



The Echo

August 2020

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

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and other important
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send your email address to
Cindy Kite at
office.bethany@gmail.com.



We didn't get to celebrate Easter together
in our usual ways in April.

So why not take advantage
of that other "A" month - AUGUST!

Let's get ready for Easter in August!

On Sunday, August 16 we will celebrate
Easter as we embrace the hope and promise
of the resurrection of Jesus.

Please stay tuned
and plan on participating in Easter in August!



**The Missions Committee will be asking for donations
for children during the month of August.
We will be collecting diapers of all sizes for our Food Pantry neighbors.**

**We will collect for Backpack Pals
which helps feed elementary age students.
Items needed are canned soup, ramen noodles, peanut butter,
granola bars, cereal bars, fruit cups, pop tarts, etc.**

**Other items needed are: school supplies ... Lysol wipes, hand sanitizer,
boxes of tissues, crayons, highlighters, etc.**

**A tote will be available on Sunday mornings
and also outside the church doors during the week for your donations.
Thank you in advance for your generous donations!**

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Vows

Just a little less than thirty-six years ago, I took a vow. I vowed that I would love and care for my husband in good times and bad times, in sickness and health. Like everyone who takes those vows, we did not know what the future held. I remember standing in the doorway at the back of the University Chapel looking at Michael as he beamed back at me. It is one of my happiest memories. But whenever we reminisce about that day, we end up reminding each other of what my father said minutes before he escorted me down the aisle. "Now just because there is a room full of people in there and everyone's expecting you to walk down that aisle, you don't have to do it. It's not too late to change your mind." Good pep talk, Dad. I was adamant that I was going to walk down the aisle and marry the love of my life.

Eighteen years later I took another vow. This time it wasn't in a chapel, but in the Roanoke Civic Center. That night I vowed to serve, rather than be served, to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the world and to be loyal to the United Methodist Church including being accountable to my bishop and my colleagues in ministry. Bishop Pennell laid his hands upon my head and spoke the words of ordination over me. I remember that earlier in that service, Bishop Pennell told us that we should remember that the hands of the bishop are a heavy weight, upon every head they rest upon, because it is a weighty responsibility we are given. I take the vows of ordination as seriously as I take my marriage vows. I do not intend to break my pledge.

I know that many of you are not happy with the United Methodist Church and the restrictions we are under during this pandemic. I understand. Life would be much more enjoyable if we could all head back into the sanctuary on Sunday mornings without masks, without social distancing, without concerns about anything worse than a case of the sniffles. In fact, the majority of my adult life would have been easier if I hadn't made a promise to the church. It would have been easier, but it would not have been the life God called me to lead. God does not call us to do the easy thing. God calls us to do the right thing.

Our Bishop says the right thing is to first do no harm. We do that by valuing the health and wellbeing of all God's people, especially the vulnerable ones. We pray that no one will be endangered or placed at unnecessary risk and then

we take action by doing the things that will protect people and keep them as safe as possible.

This means:

- Wearing face masks at any church sanctioned event (unless you are in your vehicle).
- Maintaining social distancing.
- Using good hygiene practices including washing hands and sanitizing surfaces.

For those folks who don't like to wear masks, remember that the mask does more than protect you. The mask also protects other people from your germs. Today I read the following headline: "Young People are Infecting Older Family Members in Shared Homes." We don't want to be that headline. We are in this together. Some preliminary studies suggest people who wear masks and then are infected with the virus may have milder symptoms. It's a win/win situation.

Bishop Lewis likes to say that dealing with COVID-19 is not a sprint, it is a marathon. I want all of us to make it to that finish line—that day when masks come off and social distancing is in the past. Better days are coming, I promise. But until then let's stay safe.

Pastor Susan



Survey Responses

Thank you everyone who responded to our worship survey! We received 53 responses. Of the people who responded 45% have come to the drive-in service and 32% have recently watched the service on Facebook. Only 6% have not participated in worship. At 58%, the majority of people are not ready to come back to indoor, in-person worship while 42% are ready and willing. The most often cited reason for not returning was the current guidelines were too restrictive. However, the other two reasons for not attending an indoor in-person service "health concerns" and "wouldn't feel enough like worship" had nearly the same number of responses.

The biggest positive response was an interest in outdoor worship with 83% of folks responding they would like to sit on the grass outside of their vehicles for a worship service. Most people said the weather did not affect their decision to come to a drive-in worship. Eighteen people responded they would be interested in an in-person prayer service, preferably on Sunday. Thank you everyone for taking the time to give us feedback.

Missions Update by Lori Mooney

August...it is back to school time, what? Man, this has been a weird year that we have had to endure in 2020. We are praying for all the teachers, parents, and students heading back to school, in person and online this month. Our country is in turmoil with COVID 19, protest & riots, losing jobs, everyday stress and worries, please PRAY for everyone in the country to help get through all that is going on.

