



# The Echo

July 2020

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

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 A COVID Worship Journey
- 3 From the Pastor
- 4 Christmas in July!
- 5 Mission Update
- 5 Financial Update
- 6 BUM BITES
- 7 Drive-In Worship Thoughts
- 7 Birthdays & Prayer List

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](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com).

## JOIN US FOR DRIVE-IN WORSHIP

CHURCH WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR CAR!

We Invite You to join us for DRIVE-IN Church Service  
each Sunday morning at 9:30 am  
right in the church parking lot!

Drive-In Worship is a full service with  
music (praise & worship & hymns), children's moments,  
and scripture readings along with the sermon.

Even if it's raining,  
the service will be broadcast on your radio (FM 91.3 BUM)  
in the parking lot.

If you can't attend the Drive-In Service,  
it will be streamed live on Facebook  
and you can also find it later in the day on the church website.

**We would love to see you there!**  
**What's better than coming to church service**  
**and never having to leave your car!?**

## A COVID WORSHIP JOURNEY

Who would have guessed that our world would turn upside down in the way it has over the last almost 4 months? Your Bethany Worship team wanted to share a little of the journey we have had and continue to have in providing a worship opportunity for our church family and others in the community. God has been faithful!

In mid-March, we were shockingly faced with the prospect of suspended worship services and no way to connect with our Bethany family for what would be a long period of time. With limited knowledge and resources, but willing hearts, our “techno wizards” Dale Roller and Dani Martlock, used a cellphone, some ethernet cable, an old laptop and a lot of personal ingenuity to put together an online service through Facebook. We know... it was rough for a while.

With \$2500 in funding provided by our church council, we quickly purchased a capable laptop, received a donated webcam and began to improve our online presentation little by little, adding video and music. By the time May arrived, the Virginia UMC began providing guidelines for drive-in services, in-church services, etc. Although the sincere intent is to keep all safe, the guidelines are very involved and cumbersome. Yet, we wanted to somehow provide a more personal worship service.

As we explored the possibilities, a drive-in service seemed most feasible for Bethany. Pastor Susan was able to locate an FM radio transmitter (hard to find), some experiments were conducted and boom! ... now we were doing a drive-in service, while still attempting to record the online service. We soon realized we could not maintain both, and decided to live stream the drive-in service, which we believe has been a good decision and is where we are at currently.

Everyone who desires, can be together “live” either by their presence in their vehicle or by the online device in their home.

So, here we are. After many Zoom meetings, hundreds of emails and our share of frustrations, we hope that we are providing a good worship experience as we continually seek ways to improve.

It's been a challenging journey, sometimes like walking in the dark, but God has been faithful and so has our church family. I especially want to thank our team members Pastor Susan, Dale, Dani, Mary Beth Schwab, Marguerite McDonald, Kristen Kile and Cindy Kite. You will never know the hours these folks have devoted, especially Dale and Dani. We also want to express appreciation to all who have been and continue to be willing to take part in services, whether it be live or recorded scripture, children's moments, creating and contributing to videos or so much more. Thanks to those who come early on

Sunday to set up and stay to pack up. Thanks to Mary Beth Schwab for organizing the team of folks who greet and park folks each Sunday. Thanks to our Children's Ministry for creating fun packets for our children. Thanks to the Ritchie's for their trailer.

We are now exploring the possibility of having services inside the church again. Social distancing will probably require the use of the sanctuary and social hall. We can have instrumental music, but would **not** be able to sing. Masks will be required. Because of these necessary restrictions, we want to get your thoughts and feelings on our next steps. You will be hearing about a survey asking you to tell us what you want. **PLEASE respond.** In addition, we are always happy to receive ideas and suggestions.

