

What's Happening at Bethany

The Coronavirus Edition of "What's Happening at Bethany"

Due to the coronavirus, we have had to cancel or postpone many events at Bethany. Please make sure to read your emails from Bethany to keep up-to-date on closings and cancellations.

We will do the best we can to keep you posted ahead of time!

If your event or group is cancelling or postponing, please let the office know! Thank you!

Bethany and the Coronavirus



Bethany will be following the new guidelines put out by the CDC and President Trump on March 16. These call for no gatherings of more than 10 people for 15 days, thru

March 30. Consequently, **there will be no in-person worship services at Bethany March 22 and 29.** These dates may be extended as the Bishop and Conferences assess the COVID-19 situation. We will continue to stream a worship service at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings through Facebook. Later in the day, the audio will be posted on the church website at Sermon Archives - Bethany United Methodist Church.

We encourage everyone to use the following best practices during the outbreak:

- Avoid large groups
- Meet in groups of 10 or less
- Maintain a distance of 6 feet between yourself and others
- If you feel ill, stay home
- Report any known coronavirus cases to the local health department by clicking <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-department-locator/>. Also contact the church so we can pass the word along. This can assist others who may need testing.

A Word from the Pastor ...

I know that things are moving both too fast and very slowly in our current reality. Fast because as policies change, we have to act quickly to adapt in order to keep one another safe. Too slow because sheltering in place, or being limited to going between work and home, can make the days seem to stretch on and on. I encourage you to stay in touch with others and your Bethany Church Family by phone, social media and Zoom.

Meanwhile, I miss seeing you, singing with you, and talking face-to-face. But I am reminded that **God does some of his best work when the going gets tough.** At the center of our faith is a Messiah, crucified yet raised from the dead to show how God's love and power works. So, as we weather the storm and face the challenges of this global pandemic at a time when our church family can't gather, when isolation is for the common good, when fear is all around us and uncertainty abounds. Then it is time to let our light shine in the midst of the world's despair and to bring healing in the midst of brokenness. Let us persevere in sharing Christ.

Still Hopeful,

Pastor Susan



HAVE A BLESSED DAY!

What's Happening at Bethany



Let us pray ...

Divine Creator, we seek Your wisdom daily. Be with people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. Let truth and empathy guide the people setting policies for our protection.

We lift to you our concern for the people most likely to become seriously ill from COVID-19. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty. Fill us with compassion for others. Help us overcome feelings of loneliness and isolation as we work for the common good. Give us hope and keep us strong in faith and the knowledge that you are with us always. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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 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 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!!



Adopt a Senior

Cancellations ...

Here are the most up-to-date cancellations we have been made aware of:

- ◆ Yoga Class scheduled for tonight, Thursday, Mar. 19, has been cancelled.
- ◆ Men’s Prayer Breakfast has been moved from this Saturday, Mar. 21 to next Saturday, Mar. 28.
- ◆ Ladies Night Out scheduled for Tuesday, Mar. 24 has been cancelled. We will try to reschedule soon!
- ◆ Young at Hearts monthly luncheon scheduled for Tuesday, Apr. 7 is cancelled. We will hopefully see you in May!
- ◆ The Faith Bible Class facilitated by Carolyn Swartz is cancelled until further notice.

If you know of other cancellations that the church needs to be made aware of, please contact the church office!



He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again.

On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,

as you help us by your prayers . . . 2 Corinthians 1:10-11 (NIV)