



The Echo

September 2020

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

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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.

JOIN US FOR **DRIVE-IN**
WORSHIP
CHURCH WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR CAR!

We invite you to join us
every Sunday morning
at 9:30 am
for our Drive-In or Outdoor
Worship Service.
Invite a friend or neighbor
to come with you!

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

When the Ground Gives Way

Three weeks ago, I was driving home in heavy rain. A flash flood alert had been issued and I hoped to get home ahead of the storm but ended up driving into it. Twice I had to turn back and reroute because water was washing over the road to an alarming depth. With all that rain, I shouldn't have been surprised that a sink hole opened up on church property near Route 11 sometime that night. I had been told that there were caves under some of the church's property, but this was my first sink hole experience. It's just one more in a year of firsts. First major pandemic, first quarantine, first time doing online worship, first drive in worship—you get the idea. We all have had a year like no other.

March 2020 will probably be remembered as the end of world as we knew it (Shout out to the band R.E.M). While the song goes – “it's the end of the world as we know it, but I feel fine...,” just know that if you still are **NOT** feeling fine, that's okay.

If you are feeling down or anxious or down-right depressed, you are not alone. It is estimated that right now a third of Americans are having similar feelings. While we often want to project a positive outlook that isn't always helpful. In really worrisome circumstances we can put too much stress on sentiments like: “Look on the bright side,” “It could be worse,” and “Everything will be fine.” Recently, I heard the phrase “Toxic Positivity” to describe the effect of working hard to project a positive demeanor despite negative feelings.

I have started attending 45-minute prayer and meditation sessions over zoom on Fridays. Honestly, I've been struggling with my faith and part of that has been my feeling that if I had genuine faith this whole pandemic thing wouldn't be so hard to deal with. Kimberly, our meditation guide began our sessions by praying, then she read scripture and invited us to allow whatever we were feeling to come to the surface as we sat with eyes closed. What arose for me was a deep sadness. An image began to form in my mind of me standing by the sink hole. But then we were encouraged to imagine Jesus close by. Now I visualized Jesus standing next to this deep hole. I imagined that hole as the sadness I had been feeling for months but there was also my unwillingness to get too close to it—I was afraid that if I climbed down and took a good look at that sorrow and grief to see what was really going on, I might never be able to climb back out of that hole. I realized that my fear had me paralyzed. The way forward was to examine the depths of my feelings whatever they

might be. I remembered that I can examine it and then hand it over to the God. Jesus has my back.

When we don't allow ourselves to consider that things might not be fine, we don't get chance to dig deeper into how we are really feeling. If there are feelings of grief, sadness or even anger that need to be addressed forcing yourself to stay overly positive can keep you from dealing with them.

The Hebrew people understood this. While there are many psalms of joy that celebrate God's glory and mercy, there are others that are clearly psalms of lament. Many times, the psalmists ask, why God? The writer of Psalm 42 begins, “As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, ‘Where is your God?’” (verses 1-3)

The Psalmist does not stop with “why” or “where” though.



As he laments, he remembers who God is and draws comfort from it. The psalm ends with these words in verse 11, “Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.”

Author Jerry Bridges defined a life of trust this way: “Trust is not a passive state of mind. It is a vigorous act of the soul by which we choose to lay hold on the promises of God and cling to them despite the adversity that at times seeks to overwhelm us.”

We can trust in God because his promises are certain. However, if you are feeling overwhelmed, out of sorts or just plain sad, you are not alone. And it's okay. The grace God offers us is sufficient for the day. Like the manna in the wilderness it will sustain us and tomorrow there will be grace sufficient for that day as well. In the meantime, treat yourself with kindness. You've had so much to deal with but remember, God has not forgotten or abandoned you.

Pastor Susan

Missions Update by Lori Mooney

September is upon us and fall will be arriving soon. Be on the lookout for cooler weather and the leaves changing colors. This year has been ridiculous, but it has once again flown right on by. Enjoy the time that we have with each other and make every day count.

We need to keep parents, students, and teachers in our prayers with all that is going on with the pandemic and heading back to school soon. Keep the world in our prayers still dealing with this coronavirus. Pray for all those in this church that one day we will all get to meet again

Thanks for all the donations that were made to Easter in August for our kiddos. We will help quite a few children with diapers, food, and school supplies because of your generous donations. We appreciate all the help with this project. THANK YOU!!

The Rise Against Hunger event that we were going to help with has been cancelled for September. We hope to help them out next year if we can.

