



April 2020

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

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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.

*Earth's saddest day and
gladdest day were just ...*

three days apart.

From the Pastor's Desk

Don't Panic, Do Prepare

Last night as I was brushing my teeth, my hair flopped down into my eyes for the umpteenth time. I looked in the mirror and told myself, I can't take it anymore and then I gave myself a haircut. These are desperate times.

Not to make light of the situation, but things are seriously weird, difficult, uncomfortable and at times even heart breaking while we practice social distancing. It reminds me of Lewis Carroll's classic story, *Through the Looking Glass*, in which Alice remarks that in Looking Glass Land everything looks the same, but the wrong way around. We have, it seems, crossed through the looking glass.

Governor Ralph Northam has issued the closure of non-essential businesses **through April 23** and recommends no group larger than ten people gather together during this time. I am still trying to process the idea that we cannot gather together for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and its culmination, Easter. But wait, as Christians we are Easter people aren't we?

And yes, we are still Easter People – resurrection people - whether we can see, touch and hug one another or not. But in order to stay safe we need to find new ways of being church, new ways of caring for one another and new ways of reaching out to people in need. All these things are challenging – we are building the plane as we fly in it, which is a nerve-racking notion.

But let us all sing Hymn No. 558, "The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people..." Right now, we are a spread-out people, but I believe the time will come when we are a united people once more.

The uncertainty of "transition periods" in the church's life can be regarded as a kind of "wilderness" journey. It's appropriate that it coincides with the Lenten season. This is a time for spiritual discernment, a time of prayer and fasting. Remember it is God who is "our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble." (Psalm 46).

- Face your fears with a bias of faith and hope.
- Act on what we are learning from the medical and scientific professionals. Wash your hands; practice social distancing. Stay safe!!
- Release your fears to God. Pray, take this seriously, but don't panic.

Please know that I pray for you first thing every morning. If you feel isolated or alone, please call me. Though much is denied us at this time, fortunately that is not. We will get through this.

Pastor Susan

P.S. Tune in Sunday at 9:30 a.m. to Facebook and see how the haircut turned out.

Please don't forget that we are still collecting items for Conference Hygiene Kits! If you can possibly put a kit together, it would be greatly appreciated. Here is a list of items each kit needs to have:

- 1 hand towel (15x25 - 17x27 inches) no kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels
- 1 washcloth - no kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels
- 1 comb with at least 6" of teeth - no pocket combs, picks or Rattail (combs without handles are acceptable)
- 1 toenail or fingernail clipper - no emery boards or metal nail files
- 1 bath size bar of soap - (3 oz. or larger) No Ivory or Jergen's soap, do not remove from packaging
- 1 adult toothbrush - do not remove from packaging and no advertising
- 10 adhesive bandages (3/4 x 3 in) - common household bandages are acceptable
- 1 one-gallon size resealable bag

If you have any questions, please contact Rosemary Wagoner at ros wag13@gmail.com. There is a container in the Gathering Space for your donations!



Being Church in a Time of Social Distancing

You should be receiving your new directory soon. Do use this to keep in touch with other church members by phone or email.

Cindy and I are in the office staying six feet apart. You can contact us there Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. I'll also be there Tuesdays from noon until 6 p.m.

For the moment there will be no meetings of more than 10 people at church and we strongly recommend meetings take place by Zoom or through other social media. If you aren't familiar with Zoom, you can call or email the office and we will explain how to set up a meeting and invite others. Currently,

without an upgrade, Zoom meetings are limited to 40 minutes and no more than 40 participants.

In addition to the newsletter, we will have the following presence on social media: **worship at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday through Facebook Live** with the audio posted on the website (mybethanyumc.org/sermon-archives) later in the day.

We will be sending weekly Happenings or the Echo newsletter by email or regular mail.

If anyone has or would like to develop video making skills, please let Pastor Susan or Cindy know so we can post short videos on Facebook.

