



The Echo

November 2020

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

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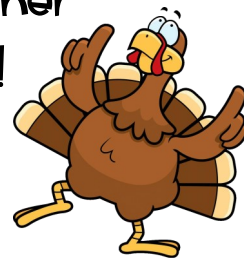
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If you would like ...
and currently don't
receive the church
newsletter
and other important
updates by email, please
send your email address to
Cindy Kite at
office.bethany@gmail.com.



May your stuffing be tasty,
May your turkey be plump.
May your potatoes 'n gravy ...
Have nary a lump,
May your yams be delicious,
May your pies take the prize,
May your Thanksgiving dinner
Stay off of your thighs!

Happy Thanksgiving!



From the Pastor's Desk

Hygge!

The Farmers' Almanac believes the upcoming winter should be dubbed the "Polar Coaster." The Almanac predicts temperatures will be up and down so often that it'll feel like a wintery roller coaster ride. It's been an any things goes year so far. It would be in character for the winter weather to take us on a wild ride.

In the face of wild winter weather, this might be a good time to adopt the Danish art of hygge. Hygge is how the Danes get through their long, dark winters. If you're not Danish, Hygge can be a tad bit difficult to pronounce. It's somewhere between hoo-gah and hue-gah (try puckering your lips while you say it). – But the good news is, it's much easier to embrace than it is to say. It is the art of creating a cozy, comfortable, welcoming feeling. I'm not an expert but I gather that hygge is a way to

hunker down indoors but while appreciating the opportunity. Hygge is sitting around a crackling fire with family and friends. It is toasty socks, a mug of hot chocolate and feeling of safety and contentment after being out in the cold.

As the weather grows a little colder and the nights a little longer, I am reminded of how much I have to be thankful for. We won't be practicing hygge by building a fire in the hearth at the parsonage. The 100-year-old fire place has been closed off for sometime, but we still find ourselves with a sturdy roof over our heads, a good heating system (even if my husband likes to keep it a brisk 67 degrees) and plenty of warm clothing, not to mention wooly socks and plenty of food in the freezer and the pantry.

Of course, things are a little weird. We still have face masks, social

distancing and no singing in church, but we are actually in church on Sundays. That's something I appreciate immensely. I cannot tell you how wonderful it was to see the faces of the people attending Sunday's All Saints service. Yes, they were masked faces but still lovely to see.

1 Chronicles 16:34 says, "'Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.'" When the Apostle Paul and Silas were in the city of Philippi, they angered the owners of a slave. As a result, they were beaten and thrown into prison. Acts 16:25 says "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them."

Billy Graham writes, "The Apostle Paul [was] a man who had learned the meaning of true thanksgiving, even in the midst of great adversity...When he had been imprisoned in Rome, Paul wrote, "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:19 -20, NIV)."

For Paul giving thanks was not a once-a-year celebration, but a daily reality that changed his life and made him a joyful person in every situation. Even when he was in chains, he gave glory to God. That is a degree of thankfulness I aspire to, but I'm probably not quite there yet. Still, it's an attitude worth considering. Whether the winter is warm, or cold, wet or dry, snowy or sunny, let us extend our thanksgiving beyond a single day and cultivate gratitude as a way of life.

Pastor Susan



Your Kindness Means So Much ...

November is a month we think about all the things we are thankful for. Even though we aren't able to see each other on Sunday mornings to catch up and check in, many have done little acts of kindness behind the scenes that has meant so much to folks within the Bethany family. Those small acts of kindness mean more than you know. Here are a few things that Bethany folks are thankful for ...