Mission Focus of the Month: Backpack Pals. Several years ago, our very own Bridgett Crawford saw a need to help feed the children on the weekends when they were not in school and receiving free breakfasts and lunches. The program was named Backpack Pals. We have several local churches that contribute money to buy food for children at Clymore Elementary. They pack the 8-10 food items in bags on Wednesdays and deliver on Fridays for the kids to take home with them for the weekend. It will be done differently this year with not everyone attending on Fridays. Thank you for your donations for Easter in August. These foods will help feed the hungry kids in our local area. We support this ministry all year long and would accept any food or money donations to help them out. Thank you, once again, from the Adult Missions Team. You are making a difference in many lives by your donations.

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

"Stop comparing yourself to other people, just choose to be happy and live your own life."

— Roy T. Bennett, [The Light in the Heart](#)

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

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



A kindergarten teacher handed out a coloring page to her class. It was a picture of a duck holding an umbrella. The teacher told her class to color the duck yellow and the umbrella green, however, Little Johnny, the class rebel, colored the duck bright fire truck red.

After seeing this, the teacher asked him, "Johnny, how many times have you seen a red duck?"

Little Johnny replied, "The same number of times I've seen a duck holding an umbrella!"



JOIN US FOR DRIVE-IN WORSHIP

CHURCH WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR CAR!

Drive-In Worship Services

If you haven't attended a Drive-In Worship Service yet, we invite you to join us this Sunday morning at 9:30 am in the church parking lot! You can sit in your car and enjoy the church service with your windows down or up with the air conditioning on. Just tune in to FM 91.3 BUM on your radio.

It's the next best thing to being in the church for worship!! We encourage you to come and join us!

Worship Outside Your Car!

You have the option to remain in your car during the outdoor service or you can sit outside of your car. If you choose this option you will need to do a few things to prepare.

- Let us know that you are going to take part in the outdoor option.
- Bring a blanket to sit on or some lawn chairs. The grass might still be a little wet at 9:30.
- Bring a mask – it's a bummer I know, but everyone who isn't in a vehicle is supposed to have one on.
- Have everyone review their health. If anyone is sick, stay home, get comfy and watch the service on-line.



- Check in with the parking attendant and read the Health Acknowledgement Poster.
- Let our parking lot attendant know that you want to sit outside of your vehicle. He will put a card under your windshield wiper so we can direct you to a spot in the shade near a boom box.
- Bring your song sheet so you can sing along. Yes, you can sing along under your mask. Sing loud! Remember Buddy the Elf says, "The best way to spread cheer is singing loud for all to hear." We need lots of cheer!

Now sit back and enjoy the service, but if you have to leave your spot to go to your vehicle, please maintain social distancing--staying at least six feet away from anyone who isn't a family member or living in your home.

On-Line Worship Service

We are streaming the Drive-In Worship Service to give those who can't attend the experience of being there!

So, if you can't come to the service, look for the live stream on Facebook Live at 9:30 am or you can view it later on Bethany's Facebook page or on the website!

BUM BITES

Welcome to the September edition of BUM Bites. Our Youth are preparing for one of the weirdest and most challenging upcoming school years. Their year was cut short due to COVID-19 and now it is starting with a lot of questions, frustrations and many different challenges, as we are still dealing with COVID-19 restrictions. Let's continue to pray for all students, staff, and leaders of schools as they navigate the 2020-2021 school year.



Paige Crawford is settling into campus at Virginia Tech as she begins her first year at college. I am sure just as her high school year ended short it was different than she expected and now her year at college will be different than she imagined as well. Let's continue to pray for her and all those beginning their college year. Paige, we know you will overcome these challenges and we all know that God has big plans for you. We wish you the best and we will be praying for you.

Once again thanks to our church family for everything you do to

support and show love to our Youth! Our Youth truly are special and they will overcome these challenges!

In Christ

Shawn Cook



Portrait of Fall by Alora M. Knight

*Looking out my window
In October's golden light
I see a beauty unsurpassed
A truly lovely sight.*

*Leaves are saying soft good-byes
As they come floating down
To make a nature's carpet
Of yellow, red and brown.*

*Mountain tops, now turned to white
Forewarn of winter chills
While trees, like golden rivers
Wind their way up through the hills.*

*Throughout our world's creation
You will ever find it thus
Kaleidoscopes of color
In God's hand, the artist's brush.*



Thoughts from a Member ...

Because we are retired, Stanley and I have the wonderful opportunity to start each day at a slower pace. One of the blessings of this time in our lives is to share Bible reading and prayer together to begin our morning. This however, doesn't replace that hunger we have for fellowship and worship with other believers. In times of trial and in

times of celebration, we need other people. We need our family.