Last, we want our folks who are more comfortable safe at home to continue doing so. We love you and hope you are feeling a part of the service. Regardless of what we do in the future, we will continue to provide a service online. For those who have come to the Drive-In service, keep coming! It is such an encouragement for those who are working hard to provide the services to look out to a full parking lot. We are exploring ways in which we can have people sit outside their cars if desired. For those who “could” come to the Drive-In service, please do! I will use this message I got from Shawn Cook to express what we hope others might be feeling:

*“It was nice to see church families today at the service. I, among many, have to say being connected to one another is truly missed. Being in the van this morning made me realize that maybe we're not officially together, but feeling the Spirit's presence among my church family is pretty darn special.”*

Yes it is. Seeing my church family, singing, honking in praise, and lifting up prayers together has brought a joy to my heart. One that I have not felt in some time and a small feeling of normality in making Sunday morning the time to get up and go worship once again. Praise be to God for His faithfulness. May he continue to bless Bethany and lead us in these challenging times.

Love to all!

*Jackie Dunsmore*, Worship Team Leader

PRAISE *God* FROM WHOM  
all blessings flow



## Troubling the Water

In the midst of our common predicament when there is so much going on, I find my inspiration and my comfort often comes from music, particularly from Gospel music and spirituals. As I was thumbing through *The Faith We Sing* I came across a favorite of mine, "Wade in the Water." The refrain goes like this:

Wade in the water  
Wade in the water  
Wade in the water, children  
God's a'gonna trouble the water.

The rest of the song alludes to various images of water including Moses leading the Hebrew people through the Red Sea and crossing the Jordan River as the entry to God's promised land. Of course, water is a powerful symbol of baptism as well. But I have always wondered what it meant that God was going to trouble the water.

The words are believed to refer to John 5:2-7. In this passage, Jesus meets a man who has been ill for 37 years. His friends bring him to a pool known as Beth-zatha because it is known as a place of healing. It was believed that an angel of the Lord would at times go down into the pool and stir up the water and whoever stepped into the water first after it was stirred would be healed. In 37 years, this man has never been the first to enter the water. But

Jesus heals him and the man takes up his mat and goes on his way.

Theologian Howard Thurman wrote of this man who had been unable to move about on his own, "His hope rose and fell like the ebb and flow of the ocean tide. He believed the legend, for he had seen it work its perfect work in the lives of many who had once been ill, but now were well. If somehow he could manage to be let down into the waters while they were being troubled, then he would be healed."

These 'troubled waters' are the ups and downs of life's difficulties but despite the troubles that beset us all, God is at work as well. Within the troubled waters of life there are healing waters, because God is in the midst of the turmoil.

We cannot live without water to drink. Water plays a part in keeping us safe as well as we practice consistent hand washing. Water is hope. Howard Thurman's final thought on "Wade in the Water" is this, "Do not shrink from moving confidently out into the choppy seas. Wade in the water, because God is troubling the water." We may find ourselves in the midst of turmoil, tossed about on an ever-changing ocean, but God is with us whether we wade in the shallows or push off into deep water.

*Pastor Susan*

## Prayer Warriors

Nothing we do looks the same way we did it last summer! Even though our youth aren't going to be able to go to Wilmington, NC on their annual summer mission trip, they are going to do local mission projects the week of July 13-17. If you have or know of someone that has some work to do ... painting, yardwork, building or repairing ramps, pressure washing houses or decks, or other small projects, please get in touch with Shawn Cook.

Our BUMS as disappointed they are not going on their mission trip, but also excited to spend a week lending a hand to help those in their own neighborhoods! And we want to support them and encourage them any way we can.

We want to let them know how much their church family loves them and supports them! So, won't you please volunteer to be a prayer warrior to someone on the mission team? Just sending them a card or note of encouragement goes a long way letting them know they're loved. Since this is such short notice, we need you to commitment TODAY! If you would like to be a **PRAYER WARRIOR**, please contact Cindy Kite at 540.820.5604 or office.bethany@gmail.com. **WE WILL NEED YOU TO LET US KNOW BY WEDNESDAY, JULY 8. CARDS WILL BE DUE BY FRIDAY, JULY 10.** There will be a box outside the church doors for you to drop your cards in. Just the simple act of sending them a card will mean so much!