The Youth had a great mission week. They helped several church families with some outside work that needed done. They helped at Camp Overlook and Habitat for Humanity in Staunton, Augusta, and Waynesboro areas. The church should be extra proud of our youth. They are such hard workers and showed the love of Jesus Christ throughout the week of their donated time.

A HUGE THANK YOU to those who donated to the Christmas in July list that will be going to Our Community Place. They will be so thankful for all your donations that you decided to give. Thank you.

We will be having an Easter in August and hope you are able to donate to Backpack Pals, diapers and/or school supplies for our Food Pantry neighbors. The list for needed items will be coming out soon. Thanks ahead of time for donating to this group, also.

The Mission Focus for the Month will be Habitat for Humanity for Staunton, Augusta, and Waynesboro. Their mission is "Building and restoring homes, lives, and communities through faith." It was founded in 1993 and has built, rehabbed, or restored over 60 homes in our community. They are working on 6 homes right now to get completed. The youth helped at some of the homes and helped with fixing and moving items in the Restore, where they sell things to help them with the cost of building or rehabbing these homes. If you would like to make a special donation for this group, please note it in the memo corner of your check.

If you know of anyone who needs help, please let us know.

"We have a chance to do something extraordinary. As we head out of this pandemic we can change the world. Create a world of love. A world where we are kind to each other. A world where we are kind no matter what class, race, sexual orientation, what religion or lack of or what job we have. A world we don't judge those at the food bank because that may be us if things were just slightly different. Let love and kindness be our roadmap."
— Johnny Corn

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

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



The Pastor came to visit the other day. He said that at my advanced age I should be thinking of the hereafter.

I told him, "Oh, I do it all the time."

"No matter where I am ... in the living room, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement, I am always asking myself, 'Now, what am I here after?'"

BUM BITES

Youth Mission Trip 2020



Although the youth did not have the opportunity to travel for their 2020 mission trip, they were blessed to be able to serve in our local community. The youth served our church family with a variety of projects throughout the week. On Wednesday, time was spent supporting Camp Overlook. Thursday and Friday, the adults and youth learned more about Habitat for Humanity and the Restore in Staunton, which supports the efforts of the organization's funding.

Thank you to Joe Howard, Pastor Susan, Val Hiner, Shawn Cook and Paige Crawford for their devotions that allowed the group to focus on "Fireproof Faith" as we came together for the week. Thank you to Lori Mooney for our sweet surprises, the Ritchie's for our first night of gathering at their home, the Colvin's for pool night, Jackie for her games and ice cream and the Sheets' for our sweet treat.

And to our hostess with the mostest, Bridgett Crawford, we are grateful for the food prep, cold drinks and open doors for us to come together each morning and night to be together as one at your home.

We hope to be able to share more about our experience on our traditional Youth Sunday in the near future. And as always, thank you to our church family for the many ways

you continue to support the young people of our church. Bethany has an energetic and dedicated group of youth who continue to show that there is good in this world, but we could not do it without the love and support of the church.

Lorna Frizzelle



*Continue to pray for our church and church family,
for our youth, for our church leaders,
for our community and its people.
Pray that at the end of all this craziness and uncertainty
the world will be a better place.
God has this ... trust in Him!*



Thank You!

We want to thank our Worship Committee for working so hard to bring us the Drive-In

Worship Service each Sunday morning!! It takes a lot of “behind the scenes” work to make this happen each week. Cameras have to be set up, mics put in place, cables ran, musicians lined up, scripture readers found, and many other little behind the scene tasks. If you walk into the foyer at any time during the week, you will find lots of equipment that is used each Sunday morning ... there’s A LOT to do!!

Let them know how much you appreciate each one of them by sending a thank you to Jackie Dunsmore, our Worship Committee Chair and a worship leader herself, Marguerite McDonald for providing our closing hymn

each week, Dale Roller for equipment set up and providing P&W music each week, Dani Martlock for recording the service and putting it up on Facebook each week, and Mary Beth Schwab for providing help with the parking! We appreciate YOU!

There are others to thank ... Randy Roller and Kathleen Stump for leading worship along with Jackie. Thank you to all who have read scripture for our outdoor service and for all the volunteers who come out and help direct cars to parking spots. Thanks to Mark Dunsmore for providing sound each Sunday morning. And thank you to Jeff Ritchie for letting us use his flatbed for our platform each Sunday. Thank you to those who assemble the Children’s Ministry bags for our children each week ... Mary Beth Hill and Beth Metcalfe. Thank you to those who have provided our Children’s Moments on Sunday mornings! Each of you are awesome and such a blessing to our Bethany family!