- We have always been so grateful for our Bethany family, but in the past month we have been overwhelmed with the amount of love and support. We are especially thankful for all that the following folks have done for us: Amy and Donald Michael, Mark and Jackie Dunsmore, Rebekah and Ron Castle, Amanda and David Hughes (and girls), Mary Beth and Robert Hill, Jeff and Julie Ritchie, Bradley and Jordan Dunsmore, Pastor Susan and Cindy Kite. We are humbled and grateful and we love all of you. -- Susan & Lloyd Meadows
- I would like to recognize Kathy Kile for her kindness and the beautiful gift basket she put together for the birth of our grandson, Easton, in April. Also to the congregation for the cards, emails and text messages we received. -- Kim Moyer
- I am thankful for Jeff and Julie Ritchie. I see Jeff more than Julie because he greets us every Sunday morning when we arrive for church. He is so faithful and always spends a few minutes to chat with us. He is the perfect greeter. His positive attitude and cheerful disposition are a wonderful start to the morning service. -- Jane Elkins
- I am thankful for so many blessings bestowed upon me this year by our Bethany fellowship. After Bud's death and then my surgery, the outpouring of love was overwhelming. Pastor Susan contacted me and prayed with me. Church members left food at my door, sent emails and cards, called and texted me. I have also felt prayers being lifted by members. I cannot name a specific person because so many people responded and I am truly thankful for our church family. -- Barbara Somers
- Thanks to Pastor Susan and the Worship Team for keeping the service going on Facebook and outside services. To Cindy Kite for keeping the office going and keeping us up-to-date with weekly happenings and newsletters. To Shawn Cook for all the work he has done with the youth over the last couple years as our youth pastor ... wishing him the best of luck in his next journey. To all the people who volunteered to mow the lawn all summer and kept it looking so good. To everyone who is still giving weekly or monthly to keep this church going ... we couldn't have pulled off this year without you. To the Food Pantry volunteers that are still working to feed our neighbors each week. -- Lori Mooney
- I just want to say thanks to Don Truslow for sending us the sermons weekly. Since I work every other weekend, it is helpful to be able to catch up in print if I don't happen to watch the service after the fact. We also always love his kind little notes/well wishes that he writes on them! :) -- Laura Hittie
- A special thank you to my Sunday morning parking crew ... Julie & Jeff Ritchie, Scott Williams, David & Elizabeth Williams, Lori Mooney, Stanley Houff and Chuck Schwab for their dedication and contribution over the past few months. -- Mary Beth Schwab
- I would like to thank Lori Mooney for her acts of kindness. For the last few months she has called me to see if I am okay. Since I became sick in February, she has called me to see if I need anything. She has been an angel from heaven. -- Linda Byers
- I am so thankful to have such an awesome church family! And especially for those who have been working hard behind the scenes. Our Worship Team has been working very creatively to bring you at first, a Facebook service, and then an outdoor/drive-in service and now an in-person service. Thank you to Jackie Dunsmore, Mary Beth Schwab, Dale Roller, Marguerite McDonald and Dani Martlock for giving so much of their time to making all these things happen ... especially Dale and Dani ... who do all the technical work that most of us don't understand! -- Cindy Kite
- Thank you Jackie Dunsmore for the cards. -- Gail Reese
- We have had numerous people from church bring food, call and send cards during Eddie's and my convalescence. We are very thankful for our church family. -- Pat & Eddie Lynn
- Terri Shifflett always, always, always remembers birthdays with cards and has never failed to make me feel special when she presents a beautiful plant as a thank you or for a special occasion event! -- Kathy Frizzelle

Keep up the good work folks! We aren't sure how much longer members will be unable to attend church in the traditional manner, so we need to make sure to check in on them so they don't feel forgotten. I encourage you to make contact in some little way with a different member each week!

Missions Update by Lori Mooney

November... time to get ready to eat a bunch for Thanksgiving and be thankful for all that we have in our lives, then the next month of December and celebrating Christmas! I know I am ready, and I hope you are too. Be sure to keep our Food Pantry neighbors in your thoughts and prayers that they have enough to put on their plate all year long.

Thank you for all your donations that you have made while we have been going through this crisis with the Christmas in July, and Easter in August services. We appreciate all that you do for our church and all the organizations that you help support.

We need your help with Kingsway Missions Apple Tree Project. Be sure to have the unwrapped gifts to the church by Sunday, Nov. 15th. Thank you for sponsoring a child this year or helping the inmates with some essential products.

You know that as a church family, we always have a great time ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. Unfortunately, this year because of COVID-19, we will be unable to do that.

Mission Focus of the Month: First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence dedicates services to providing emergency shelter and support to individuals and families in crisis because of domestic violence, dating violence, or family violence. First Step's services are client driven, trauma informed, empowering, and safety oriented to meet the needs of individuals and their children and they are free

and confidential. First Step's services include a 24-Hour Crisis Hotline, Emergency Shelter, Individualized Safety Planning, Voluntary Case Management, Advocacy, Support Group, and Court Accompaniment. All services at First Step are available in English and Spanish, plus they have access to transcribe other languages, if needed. We support this agency because, unfortunately, it is needed in our world today. Please help us support this great cause by donating and earmark it for First Step.

Thanks for all your donations made throughout the year.

All our groups are so appreciative of donations, especially this year in 2020 with the global crisis.