## The Latest on COVID-19

In order to protect the most vulnerable among us from infection, we have been doing church very differently. Infection rates are climbing steeply in some parts of the country, mostly in the southern and western parts of the United States. This is the news we don't want to hear.

We have been very fortunate in Augusta and Rockingham county- so much so that many of us probably don't know anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19. I'm tired of staying home, staying out of crowds and social distancing and the same probably goes for most of us. Yet, it is still important. Currently this is what **IN-PERSON, INDOOR worship** will look like:

- Masks must be worn during the service.
- No singing.
- Everyone must turn a health acknowledgement form in to the pastor in order to attend in person worship. These forms will be kept confidential, but they are vital for contact tracing if anyone in the congregation tests positive for the virus.
- Social distancing must be maintained except for people who have been sharing living spaces since the outbreak.

Given that this is what indoor, in-person worship will look like we would like to know your thoughts on starting up a service or services inside the building. Please answer the following brief survey. Survey results will remain anonymous so please be honest. You can also take the survey on-line.

### Indoor, In-person Survey Questions:

1. How have you been worshipping in the past four or more weeks?  
☐ Through Facebook Live  
☐ At the Drive-in Service  
☐ Some other form of worship  
☐ Not taking part in worship
2. Would you attend an in-person service in the sanctuary if you had to observe the above restrictions (mask, no singing, etc)? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. If you answered no to question 2, is it because of:  
☐ Health concerns  
☐ Too restrictive  
☐ Wouldn't feel enough like worship  
☐ Not Applicable  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Would you come to an outdoor service where you didn't need to sit in your car? ☐ Yes ☐ No.
5. Is weather a significant consideration when deciding whether to come to a drive-in worship? ☐ Yes ☐ No
6. Would you want to attend an in-person prayer service with a devotion rather than a sermon? ☐ Yes ☐ No
7. If you answered yes to question 6, would you prefer a service on Sunday or on a weekday evening?  
☐ Sunday ☐ Another evening ☐ Neither
8. What are you looking forward to most when we can have less restrictive in-person worship?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return a copy of the survey to church by mail or email.

## Christmas in July ... Catch the Spirit !!

Now more than ever we need specific times to gather, worship and celebrate! What could be better than celebrating Christmas without the extra hustle and bustle of gift buying and hectic schedules! On Sunday, July 19, at our Drive-In Worship Service, we will do just that! Come, proclaim and celebrate the birth of our Savior and the eternal hope found in Jesus. We will sing carols, retell the Christmas story and be reminded that Emmanuel, God with Us, has not changed!



One way we connect as a church family is to join together in blessing others. Christmas is a time of giving, giving expresses our thanks for God's continued blessings, and giving makes our hearts happy! So ... let's give! We are going to focus on **Our Community Place, an organization that meets the needs of many in our local community.** Here's a description ...

*Our Community Place is located in Harrisonburg's Northeast Neighborhood, and has been building community and serving those in need for 10 years. They serve over 17,000 hot meals a year to homeless and marginalized persons, and provide laundry and shower services, storage lockers, case management services, volunteer and job training opportunities, empowerment and learning opportunities, help in finding employment and housing, referrals for dental and health services, transportation, assistance completing Medicaid applications and renewals, and much more. OCP is about loving people, welcoming anyone who walks through the doors, and providing a sense of belonging and hope to people struggling with life's daily challenges.*

We are securing a list of needed items from the folks at Our Community Place. We will pass that list on to all our church family. On July 19, Christmas in July, you will be able to bring your "gifts" to church and drop them off at the service. In addition, we will have a safe outside drop off area at the church for you to bring your donated items anytime between 9 am - 5 pm the following week. More info will be coming, but please, plan to be a part of our Bethany Christmas in July on Sunday, July 19!