Our drive-in service is providing a bit of time with our family. We are able to see that we are not alone in our beliefs, our difficulties, and our joys. Being together on Sunday gives us structure in our week and a special day set aside for worship. As the hymn says, "Bless be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above." We need to be

together both in spirit and physically. Hebrews 10:25 says, "Let us not give up meeting together!" We miss so many of you. Hope to see you soon!
--Mae & Stanley Houff



Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

Summer is quickly coming to an end. This summer didn't look like any in my lifetime ... and I hope to never see another one!! However, just like typical summers, attendance goes down and along with that, the weekly offering goes down.

As fall approaches, we hope you will "fall" back into the habit of attending our Drive-In/Outdoor Worship

Service on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. There's singing, a worship leader, scripture readers, children's moments and a message delivered by Pastor Susan. It's like being in church without leaving your car! Or you can choose to leave your car and sit under the shade trees ... with a mask. And as we get into the habit of attending church services once again, we will also get into the habit of giving on a regular basis.

I don't want to be "Debbie Downer," but I do want to give you a clear and accurate picture of Bethany's finances. We began summer only behind the budget by \$11,544.18 (11.6%). As you can see from the above chart we are currently behind by \$26,547.39 (17.2%). Last year at this time, we were only 13.2% behind our budget. Not being able to hold our regular worship services has certainly made a difference in our receipts this year. And, as of now, we don't see an end to the pandemic anytime soon which means we won't be holding in-person worship in the foreseeable future. It takes \$4,540.17 each week to meet our budget set by the Finance Committee. We have been averaging approximately \$1,500 per week during the month of August! Thankfully we don't have a lot of expense at this time; however, we still want to be able to continue to pay our staff and keep the lights on! If you feel led to give at this time, please do. If you can't at this time because of financial difficulties, that's okay. As 2 Corinthians 9:7 says "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Please consider using our online giving feature on the website (www.mybethanyumc.org). It's really easy to set up and you can choose to make a one-time gift, set up monthly gifts or weekly gifts. It will come right from your checking account into Bethany's checking account. It can't get much easier than that!! Of course, you can always snail mail your check or place it in the "offering buckets" on Sunday mornings. At Bethany, we are really fortunate to have such a generous church family. Thank you to all who have continued to support the church through this tough and uncertain time! Thank you, thank you, thank you!! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

August 23 - Week 34		
Budget	236,089.00	
Where We Should Be		154,365.78
Where We Are		127,818.39
Deficit of		(26,547.39)
Net Percentage		-17.2%

September Songs Are For YOU!



Do you have a favorite song? During the month of September at our Drive-In/ Outdoor Worship Service we want YOU to choose your favorite songs for all to sing! We will do our best to accommodate your choices. Please send your requests by email to office.bethany@gmail.com. It can be a favorite hymn or Praise & Worship song. We want to hear from YOU!!

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

- Landon Ryan
- 4 Brantley Metcalfe
- 6 Mary Beth Hill
Kenneth Diehl
Stephen Metcalfe
- 10 Jan Peterson
- 12 Maggie Rhodes
- 16 Maecy Anne Frizzelle
- 19 Jennifer Cook
- 20 John Hull
- 21 Barbara Somers
Wyatt Dunsmore
- 22 Jan Fulton
Beth Metcalfe
- 23 Tom Ott
Tobias Casey
- 27 Jenny Campbell
- 29 Lois Huffer
Ruth Ann Mikesell
Amy Michael
- 30 Kim Hull
Mary Tyree
- 31 Doug Hiner
Leslie Wagoner



October

- 1 Carolyn Roller
Tara Stroop
- 2 Wayne Frizzelle
- 3 Linda Byers

Prayer Request

Prayer List

Barbara Somers
Tom & Jan Gorden
Linda Byers
Dale Roller
Pat Lynn
Leslie Wagoner

Extended Family

mother of Kathy Kile
Don Smiley - brother of
Carolyn Swartz
Mary Simmons - mother of
Cheryl Richards

We extend Christian sympathy to
Carolyn Swartz upon the death of
her sister, Ethel Smiley,
also the aunt of Cindy Kite.

Address Change

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



Card Shower for One of Our Favorite People ...

On September 6, our own Johnnie Barr will be celebrating his 100th birthday!!! Wow! What a milestone! Since we can't celebrate this special occasion with Johnnie and his family, they are asking for you to send cards ... lots and lots of cards to let Johnnie know his church family is celebrating with him!!!