Treasurer’s Report by Cindy Kite

It’s August! I can’t believe it ... the summer is going by so fast, even though it has not been a typical summer! Many people are working from home, travel plans have had to be put on hold, school doesn’t look like it should and we are all stressed and anxious about what fall will bring!

Trying not to get down or overwhelmed, I always go back to my favorite Bible verse ... “Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10 NLT) ... and I remember that God is here to carry me through this uncertain time and I don’t need to worry or be afraid ... easier said than done, huh? Let’s all put our faith in our Lord and not be discouraged, but be strong and remember God will lift us up and help us get through all the craziness of 2020!

And He will also provide for Bethany! Even though we can’t be in church to worship together as a church family, we can still support Bethany, as many of you are continuing to do. We find ourselves behind our budget by \$15,517.38. That’s a lot of money! But it could be worse!! Especially since we aren’t worshipping in our normal way ... we are worshipping outside in the parking lot, not in the sanctuary! But, we can worship any where! We are Bethany ... it’s not the building or the sanctuary. It’s the people!! If you haven’t worshipped with us yet in the parking lot, give it a try. You will feel a small sense of family ... you can see and wave to people ... and guess what? They will smile and wave back! So, please keep supporting Bethany through your giving. We have buckets at the worship service or you can use snail mail or give online. Thank you in advance!

“As we give, we find that sacrifice brings forth the blessings of heaven, and in the end, we learn it was no sacrifice at all.” (Spencer Kimball)

July 19 - Week 29		
Budget	236,089.00	
Where We Should Be		131,664.93
Where We Are		116,147.15
Deficit of		(15,517.78)
Net Percentage		-11.8%

Do things for people

NOT BECAUSE OF WHO
THEY ARE OR WHAT
THEY DO IN RETURN,
BUT BECAUSE
OF WHO YOU ARE.

August

- 1 Eddie Lynn
- 3 Joe Meek
- 5 Roy Lee Stroop
Bill Kile
- 9 Jim Peterson
- 10 Julie Ritchie
- 11 Christian Michael
Scott Williams
- 13 Donald Truslow
- 14 Judy Faby
- 16 Kaiden May
- 17 Samantha May
Casey Craun
- 18 Kevin Huffer
- 19 Dale Roller
- 20 Lindy Sheets
Robert Hill
Steve Schofield
- 21 Mark McDonald

- 24 Hazel Truslow
- 28 Stella Jo Howard
- 30 Carolyn Swartz
Eddie Moyer
Kevin Stroop
- 31 Calvin Rhodes



September

- 1 Jerry Cook
- 3 Lori Mooney
- 4 Audrey Bradshaw
- 6 Johnnie Barr
Laiken Huffer
- 8 Randy Kite
- 11 Mary Beth Schwab
- 12 Bridgett Crawford
- 18 Joe Howard
Hattie Castle
- 19 Val Hiner
- 20 Sandra Elkins
- 22 Ben Michael
Susan Reaves
- 24 Elva Shifflett
- 26 Weezer Crawford



Prayer List

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

Extended Family

Michelle - daughter of
Dianna Eicher
Margaret Kisamore
mother of Kathy Kile
Don Smiley - brother of
Carolyn Swartz
Mary Simmons - mother of
Cheryl Richards

Address Change

Jean Houff
302 N. 2nd Street
Harmony House #164-A
Bridgewater, VA 22812-1712

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Robyn & John
Harris on the birth of their
daughter, Elliana
Grace on 7/22/20.
Proud grandparents
are Becky & Roger
Hawkins!



Hi Bethany Family ...

During this crazy COVID time, two of the books I have been reading are “Unafraid” by Benjamin L. Corey and “Stillness Speaks” by Eckhart Tolle to remind me that all moments, even these COVID-19 moments are in our Father’s loving hands. It can be so easy to feel anxious, confused, even defensive and angry. Studying His Word and those that reflect on it helps me remember that these trials to our faith and trust are, as Maggie used to say when she ran into a rough situation, “Character Building.”

Another thing I enjoy doing when I am feeling a little restless or in need of comfort food is a little cooking experiment combining my love of science with my love of sweets.

Chocolate Chip Cookies (in progress)

Based on Nestle Toll House Chocolate Chip Cookie recipe and the science from <https://sweets.seriousseats.com/2013/12/the-food-lab-the-best-chocolate-chip-cookies.html>. Mind you, this is closing in on MY favorite chocolate chip cookie, you will need to experiment to find yours (then please let me give it a whirl :).