**AND ... coming on Sunday, August 16 ... EASTER IN AUGUST!**

**Another way to support Our Community Place  
is to order from their take-out Friday Box Lunch Restaurant.**

**Each Friday they have a menu posted online, from which you can order online and have it  
brought to your car. Visit their website at**

**[https://mailchi.mp/54fb0e476967/friday-box-lunch-restaurant-menu-26th-june-2020?](https://mailchi.mp/54fb0e476967/friday-box-lunch-restaurant-menu-26th-june-2020?fbclid=IwAR3H0CJlTvIxMF4LVR0IdHmUjYoG7DwmPEIK-3c4alvp5_sMc3Oagv-MnyE)**  
**[fbclid=IwAR3H0CJlTvIxMF4LVR0IdHmUjYoG7DwmPEIK-3c4alvp5\\_sMc3Oagv-MnyE](https://mailchi.mp/54fb0e476967/friday-box-lunch-restaurant-menu-26th-june-2020?fbclid=IwAR3H0CJlTvIxMF4LVR0IdHmUjYoG7DwmPEIK-3c4alvp5_sMc3Oagv-MnyE)**

**Every Friday they will share a new menu from which you can  
order and we'll try to pass it along!**



## Missions Update by Lori Mooney

Can you believe it is already July? With the world being turned upside down with the pandemic, time is just going on by. Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July to everyone. We won't be able to take part of celebrations like we used to, but celebrate in your own unique way this year.

Keep our church going with your weekly or monthly offerings. Thank you to everyone who is able to still freely give and support the church and its mission.

Normally, we are gearing up for the Youth Mission Trip this time of the year. But, nope, not this year, unfortunately. Please keep all the people in your prayers that were going to be helped by our youth mission trip this summer, which had to be cancelled. Also, the Honduras Mission Trip scheduled in October has been cancelled. Keep all these people in your prayers, too.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone on the worship team and all the people working to make the Drive-in service the best it can be. It is great to see some people from the congregation once again. Praying for all those putting on the service, Pastor Susan, and all those at the Drive-In service and seeing it online.

Mission Focus of the month will be RISE in Harrisonburg, VA. RISE is a community rooted in God's risk-taking love, life-changing grace, passionate outreach and open-armed

acceptance. We welcome people from all walks of life and all walks of faith to join us on our journey. And we mean it. Everyone is welcome at RISE. Everyone. We seek to be a place free of judgment and full of love. RISE receive love. give love. repeat. is their motto. We support RISE in our mission funds because this is a place that anyone can go to and feel accepted.

Update: We graciously had a member of the church feel so touched during the pandemic about us helping the Ritchie's get their minivan fixed that they contributed the whole amount to cover all expenses. We say THANK YOU! Plus, we had others give to this project and we say thank you to all of those who donated. We were also able to help another church family by giving them a gas card and Pastor Susan gave them another gift card from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

If you know of someone in need, please pass that onto the mission team.

*"You can't control everything. Sometimes you just need to relax and have faith that things will work out. Let go a little and just let life happen." (Healthyplace.com)*

Co-chairs: Lori Mooney, 820-7394  
[Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com](mailto:Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com)

Maggie Rhodes, 383-4752  
[r.maggiianne@gmail.com](mailto:r.maggiianne@gmail.com)

## Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

Well, summer is officially here! Warm temperatures, freshly mowed grass, watermelon and thunderstorms ... just to list a few of my favorite things about summer. Some of us are still planning summer getaways and beach vacations and some have decided to stay home this summer due to our strange circumstances. And in past years, summer has also brought lower attendance and lower than average giving ... but nothing is normal about this year, so we'll have to just wait and see what happens.

Let me give you an up to date look at our current financial situation. As of June 30, we are behind our projected budget by \$11,802.58 or 10%. We have spent \$95,860.90 so far this year. With what we've paid and what we owe, we are in the red by a little over \$2,000. Although it's not a good thing, it is a good thing in this instance ... we aren't in church so we aren't spending as much as we normally would be!

You have always been a giving church and have continued to do so through all the craziness this year. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you ... from the staff and the worship committee as we continue to find ways we can worship together. Your offering has helped us purchase the needed electronic items to help us bring you online and drive-in worship services. So, come worship in person (in your car) or view the service online! See you there!!

