



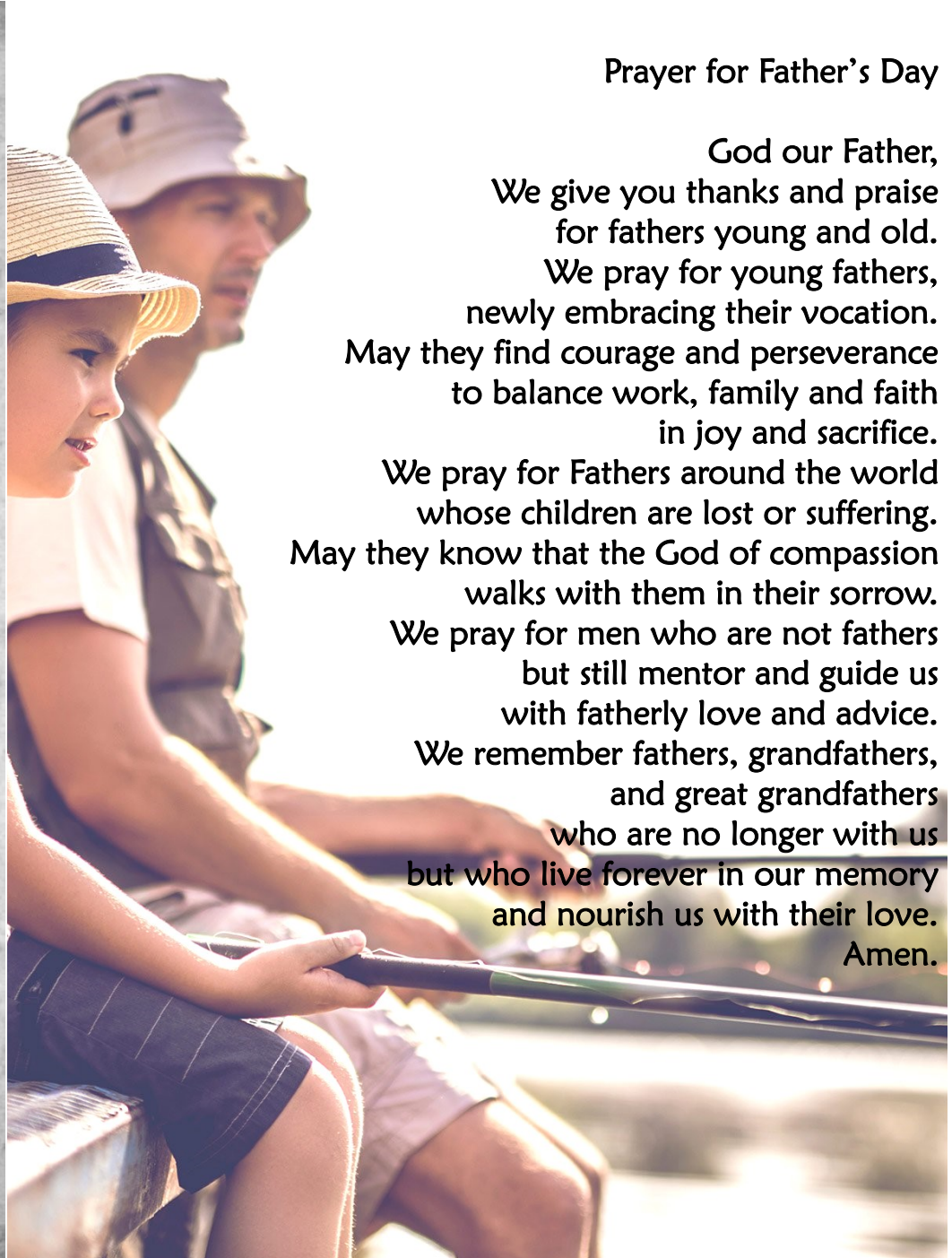
June 2021

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.



Prayer for Father's Day

God our Father,
We give you thanks and praise
for fathers young and old.
We pray for young fathers,
newly embracing their vocation.
May they find courage and perseverance
to balance work, family and faith
in joy and sacrifice.
We pray for Fathers around the world
whose children are lost or suffering.
May they know that the God of compassion
walks with them in their sorrow.
We pray for men who are not fathers
but still mentor and guide us
with fatherly love and advice.
We remember fathers, grandfathers,
and great grandfathers
who are no longer with us
but who live forever in our memory
and nourish us with their love.
Amen.