"Live in the present. Launch yourself on each wave. Find eternity in each moment." - Thoreau

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

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

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



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell... Take a Stand Help Others



Due to COVID-19, the Salvation Army has had a decrease in those who are able to "ring the bell" this year.

If you are able to ring, please go online at registertoring.com or you can contact Lori Mooney.

This year the Salvation Army will be ringing only on Thursdays thru Saturdays due to the lack in ringers.

They will provide masks and sanitation supplies, but you are also welcome to wear your own mask.

Our Missions' Committee is not making "Bell Ringing" for the Salvation Army a project because of COVID-19.

However, if you would like to help ring the bell, please go online to find an available date, time and place or you can call Lori Mooney and she will be glad to help you!

Help Wanted: BUM Youth Leader

The SPPR Committee has met and made the decision to make the Youth Leader a volunteer position as of October 1, 2020. We are asking for Bethany members to step up and accept this position either alone, a married couple, or a team of two or more. Please contact the church office (540-234-8880 or office.bethany@gmail.com) as soon as possible if you are willing to take on this volunteer position or would like more information about the position.

The two main reasons for changing this to a volunteer position are:

1. there has not been a lot of youth activity since the



pandemic and this lack of activity is expected to continue for an unknown period of time and

2. the number of youth who will be an active part of this group after activities can restart is unknown.

In the meantime, the youth need to know they have a leader for guidance. Although there is not a monetary payment for this work, it certainly is a position which can give a feeling of fulfillment in knowing you are leading and making a difference in Bethany's youth in these uncertain times.

The youth summer mission trip for next summer is still on and that will take some time to plan in 2021. The youth do have funds remaining for 2020 and a budget for 2021. All expenses related to this position are reimbursable.

When Times are Tough ...

I came across something recently comparing society in the 60's to some of the things we are going through today. I was young in the 60's and over time I had forgotten what a mess the world was in. The civil rights movement was at its peak. There was racial tension, distrust of law enforcement, riots in Chicago and elsewhere. The Vietnam War was escalating. There was a general distrust of government. It was a time of assassinations - John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert Kennedy. Approximately 116,000 people in the US died from the Hong Kong Flu pandemic that originated in China. Bob Dylan wrote the song "Times They are a Changin'" and some things have gotten better. Based on the events of 2020, I'm not so sure things have changed all that much. Here we are again with a Pandemic, racial unrest, partisan politics and the world is still a mess.

Our national motto remains IN GOD WE TRUST. When times are tough and we are worried about what is going on, when we don't know what to believe and we are concerned about the future, these words from Proverbs 3 5:6 offer us hope:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

I encourage you to start your day with a minute of prayer. Praise God for all he is and all he does. Express your gratitude and thankfulness for all the ways he blesses you, your family and our church. Talk to him about what troubles you. If the uncertainty in the world around you troubles you, take hope in this Bible passage: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." --Hebrews 13:8

Times may be a changing, but God's love for us won't change.

Love to all of you! Jane Elkins

FINANCIAL UPDATE

by **Cindy Kite, Treasurer**

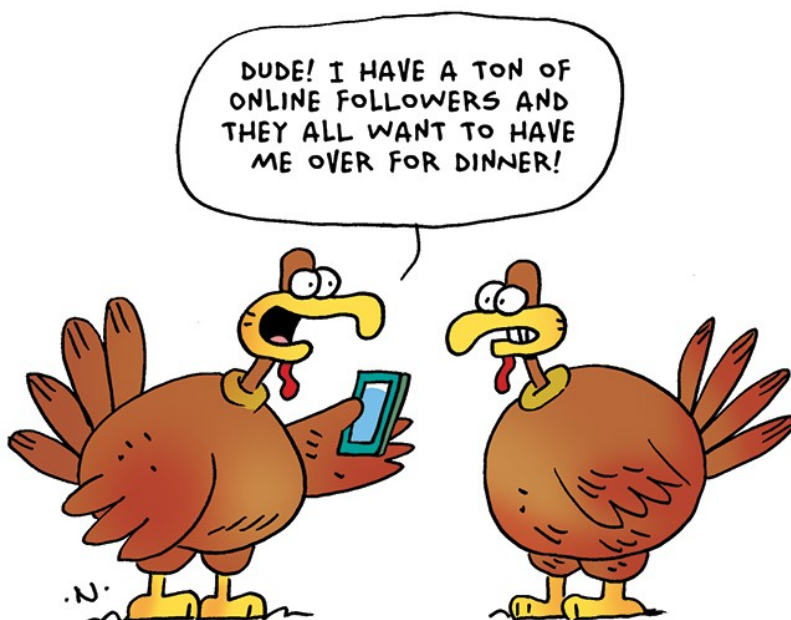
Can you believe it's November already? Where did the year go? With all the time we have been spending at home this year, you would have expected time to slow down a little. But here we are with Thanksgiving coming up in just a few weeks and thoughts of Christmas soon to follow. It has been a strange year with COVID-19 at the very forefront of our minds. We are missing our church family and just being together to share parts of our lives with each other. We can only pray that all this pandemic stuff comes to an end soon!

