



The Echo



March 2020

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

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 From the Pastor's Desk
- 3 BUM BITES
- 4 Mission Update
- 5 Easter & Children's Choirs
- 5 Financial Update
- 6 Birthdays & Prayer List
- 7 March Calendar

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.

Holy Week - April 5-12

"Come Follow Me ... A Disciples Journey"

Palm Sunday - April 5

Special Music by our J-Walker Children & The Easter Choir.
Brunch between services ... please bring a dish to share with all.

Prayer & Reflection - April 6-9

The sanctuary will be open for personal prayer/quiet time
on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 am - 3 pm
and on Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5-7 pm.
Materials will be available for reflection.

Good Friday Service - April 10 at 7 pm

A special service remembering our Lord Jesus' journey to the cross
with a dramatic sharing of the Passion Scriptures and communion.

Community Easter Egg Hunt - April 11

Weyers Cave Community Center from 10 am - 12 noon
An opportunity to share the real message of Easter
with children in our community.
Invite friends and neighbors and sign up to help or
donate candy, plastic eggs or refreshments.

EASTER SUNDAY - April 12

Our services will be a wonderful celebration of the resurrection
of our Lord Jesus Christ!
Come share delicious refreshments for all between services.
We will also have a Bethany kids' Easter Egg Hunt.
Krisalyn Mooney will be taking Easter pictures for families and friends.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dust to Dust

During the Ash Wednesday Service, I took a finger covered in ash and drew a cross on the forehead of everyone who came forward. With each smudgy cross, I said the ancient formula, "From dust to dust." The words come from Ecclesiastes, "*all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again*" (3:20). I certainly felt a connection with my own mortality. My father is at this moment in the hospital with pneumonia. He is also contending with out-of-control blood sugar levels, elevated sodium, sepsis and atrial fibrillation. To me, his condition is a reminder of how complicated and connected the systems that sustain us really are. And also, how delicate is the balance between life and death. We all stand at the edge of mortality, but often we do everything we can to deny that death has any hold on us.

The focus on Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent is on self-reflection, repentance and forgiveness-the

forgiveness we offer others. The idea that our time on earth is finite is supposed to give a sense of urgency to the process. Back in the day, skulls, skeletons and actual bones were used as *memento mori*, reminders that we all must die. This might sound morbid and perhaps it is but it also reminds us to consider our priorities, our goals and our deepest needs.

Candy Chang began a project in New Orleans after the death of a loved one. There was an abandoned house in her neighborhood that was covered in graffiti. She created a tribute to her friend Joan by painting the side of the building with chalk board paint and stenciling the words, "Before I die _____" on it. She made a space where anyone could reflect on life, death and their personal aspirations. The response was overwhelming. The day after she created the wall, it was filled with chalked in responses -- "sing for millions," "see my students become teachers," "be someone's calvary," "abandon all insecurities." Ms.

Chang writes on her website, "Whether written in Spanish, Korean, or Farsi, we find the same universal chords: anxiety about loss, desire for meaning, a need for forgiveness, and a hope for a fresh start."

Candy Chang's project touched a deep chord in people, much deeper than she had imagined. As I contemplate mortality, I consider how I would complete this sentence and my thoughts turn to the legacy I want to leave behind. My thought:

Before I die, I want to make sure I lived a life worthy of the one who died for me.

Pastor Susan

If you want to find out more about Candy Chang and the Before I Die Project you can go here: <https://beforeidieproject.com>



BUM BITES

Welcome to another edition of BUM BITES! I always enjoy writing these articles ... it helps me reflect on all the things the Youth have been participating in and what activities are coming up. We just finished our study in class, "On Having the Best Year Ever." We learned how to have the best year ever as we studied the life of Joseph. We learned that sometimes life doesn't go as well as we may want, but God always has a plan for us. When we continue to build our relationship with God and learn to trust in him, we discover his plans are much better than the ones we had. We all learned some important lessons from Joseph's life and we are all looking forward to having the best year ever through our relationship with and by establishing trust in God.

The Senior Class and the adults involved, survived the Lock In ... praise God!! We started our night by helping with Loads of Love. I was so proud of our kids and the way they were willing to take away from their fun night to wash clothes for those in need. It was a great night of laughter, games and way too much food!! Thanks to all the adults who helped with this event.

We also enjoyed a night of awesome worship when we attended a concert by Mercy Me and Jeremy Camp in Charlottesville on Saturday, February 22. Our next BUM BASH will be Sunday, March 15 beginning at 6 pm as we participate in a Progressive Dinner. Going from house to house eating and fellowshiping with others is always a great night!

Once again I thank you for all your support of Bethany's Youth Ministry. I would also like to encourage any visitors, with kids grades 6-12, to send them to any of our youth events or to class during the Connections Hour to see what we are all about. We would LOVE to have you come join us!!

