesus contends that even in the face of grief, those who mourn are blessed. Though we feel cursed by loss, we are still blessed by God who does not forget us in the midst of sorrow. God mourns with us and suffers as we suffer. The beatitudes tell us the path of faith is humble. We do not gain the earth without the meekness of the dispossessed; do not achieve satisfaction without hungering for justice and righteousness; do not gain mercy without achieving compassion. We do not see God without striving to be pure in heart; and we do not come into our full inheritance as God's children until we learn to make peace with one another. God claimed solidarity with us once and forever by assuming human form. God in human form submitted to human pain and displayed divine mercy.

As we continue to worship, work and pray together, let us continue to support one another through faith under girded by mercy and rooted in the grace of God.

Pastor Susan

Thank you for the outpouring of cards and gifts during clergy appreciation month. I can honestly say, that I really and truly feel appreciated. It was overwhelming and very kind.
Pastor Susan



Thank You ...

Just saying “Thank You” isn’t enough to show my appreciation to those who donated to and helped at the Trunk or Treat held on Sunday, Oct. 27. I am forever amazed, overwhelmed and blessed at how much you donated and helped make our 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat a huge success!! Not just for our kids, but for kids in the community! We had so many compliments from parents outside the church ... it makes all the hard work worth every minute.

This was our second time hosting Trunk or Treat at Bethany and the good Lord blessed us with an afternoon of sunshine and warm temperatures after a rainy start to the day! We fed approximately 150 people and not all of our volunteers had time to come in and eat. Children’s Ministries did a great job with the food ... thank you to Lorna Frizzelle and Beth Metcalfe for heading this up and for all those who helped in the kitchen.

The “trunks” were wonderful, creative and some even interactive! Each one had it’s own personality! Trunks had many themes from basketball to Candy Land to under the sea, to the Nutty Professor to fall décor! There was even a sighting of “Forest Gump and Jenny.” The Kile family with it’s “under the sea” trunk was voted favorite trunk ... Kristen Kile added her own personality to their trunk dressed as a mermaid!

Decorated trunks were only part of the fun at Trunk or Treat. We had s’mores prepared by Nancy Colvin, kettle corn made by Jared and Megan Kile, a Halloween Walk with lots of cookies

and cupcakes to choose from, hayrides by the Dunsmore family and a fun bouncy house (policed by the Mooney family!). There were smiles and laughter in every direction!

We had lots of games including bowling, bean bag toss, ring toss and many others. One especially popular game was “The Great Pumpkin Toilet Toss.” Thank you to Jackie Dunsmore and Val Hiner who set up all the games!

If you haven’t made it to one of our Trunk or Treats, you need to plan to come out and participate next year. It is so much fun ... just ask any one of our many volunteers. Even though I don’t personally have any children participating in Trunk or Treat, it was so much fun and such a blessing to see all the costumes, hear the laughter and see the smiles on the faces of all those kids ... and adults! It made my heart smile!

I am truly blessed to be part of this church family! You truly do amaze and overwhelm me with your generosity and willingness to help! I want to say a special thank you to my fabulous Trunk or Treat committee ... Kathy Kile, Carla Whitecotton, Bridgett Crawford, Shawn Cook, Jackie Dunsmore, Jordan Dunsmore, Nancy Colvin, Carolyn Swartz and Lorna Frizzelle and the Children’s Ministries!

I hope I see you there next year! Cindy Kite





The Mission Team invites you to join them on Sunday, Nov. 10 at 5 pm for their annual Chili Cook Off! It will be a fun and meaningful evening for all ages. If you make

awesome chili, think about entering it in the Chili Cook Off! If you do, please sign up at the Welcome Center. Those who want ,can join in a lively game of Reverse Charades ... a game that's as fun to watch as play. Or you can just sit and catch up with friends. If you signed up to bring shoes for the South River Shoe Sharing project, please bring them with you.

Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting?

If so, this is a mission project made just for you! We will once again be taking a Sunday (Dec. 8) during Advent to focus on giving back to our

community through mission projects. We will be collecting adult scarfs and hats for Open Doors (Harrisonburg's traveling homeless shelter) as well as prayer shawls for The Sadie Rose Foundation (they help and support families who have lost a child). We will be collecting hats and scarfs all fall and winter ... they do not have to be handmade. Prayer shawls need to be complete by Sunday, Dec. 8. Questions? Contact Maggie Rhodes at 540-383-4752. or r.maggiianne@gmail.com. There will be a basket in the Gathering Space for your donations.



We will also be putting together bags for the Loads of Love people and need donations of individually wrapped snacks to include in these bags.