His address is ... P.O. Box 361, Verona, VA 24482

There will be a drive thru at the church on Sunday, Sept. 6 from 1-3 pm. Drive by and shout out a "Happy Birthday Wish" to Johnnie!



Hi Bethany Family ...

We've all either heard or used the expression, "Life Happens." Sometimes we struggle to come to terms with the turn of events in our lives. "That's not fair" or "why, me, Lord?" are thoughts we have or words we've uttered in sadness or frustration. Jesus didn't promise us a rose garden, my friends! In fact, He told us in John 16:33, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." So yes, we have face, are now facing or will face troubles in our lives but we know that Jesus has overcome the world!

So does that mean our troubles shouldn't bother us? No, of course our troubles will bother us, make us sad, or make us grieve. God told us in Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid... I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we need to be strong and courageous and not be afraid but how do we do that? Especially when we face terrible things, how can we be strong and courageous. I didn't know how I was going to go on after my son's suicide. The morning I found out, all I could say was "what am I going to do?" I asked my husband and Pastor Brad that question. I asked God that question. But as I struggled with feelings of sadness and anger and brokenness, Jesus would show up. My friends coming by or calling me... He was there. I would go to church and worship and my church family surrounded me with love... He was there. A song on the radio... He was there. My grandson's smiling face and a hug from my husband... He was there.

There's a wonderful song by Zach Williams, "There Was Jesus" and it so beautifully explains how Jesus is always there. This song describes how Jesus has been with me throughout my entire life. I'll close with the words from part of the bridge and the words of the final chorus. If you haven't heard this song, please find it and listen to it. Dolly Parton sang back up vocals with Zach and you can HEAR the Holy Spirit in this song:

On the mountains
In the valleys
There was Jesus
In the shadows of the alleys
There was Jesus

In the waiting, in the searching
In the healing, in the hurting
Like a blessing buried in the broken pieces.
Every minute, every moment
Where I've been or where I'm going
Even when I didn't know it
Or couldn't see it
There was Jesus
There was Jesus
There was Jesus."

Love,
Kathleen Stump

In Person Meetings at Church

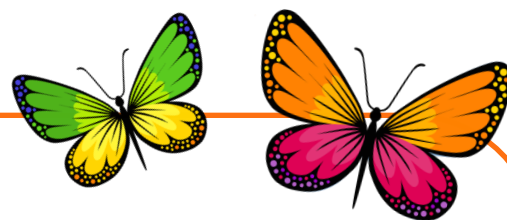
With the approval of the District Superintendent, we can now start to have in-person meetings at the church. For the safety of all participants, the VA Annual Conference has set the following guidelines that must be followed:

- Gatherings cannot exceed 50 people.
- Everyone who comes into the building must wear a mask.
- Everyone must read the questions on the Health Acknowledgement Poster before entering and be able to answer yes to each of the four questions.
- A greeter should meet people just outside the front door to ensure everyone has answered the health questions and is wearing a mask.
- Everyone must keep at least 6 feet between themselves and people who are not part of the same household. No hugs or handshakes.

In order to meet these guidelines, we are asking that everyone contact the church office to ensure that no other group has already signed up to use the church. Because of the social distancing requirement, most meetings will need to take place in the social hall.

- If chairs or tables will be used, please wipe them down with sanitizing wipes (located in the kitchen) before you use them. Gloves are also available.
- To maintain social distancing, enter through the double front doors and exit through the double doors in the Fellowship Hall.
- No materials can be shared including papers, food and drinks.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe!



A man found a cocoon of a butterfly.

One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole.

Until it **suddenly stopped making any progress** and looked like it was stuck.

So the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily, although it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

The man didn't think anything of it and sat there waiting for the wings to enlarge to support the butterfly. But that didn't happen. The butterfly spent the rest of its life unable to fly, crawling around with tiny wings and a swollen body.

Despite the **kind heart of the man**, he didn't understand that the restricting cocoon and the struggle needed by the butterfly to get itself through the small opening; were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings. To prepare itself for flying once it was out of the cocoon.

Moral of the story:

Our **struggles in life develop our strengths**. Without struggles, we never grow and never get stronger, so it's important for us to tackle challenges on our own, and not be relying on help from others.

Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org

be
Thankful
always.



Sunday Mornings
9:30 am

The Echo

"The Echo"

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church
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Marguerite McDonald, Organist & Choir Director
Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer
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October Newsletter Deadline: Sept. 20, 2020

Please submit articles to Cindy Kite at
office.bethany@gmail.com

Webmaster: 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