This is an opportunity to have an interactive online Bible Study for

anyone interested. Folks could participate by computer, tablet or phone. Please contact Pastor Susan if you are interested. Depending on people's interests, possible topics could be the Gospel of Luke, a study of Genesis or a study of a book like *Coffee House Theology*. The technology is fairly simple and the time dependent on when we could reach the most people.



Invitation to Daily Prayer with Bishop Lewis

The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Prayer is essential to sustain our faith and Jesus Christ modeled a life of prayer.

Bishop Sharma Lewis invites us to join in a moment of corporate prayer every day at noon to invoke the healing power of Jesus Christ the Great Physician. I encourage you to pray either a prayer of your own or the prayer below, composed by the Bishop. Let us find strength in lifting our voices up to God.

Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent.

We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide.

Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN

A Letter to Our Bethany Family

As I am sure you are aware our Bishop, Sharma D. Lewis, took unprecedented action last week and asked all United Methodist Churches to refrain from holding Sunday services for 2 weeks, due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We have now been asked to suspend in person worship through March 30th. Realistically it could be a longer period of time than 3 weeks before we are able to hold services at the church.

With that being said, it puts our church (and many churches) in a very difficult financial position. For the past year, we have been "living week to week" with our offerings and expenses. For 2019 we were able to pay all our expenses, but barely. 2020 has started out slowly as

well, in terms of giving for the first 10 weeks, and now we are faced with not having Sunday services for an extended period.

This is a critical time for our church, and we are asking for your support. We have a generous church family and we have experienced many blessings at Bethany as we've strived to be a blessing in our community. Time and again our membership responds to the needs of others. Now we ask that we join together to meet the needs of our church.

We are asking that you prayerfully consider using our online giving portal located on our website at www.mybethanyumc.org, or mail your weekly/monthly offerings to the church office so that we can continue to pay our ongoing expenses. If possible, we

ask that you continue to do this in the coming weeks.

Thank you for reading and considering this request, and we ask that you also be in prayer for our Bethany family, our community, our country and our world in these uncertain times. We are not a people of fear, but a people of faith in a God whose presence is ever near. We pray that God will use the people of Bethany to shine a light of peace and hope in this unsettling time.

Remember the words of Joshua as he prepared to lead his people into a strange land, "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Our current reality may feel like a foreign land, but surely, God is with us.

Sincerely, Mark Dunsmore, Finance Chair

Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

I'm sure by now, you've received the above letter, which was mailed to our membership last week. **Thank you to all of the folks who responded to this plea!!** However, this wasn't a "one time" request. We need everyone to continue to give their regular offering each and every week until we can once again meet as a congregation and worship together.

This is a scary time. One of anxiety and uncertainty. I know that lots of you are concerned about your jobs, and some may have already lost a job or been laid off. And we are all wondering what the world, our community and our families will look like when this virus is under control and no longer a threat. Know that God **IS** in control. And He **WILL** bring us through this difficult time. **Please be in prayer** that Bethany will survive the financial hardship of the coronavirus ... that when we are able to open the doors and come together to worship again, we will have the means to continue to provide all the programs and ministries that make up Bethany. We want to continue to be a bright light within our membership and within our community ... still being able to provide all the programs, events and activities that we have always been able to provide.

For Bethany to get through this financial hardship, we need your help. You can mail your check to the church at 3700 Lee Highway, Weyers Cave, VA 24486. You can also give electronically through your own bank with "bill pay" or you can give online at www.mybethanyumc.org. It's easy! Just go to the website and look for the "Online Giving" button at the bottom of the homepage. Just follow the instructions to set up an account. You can set up your account for a reoccurring gift or for just a onetime gift. Need assistance, just give me a call.

Please stay safe, continually wash your hands and keep your "social distance" from others. And, please, stop hoarding toilet paper!!! I can't wait until we can all come together and worship as one again! What a great celebration that will be!!

March 22, 2020 - Week 12		
Budget	236,089.00	
Where We Should Be		54,482.04
Where We Are		40,603.22
Deficit of		(13,878.82)
Net Percentage		-25.5%

BUM BITES

Welcome to another edition of BUM Bites! It is hard to believe as I am writing this, spring will soon officially be here. Now granted, it is currently in the high 40's, cloudy and pretty windy on this Wednesday evening. Looking ahead at the forecast though, we are looking at the upper 70's by Friday ... so things are looking up.