So, let's talk about what all this means for Bethany financially. We are behind where we need to be as far as receipts (offering) this year. All summers are light on attendance ... therefore light on giving. And the last quarter of the year always seems to be the best quarter for Bethany. As we enter the last quarter, October didn't start out so well, approximately \$2,500 behind last year's offering. And as you can see on the chart, with what we have collected, spent on expenses, and currently owe, we are in the hole \$5,914.40. There is money in the checkbook, and we are able to pay our bills ... but remember, we aren't spending what we would typically be spending this time of the year.

These are such, yes I'm going to say it, "unprecedented times" that we aren't sure what to expect from day to day, week to week and month to month, or even next year!! The Finance Committee is genuinely grateful that you have continued to support Bethany when lots of you haven't been attending any of the church services, but watching at home. All we can ask is that you continue to support your church financially and with your prayers. Thank you!

November 11, 2020 - Week 45

| | | |
|------------------------|------------|------------|
| 2020 Budget | 236,089.00 | |
| Where We Should Be | 204,307.65 | |
| Year to Date Offering | | 179,678.66 |
| Expenses Paid | | 175,799.23 |
| Current Invoices Owing | | 9,793.83 |
| Deficit of | | (5,914.40) |
| Net Percentage Behind | -12.1% | |



Thank you, Thank You, Thank You!

Thank you everyone for the cards and gifts you sent during Pastor Appreciation month in October. It was practically overwhelming - but in a good way. Your kindness is much appreciated during these challenging times!

Pastor Susan





Hanging of the Greens

As we try to get back to some normalcy, we invite you to make plans to join us on Sunday, Nov. 29 at 5 pm for our annual Hanging of the Greens as we begin the Advent season! And yes, it will look different! Chrismons will be placed on the tree one at a time. Instead of singing carols in the sanctuary, we will be singing outside (weather permitting) with a mask and social distance. And instead of our usual light meal, we will share some hot chocolate and cookies ... individually wrapped of course.



Please continue to keep Lloyd & Susan Meadows in your prayers!

Lloyd was diagnosed with a brain tumor a few months ago. He is currently undergoing chemo and radiation.

You can keep up with Lloyd's progress by going to

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/lloydmeadows>

to get updates posted by his daughter Kali. If you would like to help out by taking them a meal go to

<http://www.TakeThemAMeal.com/LXLH6159>

to sign up and get directions to their home.

Cards, emails, texts and visits (please call first) are appreciated.

November Birthdays

3rd Addyson Mooney

4th Jean Moyer

11th Donald Michael

12th Sarah Huffer

13th Rosemary Wagoner

14th Kelly Shifflett

17th Lorna Frizzelle & Ethan Cook

21st Carla Whitecotton & James Graun

24th Mike Huffer

25th Cindy Kite

27th Kathleen Stump

30th Anthony Streiff

20th Elizabeth Williams

21st Amber Casey

23rd Jane Elkins

25th Alexander Carter

26th Garrett Roller

29th Jake Frizzelle



December Birthdays

1st Jeff Ritchie & Gerald Fulton

3rd Kristen Kile

5th Annie Roller

9th Hudson Dunsmore

16th Shawn Cook

19th Layne Shifflett

Prayer List

Members

Barbara Somers, Tom & Jan Gorden
Pat & Eddie Lynn
Phil Mikesell, Lloyd Meadows,
Judy Faby, Audrey Bradshaw,
and Linda Byers

Extended Family

Don Smiley - brother of Carolyn Swartz
Donna D. & Edward P - food pantry
neighbors
Clem & Monique Smiley
Margaret Kisamore

Bethany United Methodist Church

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Susan Reaves, Pastor

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Marguerite McDonald, Organist & Choir Director

Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader

Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer

Phil & Ruth Ann Mikesell, Sextons

December Newsletter Deadline: Nov. 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