Ingredients

- 3 cups of flour (286 g all purpose flour, 57 g bread flour) (more flour for ooey-gooey factor, bread flour for chewy factor)
- 3/4 tsp. baking soda reacts with acids in (split baking soda and baking powder for crispy with a center little extra helps raise higher)
- 1/4 heaping tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt - ground not shaken (like cutting the chocolate yields different sizes of salt)
- 1 stick softened, not melted, margarine and 1 butter (92 degrees melts releasing trapped water creating bubbles)
- 1 cup packed brown sugar or 1/2 light brown and 1/2 dark (dark brown sugar gives richer flavor)
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 large eggs (at 144 degrees coiled proteins unwind giving substance to the dough)
- 2 cups chocolate morsels (I hand chop two 8 oz semi-sweet chocolate bars - the different sizes of chocolate allow some slivers to melt into the dough where the larger chunks create those delicious pieces that are the gems you bite into)

Directions

- Preheat the oven to 365 degrees (at 310 degrees mallard reaction - proteins and sugars break down and rearrange themselves into rings giving the brown color - above 365 degrees caramelization - sugar breaks down forming sweet, nutty and bitter caramel flavor)
- In small bowl combine (I sift together) flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt
- In large bowl beat butter, sugars, and vanilla until creamy, add eggs one at a time
- Gradually add flour mixture (DO NOT OVER MIX - it makes the cookies tough, should still be some loose flour). Stir in chocolate chips, again, as little mixing as possible)
- Now for the hardest part - rest the dough in the fridge overnight to allow the flavors to develop and mingle
- Bake 9-11 minutes until JUST turning golden brown - really important to not over cook. Move to wire racks after 2 minutes on cookie sheet
- Enjoy with your meditative reading for the day!

Scriptures to remind me of how I can deepen my relationship with The One who has given me sooooo much!

- My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. (John 15:12)
- No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. (1 John 4:12 NIV)

What better way of sharing God’s Love than with Chocolate Chip Cookies! Stay strong and be present and open to each moment as it comes your way!

Love,
Julie Ritchie



Laughter's the Best Medicine

Everybody loves a good laugh. As Proverbs 17:22 declares, *"a joyful heart is good medicine."* There's something about laughter that can restore the soul and provide some much-needed relief from stress and pain. And with all the extra stress that COVID-19 has added to lives, we all need to laugh ... as much as possible. So, here's a little church humor to hopefully, make you laugh ... or at least smile.

The church service was under way and they passed the collection plate. When the preacher saw a \$100 bill in the collection plate, he stopped the service and announced, "Who ever put the \$100 bill in the plate please stand up."

An attractive single woman stood up and said, "I did."

The preacher told her, "Since you put that much money in the plate, I would like to let you pick out three hymns." Excitedly, the woman said, "How nice, I'll take him and him and him!"

A few minutes before the church services started, the townspeople were sitting in their pews and talking. Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone started screaming and running for the front entrance, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from evil incarnate. Soon everyone had exited the church except for one elderly gentleman who sat calmly in his pew without moving, seeming oblivious to the fact that God's ultimate enemy was in his presence. So Satan walked up to the old man and said, "Don't you know who I am?"

The man replied, "Yep, sure do."

"Aren't you afraid of me?" Satan asked.

"Nope, sure ain't." said the man.

"Don't you realize I can kill you with a word?" asked Satan.

"Don't doubt it for a minute," returned the old man, in an even tone.

"Did you know that I could cause you profound, horrifying, physical AGONY for all eternity?" persisted Satan.

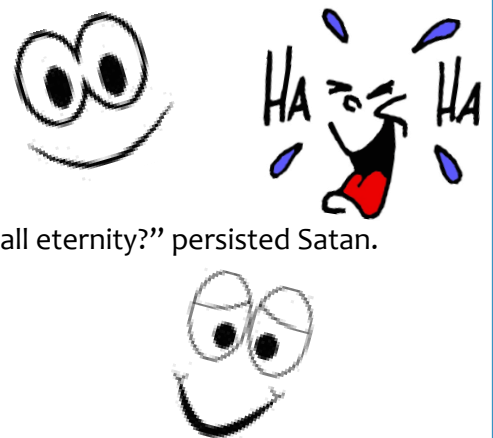
"Yep," was the calm reply.

"And you're still not afraid?" asked Satan.

"Nope."

More than a little perturbed, Satan asked, "Well, why aren't you afraid of me?"

The man calmly replied, "Been married to your sister for over 48 years."



A teacher was testing the children in her Sunday School class to see if they understood the concept of getting into heaven. She asked them, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into heaven?"

"NO!" the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into heaven?"

Again, the answer was "NO!"

Now she was smiling. Hey, they're getting it, she thought. "Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into heaven?" she asked.

Again, they all answered, "NO!"

She was just bursting with pride for them. "Well," she continued, "then how can I get into heaven?"

A five-year old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD."

Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

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be
Thankful
always.



Sunday, August 16

The Echo

"The Echo"

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church
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Sept. Newsletter Deadline: August 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