This reminds me of the current situation the world is in right now as the Coronavirus is impacting many people, schools closed, businesses are shutting down, gyms are closing, toilet paper is out and the church is currently not meeting. Talking about being gloomy, fearful, stressed, and unsure about the future. I know as many as our church family knows, God is in control and he will get all of us through this. I believe that day will be much like spring, a sunny day filled with laughter, plenty of toilet paper and love will fill the air once again. Till then, we have to cling to God, take this extra time to spend with him and ultimately be the light on the hill shining bright so others that are in the dark can see. I do ask you to pray for everyone being affected, pray for our church family, and pray for our Youth. It might seem like being out of school is ok, but many are



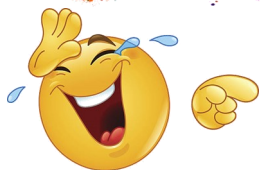
missing sports, band practices, choir practices, their friends, etc.

I would love to give you some information on upcoming Youth events but currently everything is up in the air. The 30 Hour Famine is planned for April 24th-25th. This may have to be postponed but I will keep everyone updated as we move forward.

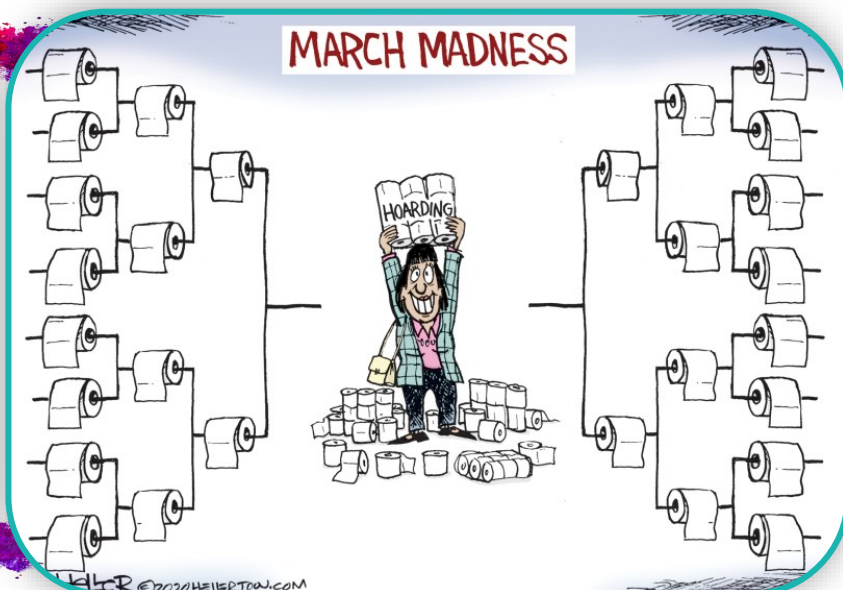
The Senior Class was able to go out and watch the movie "I Still Believe." This story is about singer songwriter Jeremy Camp, and it was very impactful. And if any of the

kids tell you I cried, believe them I did!! Through all his trials, in the end he still believed in the God who loves and the God who has plans beyond our imagination. Much like the movie we have to believe the same God loves us unconditionally and has plans for all us even in the midst of turmoil, chaos, and in the uncertainty He is present. I am praying for each one of you and hope to see everyone again soon.

Blessings,
Shawn Cook



*For all of you missing
March Madness ...*



Missions Update

Wow, how things have changed in a month's time? And to think what it will be like in a month from now? The Adult Mission Team wishes you and your family health and safety from this coronavirus. Listen to the CDC and do what you are supposed to, so we can keep this virus down as much as possible. When you are questioning things, please pray to God and let him take that burden.

Thank you to all who contributed on the Ash Wednesday service and the following week to help Valley Missions. We collected \$362 to pass onto them.