BUM BITES



Welcome to another edition of BUM Bites! The months seem to be flying by as of late, hard to believe we are in November. The youth's biggest fundraiser for their summer Mission Trip, making Apple Dumplings is underway. Currently we are looking at the 27th for dough making day between connections, and on the 29th we will be making and putting orders together. The Youth Ministry THANKS everyone for their help and support of this very important fundraiser. Stay tuned to final numbers of dumplings sold.

The main theme for the Youth Ministry currently is missions ... how can we give back to our church and community. We joined the Men's Ministry a few weeks back and helped with trash pick up. We will be working with Valley Mission sometime this

month to help with a project, still waiting on final details. The Youth will be helping with Trunk or Treat on the 27th, setting games up, helping in the kitchen, and, I am sure, eating lots of the candy. If there is something you or someone you know need help, please reach out to me. We are willing to do mini-mission projects.

Our latest BUM Bash at the Ritchie's was cancelled due to weather. We were still able to meet at the church. We put Halloween bags together for Trunk and Treat, fellowshiped over dinner, and played Minute to Win It Halloween games. We had a BLAST!! The Senior Youth class is looking forward to their Oct. 30th night out. We are planning to go to Grand Caverns for their scary tour and afterwards

eating dinner together.

So YES, there's a lot happening with the Bethany Youth Ministry and more to come. I ask for continued prayers for the Youth as they continue to grow in their faith and continue to discover God's will for their lives. Once again I can not thank each one in the church enough for everything you do to support the Youth, not only at Bethany, but all the Youth who enter the doors either for church, or for an event.

Blessings, Shawn Cook



Missions Update

Fall is finally here. Thank goodness for the cooler weather and the changing leaves. Now, we are getting ready for the next season of winter. Hold on to your toboggans and boots because who knows what will be coming.

Thanks for the outpouring of donations to Backpack Pals last month. You have helped keep us stocked up.

We are in the thick of Kingsway Ministries Apple Tree project. Thanks to those who picked an apple and are willing to donate to the kids in need. We have a basket in the foyer marked "Apple Tree Project". Please put your envelope with your gift, and drop in the box before Nov. 17th. All gifts are due then. Thanks, again.

Mark your calendars! We will be having our Chili cook-off on Sunday, Nov. 10 at 5 pm. Get those pots of yummy chili ready to be made and gobbled up. We will have a little competition to see who has the best, and the top 3 will win a prize. We will be taking a freewill offering for Wounded Warriors and South River Shoe Sharing. Thanks to those of you who picked up shoes to buy for these local kids in need. All the shoes were gone on the first Sunday they were rolled out. Please bring your athletic or tennis shoes to the chili cookoff event or there will be a box in the foyer with "Shoes" on it. There will be a sign up sheet for the chili cookoff, so be sure to sign up and see if your pot wins a prize!

On, Friday, Nov. 22, we will be helping Open Doors and doing the Loads of Love campaign. This is where we do the laundry for the homeless people that are staying at a hosting church for

that week during the winter. We did it a couple times last winter and those that came out to help were blessed with this project. Please plan on helping if you can, or Maggie Rhodes will take donations. Time to meet will be determined later, so please check the bulletin for that information.

We will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at the Shenandoah Valley Heritage Market on Rt. 11 on Saturday, Dec. 7. We will be there from 10 am until 6 pm. Sign ups will be out soon. If this date doesn't work for you, please contact Lori Mooney(540-820-7394 or Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com) and she can get you the list for a date and time that works for you.

Our mission focus for the month will be two of them this month. Kingsway Ministries with the Apple Tree Project and The Salvation Army with the Bell Ringing. Kingsway Ministries is out of Harrisonburg and we have partnered with them for years helping with the Apple Tree Project. The Apple Tree Project asks lots of local churches and organizations to help purchase gifts for families of incarcerated parents. These kids will get to have some presents

under the tree because of this group and those that help sponsor them. Kingsway works with the prisoners once they are out and helps them get acclimated back in society. The Salvation Army is known to help with many things that people need. The main project that everyone knows about is the bell ringing to help them get the funds that they need to make it all happen. We hope you all have given some change to the big red kettle that you see after Thanksgiving and up until Christmas at local stores around the community. Now, is your chance to be a bell ringer yourself and help this great organization raise much needed funds. It is only an hour of your time. You ring the bell and talk to people as they walk by. We sponsor a day where Bethany volunteers help, and we might do more. If you know of anyone in need or help, please let us know.

"Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love."- **Mother Theresa**

Co-chairs: Lori Mooney,
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820-7394
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FINANCIAL UPDATE

by **Cindy Kite, Treasurer**

Summer fun and vacations have come to an end and fall has made it's presence known very quickly with the crisp cool air and the beautiful array of colors everywhere! As we begin the last quarter of the year, you can see from the table, our projected goal of \$242,967.00 has not been met. We are 15.7% behind where we had hoped to be.