From the Pastor's Desk

So Long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Good Bye

My time at Bethany has been brief—the shortest I have ever served at one church, but I will never forget it or my introduction to life in the Valley. Of course, the pandemic and the way it affected almost every aspect of our lives, has made the last year particularly memorable. Despite COVID and the havoc it created, there are many things I consider worth celebrating. I will always be thankful for Dale Roller and Dani Martlock who were with me that Sunday in March after Virginia went into lock-down. They knew how to video tape the service (with my phone!!) and put it out there on Facebook live. I am so thankful for all of their technological savvy and their willingness to guide us as we moved forward.

When our service took place in the parking lot, we were so blessed that Jeff Ritchie not only lent us his trailer to serve as our worship stage, but also greeted everyone as they drove up to the parking lot. I am thankful for our parking lot ushers, Mary Beth and Chuck Schwab, Stan Houff and Julie Ritchie. They also helped with setting up and dismantling the equipment. I know there were others that helped out too, including Scott Williams and Mark Dunsmore. Then there were our worship leaders Randy Roller, Kathleen Stump and Jackie Dunsmore who were willing to come out rain or shine and lead worship no matter how much their glasses fogged up. I don't think I've ever been so excited and glad to welcome live people to a service than I was when the cars started to pull into the parking lot for our first drive-in service.

And in the midst of this, Food Pantry kept rolling along passing out food to those who were in need. Although the pandemic precautions kept our food pantry neighbors from coming into the building, food still went out as we converted the Food Pantry into a drive thru. Our volunteers were on the frontlines assembling boxes of food, to be passed out along with fresh items like milk, meat, cheese and fresh produce.

Bethany will soon have the opportunity to discover new strengths, hear new sermons and aspire to new goals under new leadership. As United Methodists we believe that there is no point in a congregation clinging to one

pastor or one pastor clinging to one appointment. We live and grow through new experiences, even though we do not always welcome change.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the people of Ephesus, urging them to continue to grow in their faith, “speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (Ephesians 4:15). That is my prayer for Bethany, that you would openly speak the truth in love to one another and to the leadership of the church. By striving to think like Christ, love like Christ, you the body of Christ will grow and thrive.

This has been a hard season, and it is not over yet. Be gentle with one another and be alert as well. During the pandemic's first nine months, six times as many American adults reported mental health issues as in early 2019. We can hope that the worst is over but the psychological effects of the lock-down and quarantine may be with us for some time to come.

Please pray for Rev. Dan Purdom as he transitions from First Church, Timberville to Bethany. Pray for me as well and for all the pastors in the Virginia Conference who are finding themselves in the midst of change and all that change entails. Know my prayers are with you in your time of transition.

Pastor Susan



**Please join us for a Farewell Celebration for
Pastor Susan on her last Sunday at Bethany, June 20.**

**There are blank note cards in the Gathering Space
for you to write a thank you or a note of appreciation
for Pastor Susan as she leave Bethany.**

**There is a basket for you to place your card in and
there is also a basket for cards to Shawn Cook
as he becomes the Lay Supply Pastor at
Parnassus UMC in Churchville.**

A Time of Transition

Effective July 1, Pastor Dan Purdom will become our new pastor. It's time to welcome him and make him part of the Bethany family. He and his wife Amy are buying a house in Staunton and preparing to move from the parsonage at First United Methodist in Timberville where he currently serves. Amy has found a new position at Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Detention Center in Verona where she will be teaching English as a Second Language and Science. Pastor Dan has nine years' experience as a Methodist pastor and many more years' experience working with young people. He is also a musician who loves all kinds of music. You will find Pastor Dan's bio below. His first day in the pulpit will be July 4, and we will have a reception for him following the service on July 11. Let's plan to wear name tags for the month of July. We have one name to

remember, he has many.

Let's not wait until July to welcome him. Please send cards, notes, photos or interesting stories about Bethany before he gets here. His mailing address is 494 Rosemont Drive, Broadway, VA 22815. He is excited about the move and I know he would love to hear from you.