Thank you to those people who came out to support the Baked Potato Bar and play Hearts. We were able to raise \$350 to go towards the floor replacement of a Food Pantry neighbor.

It was a fun evening had by all and the winners of the Hearts game went to Stanley Houff and Addyson Mooney. Hope you enjoy the ice cream gift card.

We don't have anything scheduled right now, with everything going on in the world and cancellations left and right. Pray, pray, and pray some more. Happy Easter to all of you on April 12th, if we aren't having services, yet.

Our mission topic for the month will be us, Bethany United Methodist Church.

Yes, our little church. We need to focus on us, occasionally. Since we aren't allowed to have Sunday services, we will fall behind in our giving and that is not a good place to be in. Last year, we barely made it through to pay all our bills. We still need to write our weekly or monthly checks to keep us going. Please don't forget to do

that. You can mail it into the church, or you can do it electronically through our website.

Take care of yourself, stay safe, use common sense, wash your hands, and stay a safe distance apart. Until we meet again.....

Co-chairs: Lori Mooney,
Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com,
820-7394

Maggie Rhodes,
r.maggiianne@gmail.com,
383-4752

Save the Date

The Youth Summer Mission Trip
is scheduled for the week of July 12-18

We'll be returning to Wilmington, NC.

We encourage all youth to come with us!
It's a great week of fun, fellowship, laughs,
and yes, hard work.

But you will get more out of it than you give!

Adult chaperones are needed!

There is a maximum of 25 people allowed to go,
so let Shawn Cook know ASAP!

The number is limited because
of the accommodations this year.

We will be staying at the
Lodge at White Lake Christian Camp.

I AM THE
Resurrection
AND THE *Life*.

HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME,
THOUGH HE MAY DIE, HE
SHALL LIVE. AND WHOEVER
LIVES AND BELIEVES IN ME
SHALL NEVER DIE

John 11:25-26

ORGANICCHRISTIANLIVING.COM

It Is Well with My Soul - Spoken Word by Lloyd Newell

Life can be so unpredictable—joys and sorrows, beautiful blessings and distressing difficulties can come unexpectedly. Our life's dreams and plans can change in an instant. We all know this to be true. So how can we find peace amid such turbulence?

Horatio Spafford knew something about life's unexpected challenges. He was a successful attorney and real estate investor who lost a fortune in the great Chicago fire of 1871. Around the same time, his beloved four-year-old son died of scarlet fever.

Thinking a vacation would do his family some good, he sent his wife and four daughters on a ship to England, planning to join them after he finished some pressing business at home. However, while crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship was involved in a terrible collision and sunk. More than 200 people lost their lives, including all four of Horatio Spafford's precious daughters. His wife, Anna, survived the tragedy. Upon arriving in England, she sent a telegram to her husband that began: "Saved alone. What shall I do?"

Horatio immediately set sail for England. At one point during his voyage, the captain of the ship, aware of the tragedy that had struck the Spafford family, summoned Horatio to tell him that they were now passing over the spot where the shipwreck had occurred.

As Horatio thought about his daughters, words of comfort and hope filled his heart and mind. He wrote them down, and they have since become a well-beloved hymn:

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,

When sorrows like sea billows roll—

Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know

It is well, it is well with my soul.

Perhaps we cannot always say that everything is well in all aspects of our lives. There will always be storms to face, and sometimes there will be tragedies. But with faith in a loving God and with trust in His divine help, we can confidently say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."



Thank You

Dear Bethany Family ...

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for the love and kindness you showed our dear "Bitsy" over the years and to us in her passing. We want all who impacted her life to know how much that meant to her and to us. Bethany and it's members held a very special place in her heart and we will continue to fondly recall her involvement in this church. Thank you again for all the kind words, prayers, food and support.