SAVE THE DATE ... the Youth Summer Mission Trip is scheduled for the week of July 12-18. We'll be working with WARM again and heading to Wilmington, NC. We encourage all youth to come with us and also any adults who are interested. This year we will be staying at a lodge at White Lake Christian Camp and will have limited accommodations for only 25 in our group. Please let me know as soon as possible if you want to go so I can get



Waiting for clothes to dry while helping with Loads of Love!

your name on the list. You can check out our accommodations at <http://www.whitelakechristiancamp.com/>. Under "Accommodations" go to "Lodge" and it will show you pictures of the lodge where our group will be staying. Believe me, you'll get way more out of this trip than you'll give!! If you haven't gone before, you need to!

In Christ,

Shawn Cook

540-487-9413

Do small things
with great love.

- Mother Teresa -

Missions Update

March is here. Wow, where has the winter gone? Yeah, what winter? It really has been a mild one this year. But remember the saying, “in like a lion, out like a lamb.” We will see if we stay like a lamb during the month. Happy St. Patrick’s Day in the middle of the month. Spring is right around the corner and new growth is coming. Look inside yourself and see if you are growing. Grow with us here and Bethany. Join a new group or serve on a committee. See where you would like to grow and serve.

The mission team wants to say thank you to those of you that have donated diapers for our Food Pantry neighbors. It is sad to see the desperation in their eyes when they ask for diapers and we are all out. So, thank you for helping “pamper” the next generation with your donations. We appreciate any diaper donations year around.

Friday, March 6th, we will be doing another Loads of Love

opportunity for the Open Doors homeless shelter. This one will be the last one that we do for the season. Plan on helping out or making a donation, if you are able.

On Sunday, March 8th, we will be doing a Baked Potato Bar and Hearts Game that evening beginning at 4:30 pm. If you remember, the last one we tried to have, we didn’t get to play Hearts because there was no power at the church and we ate by candlelight. Let’s hope this year proves to be a better year to have light to play the game and eat. Please mark your calendar for this event. We will take a freewill offering that will go towards our Spring Event of possibly replacing a floor for a Food Pantry family in need.

Mission focus for the month will be Valley Mission. Valley Mission is in Staunton and they are a non-profit organization offering shelter, support, and God’s love to the homeless. Our church supports Valley Mission each year in their efforts. Valley Mission has so much

to offer. They have housing, showers, laundry, vouchers to their store for clothing or housing needs when moving into own place, meals, chapel services, bible studies, recovery meetings, and pastoral counseling. If you would like to make an extra donation to support Valley Mission, please write it in the memo section of your check.

“The opportunities for using our financial resources to spread the gospel and strengthen the church all over the world are greater than they’ve ever been. As God raised up Esther for just such a time as hers, I’m convinced he’s going to raise us up, with all our wealth, to help fulfill the great commission. The question is, what are we doing with that money? Our job is to make sure it gets to his intended recipients.”

— Randy Alcorn

Co-chairs: Lori Mooney,
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Maggie Rhodes,
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During the month of March we will begin collecting Hygiene Kits for Conference:

- 1 Hand Towel (15" x 25" - 17" x 27") - no kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels
- 1 Washcloth - no kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels
- 1 Comb - No pocket, picks or Rattail combs, must have at least 6" of teeth
- 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
- 1 Adult Toothbrush - unopened, personal advertising unacceptable
- 10 Adhesive Bandages (3/4" x 3") - common household bandages
- 1 One-Gallon Size Resealable Bag

Contact Rosemary Wagoner at roswag1@gmail.com for more info.

WHAT IS LENT AND WHY DOES IT LAST FORTY DAYS?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.



Easter Choir

The Easter Choir will begin practice on Wednesday, Mar. 18 at 6 pm. We will be learning new music for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. If you enjoy singing, but don't want to make a big commitment, we invite and encourage you to come sing with us! Besides just singing, we have a great time fellowshiping together! Need more info? Please contact Marguerite McDonald at mmcdonald60@newhopetel.net.



Children's Choir

For even more enjoyable music for the Lent season, our J-Walker children will be singing at both worship services on Palm Sunday (April 5). **Parents ... you are encouraged to bring your children to J-Walkers on Sunday mornings leading up to Palm Sunday** so they can learn the songs we will be singing. We want all our children to be able to participate!

Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

Spring is comin' and along with it warmer temps! Finally!! Flowers will be blooming and grass turning green. It's such a beautiful season!! Seeing the trees turn green again brings me such joy. What also brings me joy is the people of Bethany and how they always respond to a request for needed items, whether its warm hats and scarfs, diapers, donations for Valley Missions, Easter eggs or candy. You always come through!! Thank you for that!

I hope you will come through once again and make an extra gift to Bethany to help us make up the deficit we already have as of the first week of March ... a deficit of \$7,069.53. If each of us made just a small donation, it would add up quickly. We have collected \$33,792.00 in donations that go towards our yearly budget. We had hoped to have \$40,861.53 in gifts as of now. However, we are able to pay our bills to keep the lights on and the oil flowing for the boiler. Those types of expenses have to be paid monthly ... they come first. And we fund our ministries, such as the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt, with what is left in the budget. Without your generosity, we would not be able to fund these wonderful ministries of Bethany. Thank you so much for always, always making a difference!!