June 30, 2020 - Week 26		
Budget	236,089.00	
Where We Should Be		118,044.42
Where We Are		<u>106,241.84</u>
Deficit of		(11,802.58)
Net Percentage		-10.0%



## BUM BITES

by Shawn Cook

Welcome to another edition of BUM BITES.

The Youth are still meeting every Sunday morning on Zoom ... catching up with one another and being encouraged by God's Word. I will have to say, it is definitely a highlight of my week! Thanks to Val Hiner for meeting with us and keeping us laughing. Your presence truly means a lot!

Unfortunately, we have some bad news to share with you ... the Youth Mission Trip to Wilmington, NC has been cancelled. We will be planning for the same place in 2021. The District Superintendent and Pastor Susan felt it was best to not go with all that is going on, and NC has had



an increase in COVID-19 cases in the last few weeks. We are all disappointed and frustrated, feeling the way many of you are feeling during this pandemic; but we have to trust in God's goodness and plan as we go through this.

Here is the good news that I'm excited to share with you! The Youth will be doing local mission work the week of July 13-July 17. We are going to focus on exterior work such as painting, yard work, building ramps and looking to support local shelters. If you are looking for help or know of someone who needs assistance, please contact me ASAP so I can get it set up. If you couldn't commit to a week away from work to go on the mission trip, maybe you could help out for a few days or hours for these local projects.

Contact me as soon as you can. I would LOVE to have you join a great group of teenagers!

Thanks again for everyone's support, prayers and love which our church family continues to show the Youth. We all look forward to getting back to church, hopefully soon. Until then, take care and God bless each one of your

*Shawn Cook*

scook0624@gmail.com,  
540.487.9413



## Chocolate Chip Pound Cake Recipe

by Laura Hittie

In honor of what would be LaRue (Bitsy) Sauflley's 93rd birthday, July 8, her family would like to share her "famous" chocolate chip pound cake recipe! This has been a long-time family favorite and it was always a part of the family / holiday meal dessert spread! Cooking and baking were two things she loved to do and it showed! We miss her to much but we're glad we have traditions and recipes like these to pass on. Happy Birthday ... with love!

### Ingredients:

1 box yellow cake mix  
3 oz. box instant chocolate pudding mix  
8 oz. sour cream  
2 eggs  
1/2 cup oil  
3/4 cup water  
6 oz. semi-sweet chocolate chips (or more if you want or use other types of chocolate chips such as dark chocolate)

### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 300 degrees
- Grease a bundt cake pan with butter or Crisco and flour the inside making sure to cover pan well with flour, then tap out all the excess.
- Combine dry cake mix with the dry pudding in a large bowl. Make a well in the dry mix and break the eggs into the well. Add oil and water.
- Mix with mixer, then add sour cream and continue to mix until well blended.
- Stir, don't blend, in the chocolate chips in to the mix.
- Pour mixture into the bundt pan and bake on top of a cookie sheet for 1 hour ... times may vary depending on the oven. You'll know the cake is done when it "springs" back up with pressed with finger toward the center of the pan.
- Remove cake from the pan before it cools completely. Wait 10-15 minutes and flip it onto a plate/serving platter.

**If you have a devotion, scripture, song, poem, recipe, etc. that speaks to you, and you would be willing to share it, along with a paragraph about why it speaks to you. Please email it to [office.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com).**

## Drive-In Worship Service ... just a few comments!

*I enjoy attending the drive in service at Bethany. At first, I was skeptical if I would get anything out of it or be able to focus while sitting in my vehicle. Or to be honest, if I would just be scrolling on my phone the whole time. After attending a few weeks, I realized that I need this one hour to reconnect with God. I am able to relax in my vehicle, close my eyes and really absorb the sermons. The experience has brought me a sense of calmness and has helped re-center my thoughts. I know it is not what we are used to, but we must evolve in how we worship and stay connected. Hope to see you Sunday!* (Kim Moyer)