October 28, 2019 - Week 43		
Budget	242,967.00	
Where We Should Be		200,914.92
Where We Are		169,375.51
Deficit of		(31,530.41)
Net Percentage		-15.7%

The Finance Committee is aware that giving always goes down during the summer months and that the last quarter of the year is usually the best quarter. But, to be completely transparent with you, unfortunately, October giving has not started the quarter off as well as we had hoped it would. And we know we have asked a lot of you this fall ... donations for Apple Dumplings and Trunk or Treat, gifts for the Apple Tree Project and South River Shoe Sharing, which are all wonderful things that our church members generously help fund. However, we also have to fund our budget, which lets us continue ministries such as Children's Ministries, our Youth, Worship, Sunday School, etc., and yes, and not nearly as exciting, wages, taxes, heat, lights, etc.

With that being said, we have so much to be thankful for as we move into the last quarter of 2019! We hosted a very successful Trunk or Treat, which blessed many of our neighbors. We donated ingredients, made and sold apple dumplings for our youth. We purchased gifts for the Apple Tree Project and South River Shoe Sharing! And there are more great events coming our way this fall! Wow! God is doing great things here at Bethany through his good and faithful servants. Thank you!



Would you like other alternatives to gift giving? Well, we have some ideas for you and here they are:

If you go to EndHunger.org/acc, then you can order an alternative Christmas card and help feed the hungry from the Society of St. Andrew. You will need to fill out the correct form of how you want the card sent. The card that is sent out is designed by a former pastor from Bethany, Jim Harris.

You can send in a donation in honor of a friend or loved one to Central Valley Habitat for Humanity and they will send the person a card letting them know you donated in their name. Mail in a donation to: Central Valley Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 245, Bridgewater, VA 22812. Please include the name and address that you want the card mailed to.

Also, you can buy life-changing gifts this holiday season from Heifer International. Please visit heifer.org/catalog and get an honor card mailed out to loved ones when you choose to share or gift an animal. There are lots of items to choose from, for instance, a flock of chicks is \$20, a gift of honeybees is \$30 and a hope basket is \$50 for chickens and rabbits. etc.

Look into getting these for one of your loved ones this Christmas.



A Season of Promise

The theme for our Advent season will be “**A Season of Promise.**” We look forward to this time of hope, joy and celebration. Many exciting events and activities are planned during this season and we hope you and your family can participate.

Sunday, December 1 - “Hanging of the Greens”

Beginning at 5 pm a pizza dinner will be provided, followed by a brief time of singing carols, the decorating of our Christmas Tree, and of course, some hot cocoa and cookies!

Sunday, December 8 - Sharing the Promise

There will be ONE SERVICE AT 9:30 am! Come early for refreshments and coffee beginning at 8:30 am. Our Bethany Friends of Barnabas Mission Team members will be sharing their adventures in Honduras this past summer. After the service, several hands-on mission opportunities will be offered and will include ALL AGES!

Sunday, December 15 - Our Bethany Family Christmas Program

At 6 pm come and enjoy the spirit of the season with our Children’s program, skits, and lots of special music. All ages will be involved. Invite and bring family, friends and neighbors for a festive evening of celebration. A Christmas Party will follow.

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

At 4 pm there will be a brief family-friendly service planned especially for the young at heart.

At 9 pm we will celebrate Christmas Eve with our Traditional Candlelight Service of scripture, carols, drama and communion.

Wednesday, December 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Each Sunday will also include special music from our Christmas Choir, skits, the lighting of our Advent wreath and more.



