

What's Happening

at Bethany

April 16, 2020

Do You Like to Color ... It's fun. It's easy. It's relaxing.

It is easy to see that this Holy Week and Easter wasn't like any we have experienced in the past. We may not be able to meet together as a church but we can still **work together** to celebrate the **resurrection**. We have "mosaic tile" coloring pages we would like to give out for folks to color. When they are all assembled they will make one big picture.

Don't worry about coloring inside the lines. Just let us know how many tiles you would like to color. We have 45 all together. If you have a printer we can email your tile to you which you can then print out on 8.5x11" paper, color and return to the church. If you don't have access to a printer, we can mail you your tile.

When we have all the tiles back we will assemble them into a complete picture and display pictures of the completed project on our website. We would like to have the tiles back no later than April 23rd.

Just let me or Cindy know if you would like to participate or if you have any questions. We have 14 unclaimed pages!



Sunday's Sermon & Scripture

Being Church When the Building is Empty ... Bodies Matter

So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained."

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to

them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

(John 20:19-31)

Once There Was a Little Bunny...

It is easy to say don't worry, but actually doing it is much harder. During the pandemic, it might be harder still. Now there are fewer distractions and more things to fret over. When my girls were small, I would read them Margaret Wise Brown's book, *The Runaway Bunny*. It begins:

Once there was a little bunny who wanted to run away. So he said to his mother, "I am running away."

"If you run away," said his mother, "I will run after you. For you are my little bunny."

"If you run after me," said the little bunny, "I will become a fish in a trout stream and I will swim away from you."

"If you become a fish in a trout stream," said his mother, "I will become a fisherman and I will fish for you."

On the story goes, with the little bunny saying he will become a rock on a mountain or a crocus in a garden, a tree or a circus performer and each time the mother responds with how she will find him. Finally, the little bunny says, "Shucks, I might just as well stay where I am

and be your little bunny." It is a kind of little allegory of the soul. No matter where we hide, God will find us, out of love and a desire for connection.

The Runaway Bunny reminds me of Psalm 139, "9If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, 10even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

11If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,'

12even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you" (Psalm 139:9-12)

The psalm reminds me of God's faithfulness. God will never desert or abandon us. He sees through our darkness and brings the light that cuts through the gloom of worry. At the end of Margaret Wise Brown's story, love triumphs and trumps all else. I know that my faithfulness cannot match God's divine steadfastness but I can rest secure in the love that is with me in all circumstances. With that assurance I can lay my worries aside.

Pastor Susan

Spoofing

Recently my cell phone information was spoofed, a kind of scam that hopes to collect money or gift cards



from individuals. Well-run criminal enterprises will target people who are church members by impersonating church staff, especially pastors. The most requested items in this type of scam are the purchase of prepaid gift cards or simply a response, which then makes someone vulnerable to future targeted campaigns.

The practice of spoofing makes it look like an email or text is being sent from a trusted source rather than a scammer. Spoofing is usually not related to the hacking of emails or phones, according to Bryan Crompton, Virginia Conference Manager of Technology. These scammers impersonate their targets through phone numbers (calling and texting) as well as email by gathering data quickly from a basic search online.

As a pastor, I would never ask someone for money or gift cards through an email or text message. Often criminals will use a slightly different email or cellphone number from the one that belongs to the person they are impersonating. If you receive a suspicious message that appears to be from me, look carefully at the sender

information. Two members of a church in Harrisonburg were each swindled out of \$500 last fall when their pastor was impersonated.

If you have a question about an email or text that appears to be from me, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Pastor Susan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

- 20th - Stella Hughes
- 25th - Carrie Dunsmore
- 25th - Nash Colvin



May Newsletter

Please note ... all articles for the May newsletter need to be emailed to Cindy by Monday, April 20. And if you have pictures, please email those too! Thank you so much for your cooperation!

A Food Pantry Neighbor in Need ...

We have a food pantry neighbor who needs some repair work done on their minivan. They have not been able to come to pick up food for the past few Mondays because of this. They need a new starter installed. If you, or if you know someone who would be able to do this, and not charge a small fortune, please let the office or Lori Mooney know at brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com. The Adult Mission Committee is willing to cover the cost.



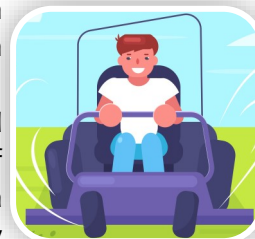
Prayer List ...

- Bud Somers, who is now in hospice care
- Barbara Somers, for her pain while waiting on a needed hip replacement
- Tom & Jan Gorden
- Bill Kile
- Peggy Lucas
- Linda Byers at RMH for urinary and kidney infections
- All first responders, those who work in the medical field and all grocery store workers
- Danny Shreckhise - friend of Jerry Sheets
- Grandmother of Beth Metcalfe
- Mother of Susan Meadows
- Joshua & Sharon Huffer - son & daughter-in-law of Lois Huffer



Do you love spring and summer? Do you love being outside? Do you love Bethany? If you answered yes to all of these questions, we have an opportunity for you that you just can't turn down!! **After many years of serving Bethany by keeping our lawn beautiful, Sidney Moyer has retired from mowing. We want to send him our sincere thank you and appreciation!**

However, that means we are now looking for volunteers to help mow the church lawn. We have our own lawn mower in the building which you can use. We would love to have enough people volunteer that you would only have one month to mow and then someone else would mow. If you would be willing to take a month during the summer to mow the church lawn, please contact the office at 540-234-8880 or office.bethany@gmail.com. If you have questions, please contact Mark Dunsmore.



Congratulations to Deja Calhoun & Pierce Moyer on the birth of their son, Easton Lee Moyer born on Friday, April 3. He was 6 lbs. 10 oz. and 19" long. Proud grandparents are Kim & Eddie Moyer and proud great grandparents are Jean & Sidney

Moyer. If you would like to send them a card, their address is 70 Valley Church Road, Weyers Cave, VA 24486.

To everything there is a season,
a time for every purpose under heaven.

-Ecclesiastes 3:1



Financial Update

| April 16, 2020 - Week 15 | | |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| Budget | 236,089.00 | |
| Where We Should Be | | 68,102.55 |
| Where We Are to Date | | 58,518.22 |
| Deficit Of | | (9,584.33) |
| Expenses to Date | | 48,141.15 |

As of today, we have collected \$58,518.22 in giving, which is **\$9,584.33 behind** where we had hoped to be at this time. It takes \$4,540.17 each week for us to meet our budget. Most times, it's hard to achieve that when we are worshiping together! So, it is really going to be challenging each week that we are not in the building! Because of this, we ask each of you, if you are able, to not forget your offering each week. Please mail it or use online giving, which you can find on the website.