March 3, 2020 - Week 9		
Budget	236,089.00	
Where We Should Be		40,861.53
Where We Are		<u>33,792.00</u>
Deficit of		(7,069.53)
Net Percentage		-17.3%
Expenses as of 3/03/20		25,306.73

Caring Cards will meet on Tuesday, April 7 at 10 am at the church. You are invited to join them as they fellowship with each other and write cards and notes of encouragement to members. Questions? Contact Becky McCarty.

Young at Hearts will meet on Tuesday, April 7 at 12 noon at Mrs. Rowe's in Staunton for their monthly get-together. If you are 55 or older, but still young at Heart, we invite you to join us for this time of fellowship and fun. Contact Carolyn Swartz for more information!

Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet on Saturday, Mar. 21 at 8 am. All men are encouraged to join us for a time of prayer and fellowship. Breakfast will be provided. The April breakfast will be held April 18.

Hey Kids! There will be a **JAM Session** on Sunday, March 15. We'll meet at Valley Jump Park at 1:45 pm for an hour of jumping, then we'll get ice cream at Tot's.

March

1st	Jan Gorden
5th	Ken Elkins
7th	Becky McCarty
8th	Ken Shifflett
9th	Marguerite McDonald
	Amanda Hughes
10th	Bobbie Meeks
	Lindsay Williams
13th	Kelli Huffer
14th	Chuck McCarty
15th	Lisa Shifflett Cox
16th	Rose Campbell
17th	Jared Kile
18th	Sidney Moyer
19th	Gary Byard
23rd	Cheryl Richards
25th	Camden Herron
26th	Barbara Long
27th	Tim Schnittger

11th	Tiana Ryan
17th	Rick Northrop
	Jenifer Williams
18th	Susan Meadows
20th	Stella Hughes
25th	Carrie Dunsmore
	Nash Colvin
	Candice Shull
28th	Sarah Cook
29th	Gail Reese
30th	Nadine Moore
	Sarah Williams

If your birthday is listed incorrectly or not listed at all, please contact the office with the correct info. Thank you!

April

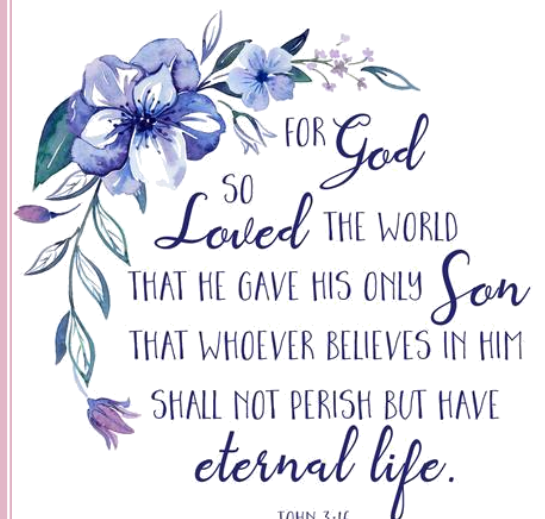
5th	Trae Elkins
7th	Jordan Dunsmore
9th	Susan Thacker
	Phil Mikesell
10th	Chuck Schwab



Prayer List

Members

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



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Begin Hygiene Kit Collection	2	3 10 am - Caring Cards 12 pm - Young at Hearts	4 7 pm - LOAFERS Small Group	5 6 pm - Holy Yoga 7 pm - Still Small Voice Small Group	6 6:45 pm - Loads of Love	7 
8 9:45 am - Church-wide Birthday Brunch 4:30 pm - Hearts & Baked Potato Bar	9 	10	11 10 am - Les Feldick Small Group Bible Study	12 6 pm - Holy Yoga	13	14 5-8 pm - Fellowship Hall Reserved
15 1:45 pm - JAM Event at Valley Jump Park 6 pm - BUM Progressive Dinner	16 7 pm - Connections Hour Meeting	17 	18 7 pm - LOAFERS Small Group	19 6 pm - Holy Yoga 7 pm - Still Small Voice Small Group	20 April Newsletter Article Deadline! 	21 8 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast 
22	23 	24 6 pm - Ladies Night Out at O'Neils	25 10 am - Les Feldick Small Group Bible Study	26 6 pm - Holy Yoga	27	28
29 	30	31 6:30 pm - Church Council Meeting				

Throw
kindness
around like
confetti

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays

8:30 am—Contemporary Worship Service
9:50 am—Connections Hour (for all ages)
11 am—Traditional Worship Service

Mondays

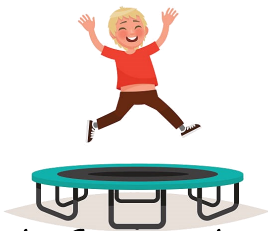
4-5:30 pm—Food Pantry

Wednesday

7 pm—Praise & Worship Practice

Bethany United Methodist Church
3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486
www.mybethanyumc.org

Praise God
FROM WHOM ALL
BLESSINGS
FLOW



JAM - Sunday, Mar. 15

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"The Echo"

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

April Newsletter Deadline: Mar. 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