POINSETTIA ORDERS

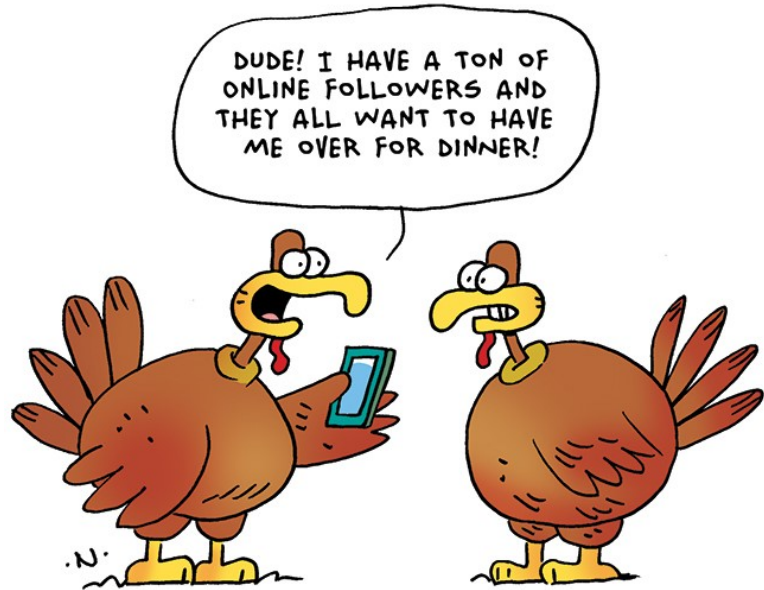
You can help adorn our sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias while honoring or remembering someone who has blessed your life. Order forms will be included in the bulletin on November 10 and 17. The cost will be \$9 each. You may also purchase a “living poinsettia” for the same amount that will be given to your choice of Open Doors (a traveling homeless shelter in Harrisonburg) or Weekday Religious Education (a local ministry who shares the gospel with children in our schools). Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on December 15. Feel free to take yours home on December 29.



A Big Thank You

to Anisten Luzaich,
granddaughter of
Jim and Barbara Miller.
For her last two birthdays
she has asked friends to not
bring birthday presents to her
party, but to bring food items for
the Bethany Food Pantry instead.

Way to go Anisten!



November

1st Ruby Botkin
3rd Addyson Mooney
4th Jean Moyer
9th Barry Shifflett
10th Bennett Hull
11th Donald Michael
13th Rosemary Wagoner
14th Kelly Shifflett
15th Tom Thompson
17th Lorna Frizzelle
Ethan Cook
21st Carla Whitecotton
Jamie Craun
25th Cindy Kite
27th Kathleen Stump
Susan Frease
30th Anthony Streiff

19th Layne Shifflett
20th Elizabeth Williams
23rd Jane Elkins
25th JESUS!
Nick McCarty
Alexander Carter
26th Garrett Roller
27th Ken Hopkins
29th Jake Frizzelle



December

1st Gerald Fulton
Jeff Ritchie
3rd Kristin Kile
5th Annie Roller
9th Hudson Dunsmore
11th Declan McCarty
16th Shawn Cook
18th Louise Motley

Let's Ring that Bell!

Once again we will be
"Ringing the Bell" for
the Salvation Army.
Our date is Saturday,
December 7 at the
Shenandoah Heritage Market
on Route 11.
Sign up sheets are at the Welcome
Center!




Prayer List

Members

Bud & Barbara Somers, Hazel Truslow,
Todd Ott, Tom & Jan Gordon,
Zeke Craun, Roy Lee Stroop,
Susan Freeze

The family of Jean Radocha sends
their thanks for all of the prayers and
well wishes received for Jean's 91st
birthday in September.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 	2
3	4 12:30 pm - Caring Cards	5 12 pm - Young at Hearts Luncheon	6 6:45 pm - Christmas Choir 7 pm - LOAFERS Small Group	7 6:30 pm - Holy Yoga 7 pm - Still Small Voice Small Group	8	9 8:30 am - Ladies Breakfast & Chrismon Making
10 Veterans Day Service 5 pm - Chili Cook Off	11 6 pm - Worship Meeting 	12	13 10 am - Les Feldick's Bible Study Small Group 6:45 pm - Christmas Choir	14 6:30 pm - Holy Yoga	15	16 8 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast 
17 	18	19	20 6:45 pm - Christmas Choir 7 pm - LOAFERS Small Group NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!	21 6:30 pm - Holy Yoga 7 pm - Still Small Voice Small Group	22	23
24 7 pm - Community Thanksgiving Service	25 	26	27 10 am - Les Feldick's Bible Study Small Group 6:45 pm - Christmas Choir	28 Happy Thanksgiving 	29	30

May your stuffing be tasty,
 May your turkey be plump.
 May your potatoes 'n gravy
 have nary a lump,
 May your yams be delicious,
 May your pies take the prize.
 May your Thanksgiving dinner
 stay off your thighs!



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays

8:30 am—Contemporary Worship Service
 9:50 am—Sunday School for all ages
 11 am—Traditional Worship Service

Mondays

4-5 pm—Food Pantry

Wednesday

7 pm—Praise & Worship Practice

Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



Community
Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, Nov. 24
7 pm



"The Echo"

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church
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Shawn Cook, Youth Director
Marguerite McDonald, Organist & Choir Director
Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer
Phil & Ruth Ann Mikesell, Sextons

December Newsletter Deadline: Nov. 20, 2019

Please submit articles to Cindy Kite at
office.bethany@gmail.com



connect. grow. serve.

At Bethany we ...

Connect with God in community
Grow in our likeness to Jesus Christ
Serve our neighbors