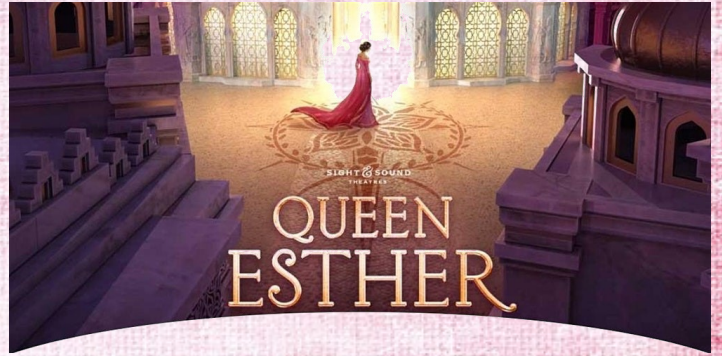
With love and blessings,
"The Family of LaRue "Bitsy" Safuley

Trip to Sight & Sound

As of right now, a trip is being planned to go see "Queen Esther" at Sight & Sound on Friday, October 12, 2020. The price for the trip is being split into two payments. The first payment of \$79.00 is due when you sign up to go and the second payment of \$80.00 will be due on August 1, 2020. The price of meals is not included but we do stop for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

If you have never been to Sight & Sound to see a play, now might be a great time to go. There is always lots of fun and fellowship on these trips, and you might make some new friends as we have lots of people from other churches go.

If you are interested in going please contact Carolyn Swartz at 540-820-9798 or send an e-mail to swartz1204@aol.com



Children's Choir

Unfortunately due to the coronavirus and the cancellation of worship services and the Connections Hour, our children's choir will not be singing on Palm Sunday ... even if we do have services.

Watch for updates on J-Walkers and Children's Choir as decisions are made.



I want to sincerely thank all who called, visited, and/or brought food during my recovery from knee replacement surgery!

It's always a blessing knowing you have such a loving and caring church family!

I'm still getting adjusted to the "new" knee, but I'm back up and walking!

FYI ...

Cindy Kite will no longer be updating the website.

Please submit all changes, pictures, etc. to Pam Roller.

There is a "Church Calendar" on the wall opposite the office door. Please refer to it when planning your events!

However !!!

It is to be used as a reference tool. DO NOT write your event on the calendar. Please let the office know, and they will make sure your event gets scheduled!

THANK
You!

Thank you for the cards and well wishes I received upon the death of my father. I also received a beautiful hydrangea from the church. This has been a great source of comfort to me and I appreciate it all very much. My family and I hope to hold a memorial service for him when it is safe to travel once more.

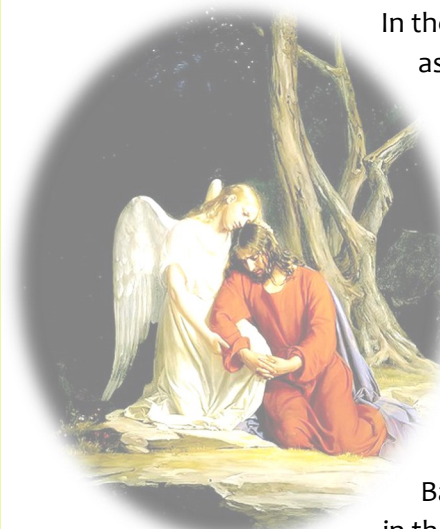
Pastor Susan



**Thank you, thank you,
thank you!
Thank you so much for the
prayers, cards, calls, food
and flowers.
I appreciate everything my
"church family" did for me!**

**Love and thanks,
Peggy Lucas**

Skimming through our Lenten devotional this morning, I asked God to give me some hope to get through this difficult time. I then opened the booklet to page 27 and started reading what was highlighted in the box, and thought, thank you God, I needed to hear that! So I thought I would share it with you in case you didn't receive a booklet.



In the midst of Jesus' anguished prayer asking his Father to take his cup of sorrow away, there was one moment of consolation. Only the Evangelist Luke mentions it. He says: "Then an angel appeared to him, coming from heaven to give him strength" (Luke 22:43). In the midst of the sorrows is consolation, in the midst of the darkness is light, in the midst of the despair is hope, in the midst of Babylon is a glimpse of Jerusalem, and in the midst of the army of demons is the consoling angel. The cup of sorrow,

inconceivable as it seems, is also the cup of joy.