*I've really enjoyed Bethany's drive-in services. There is something special about being surrounded by all of the faithful people in our congregation, even if we are separated by car doors. God's light shines through the wonderful praise music and the messages Pastor Susan shares. Thanks to all who make the drive-in service possible.* (Beth Metcalfe)

*I would like to give a big thank you to all who have worked so hard to make the drive in service happen. The online services have been good, but it has been so great to come together physically and form community. It's so nice to see all the smiling faces and I have especially enjoyed seeing all the kids. Thanks for giving me hope once again.* (Jeff Ritchie)

### July

2nd Kathy Frizzelle  
Whitley Kile  
3rd Thalia Casey  
4th Tom Gorden  
5th Grayson Metcalfe  
Hayden Metcalfe  
Daisy Castle  
8th Avery Cox  
11th Geneva Burns  
12th Ramona Garrison  
14th Jerry Sheets  
Justin Rexrode  
16th Karen Ott  
Ralph Reese  
17th Sandy Gibson  
Jean Radocha  
Agnes Carter  
18th Dollie Wilfong  
19th Nancy Colvin  
20th Taylor Rhodes  
22nd Dan Harrell  
25th Charlene Michael  
27th Kathy Kile  
30th Jacob Robertson  
Adam Casey

### August

1st Eddie Lynn  
3rd Joe Meek  
5th Roy Lee Stroop  
Bill Kile  
9th Jim Peterson  
10th Julie Ritchie  
11th Christian Michael  
Scott Williams  
13th Don Truslow  
14th Judy Faby  
16th Kaiden May  
17th Samantha May  
Casey Craun  
18th Kevin Huffer  
19th Dale Roller  
20th Lindy Sheets  
Robert Hill  
Steve Schofield  
21st Mark McDonald  
24th Hazel Truslow  
28th Stella Jo Howard  
30th Carolyn Swartz  
Eddie Moyer  
Kevin Stroop  
31st Calvin Rhodes



Please let us know if your birthday is listed incorrectly or has been missed!



## Prayer List

### Members

Barbara Somers  
Tom & Jan Gorden  
Bill Kile, Linda Byers  
Jake Dunsmore  
Brian, Kelly & Layne Shifflett  
Carolyn Roller, Dale Roller

### Extended Members

sister of Pam Roller  
Allison - friend of Pam Roller  
Ann Roller - sister-in-law of Dale Roller &  
Marguerite McDonald  
mother of Kellie Andes  
Michelle - daughter of Dianna Eicher



We extend Christian sympathy to Jennifer Cook and family upon the death of her grandmother.

"We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all of the Bethany Church family for your prayers, cards and calls during Jake's heart surgery and recovery. He continues to improve daily and is now back at his home."  
-The Dunsmore Family-



## JULY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 <i>happy Fourth of July!</i>
5	6	7 	8	9	10 <i>Be the reason someone smiles today.</i>	11
12	13 	14	15 	16	17	18
BUMS Local Mission Projects Week – Become a Prayer Warrior!!						
19 	20	21 	22	23	24 	25
26 	27	28	29	30 	31	

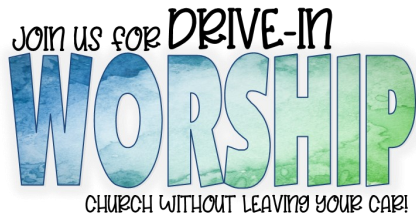
The trip to the Sight & Sound play that was planned for October has been cancelled. Another trip will try to be planned for the spring or fall of 2021.



## Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway  
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

[www.mybethanyumc.org](http://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](http://www.mybethanyumc.org)

Susan Reaves, Pastor  
757-653-7830  
[reaves.susan.m@gmail.com](mailto: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

August Newsletter Deadline: July 20, 2020

Please submit articles to Cindy Kite at  
[office.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com)

Webmaster: [bethanyumc.website@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyumc.website@gmail.com)



connect. grow. serve.

At Bethany we ...

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