(From *Suffering to Salvation*, by Henri J. M. Nouwen, page 27)

I thought how much this applies to today's situation with social distancing, business closures, no church services, etc., etc. God will give each of us the strength we need to get through this darkness ... there will be a shining light in the darkness! Just watch for it!!

Adopt a Senior

At the church council meeting held on Monday, March 16, we decided to ask our members to "Adopt a Senior" during these uncertain times. Some of our Bethany seniors who live at home alone might need some assistance getting groceries, picking up prescriptions, etc., or maybe they would just enjoy a phone call or a card. **We want to make sure that they are taken care of and loved by their church family.** If you would like to volunteer to "Adopt a Senior," please email the office at office.bethany@gmail.com or Pastor Susan at reaves.susan.m@gmail.com and we'll assign you a senior to love on!! Please continue to check on each other during this time of uncertainty!



*Adopt
a Senior*



New Church Directory Update

I know it's been a long time coming, but by the time you receive your April newsletter, most of you will have received, by email, a pdf copy of the new church directory!! For those of you who prefer a printed copy of the directory, they will be available to be picked up at the church. We ask that you make a \$5 donation for printed copies to help offset the cost of the paper and binders. If you want one, but don't want to come by the church to pick it up right now, we can print a plain copy of the directory and mail it to you and once we are back in church, you can pick up a directory binder.

If and when any of your information changes, please let Cindy know by emailing her at office.bethany@gmail.org or call the office at 540.234.8880. You can also email an updated picture to be placed in the directory as your family changes and your children grow. Thank you for taking the time to get your picture taken and for the patience you've had in getting the information updated and printed. Also, thank you to Krisalyn Mooney who helped take pictures!

Church Photo Directory



April

5th Trae Elkins
7th Jordan Dunsmore
9th Susan Thacker
Phil Mikesell
10th Chuck Schwab
11th Tiana Ryan
17th Rick Northrop
Jenifer Williams
18th Susan Meadows
20th Stella Hughes
25th Carrie Dunsmore
Nash Colvin
28th Sarah Cook
29th Gail Reese
30th Nadine Moore
Sarah Williams

7th Judi Byard
8th Helen Figgins
9th Pat Lynn
Delores Deihl
10th Mark Dunsmore
12th David Hughes
15th Brian Shifflett
16th Gary Lucas
Debbie Schofield
25th Hannah Cook
26th Jay Frizzelle
27th Tom Thacker

If your birthday is listed incorrectly or not at all, please make sure the correct information gets to the office!

May

1st Faye Youmans
4th Pierce Moyer
Sheryl Northrop
5th Dani Martlock
6th Stanley Houff
Camden Huffer



Prayer List

Members

Bud & Barbara Somers,
Hazel Truslow, Todd Ott,
Tom & Jan Gorden, Bill Kile,
Peggy Lucas, Linda Byers,

And also for:

Our school age children
who depend on the schools for
break-fast and lunch.

Our doctors and nurses who are risking
their safety to take care of the sick!

Our truck drivers delivering food and
for our grocery store employees!

Remember to thank these people the
next time you see one of them.

April 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
As events are scheduled, postponed or cancelled, we will let you know as soon as possible. As of now, we anticipate no Easter services. If that changes, you'll be the first to know!			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
 Palm Sunday						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
 Easter Sunday			<i>be silly. be honest. be kind.</i>			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	May Newsletter Articles are Due!!				<div>BUMS 30-Hour Famine</div>	
26	27	28	29	30		

Throw
kindness
around like
confetti

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



The Echo

"The Echo"

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church
3700 Lee Highway, Weyers Cave, VA 24486
540-234-8880
www.mybethanyumc.org

Susan Reaves, Pastor
757-653-7830
reaves.susan.m@gmail.com

Shawn Cook, Youth Director
Marguerite McDonald, Organist & Choir Director
Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer
Phil & Ruth Ann Mikesell, Sextons

May Newsletter Deadline: April. 20, 2020

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