Pastor Susan, thankfully, does not have to move her household, but she has to deal with the stress of going to a new church and learning the names of her new congregation. It is a time for congratulations for her, but there is also a sense of melancholy. Once again, we are saying farewell to someone who has become a friend and served us well. The last Sunday she will preach at Bethany is June 20 and we will have a reception following that service. If possible, please plan to attend. Starting in June, we will have a basket at the Welcome Center for you to leave

cards, notes or gifts for Pastor Susan. I know we all wish her the very best. (Note cards will be provided.)

And one more transition... Shawn Cook has accepted a position as Lay Supply Pastor at Parnassus UMC in Churchville. We are so happy for Shawn, yet so sorry to see him leave Bethany. We will have a basket for Shawn in the Welcome Center also and we want to celebrate his new appointment on June 20.

It is a time of transition, many are returning to Church on Sunday morning and it feels so right to be back sitting in the pews. We have a new family coming to Bethany, and old friends leaving. All of them have challenges in the weeks ahead. Pray for them, pray for their families, let them know God loves them and so do we. Pray for Bethany and ask for God's blessing on our Church.

Blessings, Jane Elkins

Rev. Daniel K. Purdom Bio

Dan was born and raised in Kentucky. His father served as a Presbyterian minister and his mother was a teacher. His parents are now retired and living in Northern Kentucky, in the greater Cincinnati area. Dan is the oldest of three siblings. He has two younger sisters who are currently living in Maine and California.

Dan is married to Amy who is also a teacher. He has three sons: Ben (41, lives in Harrisonburg, VA), Sam (29, beginning a Ph.D. program at Dartmouth College this coming fall), and Kirby (26, currently living and working in Costa Rica). Both Sam and Kirby graduated from Fort Defiance High School.

Dan has a Bachelor's degree in Horticulture from Eastern Kentucky University (1982), a Master's in Plant Biology from Ohio University (1993), and a M.Div. from Eastern Mennonite Seminary (2010). He has spent most of his career working in educational and congregational settings. He has worked in the field of Outdoor Education, served as a classroom teacher at the Middle School, High School, and Community College



levels, has over 10 years of experience in the field of Christian Education and Children/Youth Ministry, and has spent the last 9 years as a United Methodist pastor, serving churches in the Virginia and East Ohio Annual Conferences.

In his spare time, Dan loves outdoor pursuits of all kinds. Current extracurricular activities include fly fishing, hiking, disc golf, and gardening. Dan is also an accomplished musician. He started playing guitar at the age of 12 and has been active as a semi-professional musician for many years. During this time his musical interests have included rock & roll, blues, folk, country, and bluegrass music. He has been involved with several bands singing lead and harmony vocals and playing guitar and mandolin.

Dan and Amy first moved to Virginia in 1993 and have lived in the vicinity of the Blue Ridge Mountains for most of the last 3 decades, including 5 years in Weyers Cave (2007-2012). They are excited to be returning to such a beautiful area and looking forward to serving the Bethany UMC congregation!

Missions Update

by Lori Mooney

Summertime is here and we hope that everyone gets a little getaway to celebrate making it through the pandemic. We all deserve a good little break.

Happy Father's Day to all the daddies here in our church. Thank you for all that you do for your family each day.

We want to say thank you to Pastor Susan and wish her good luck at Asbury UMC in Harrisonburg. Also, good luck wishes to Shawn Cook with his appointment at Parnassus UMC right near his new house in Churchville. We send a warm welcome to our incoming pastor, Dan Purdom.

We are still taking gently used clothing donations for the Green Hanger Project all year. Make sure to label your box or bag with "Green Hanger". No holes or stains, please. You can also donate personal hygiene items, such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body

wash, toothbrush, toothpaste, pads, etc. I don't know who the Dollar General guru is ... making all these new purchases and donating to Green Hanger, but thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!!

We will be doing "Cans and Kits" for conference this year. We will drop off completed items on June 19th from 2-4 pm to Grottoes UMC or Manor Memorial UMC. We will be collecting canned goods. And you can make up a modified kit to be donated ... school kits or hygiene kits. (See kit items below.) Please drop off these pre-made kits to the church by June 13th. Any questions, please contact Rosemary Wagoner.

Mission Project of the Month: Gideons. What began in 1908 as an Association of Christian businessmen placing Bibles in hotel rooms has evolved into an expanding mission to provide Scriptures to all people in nearly every facet of life. Today, the Gideons have taken more than 2 billion Scriptures in more than 95 languages to 200

countries, territories, and possessions across the globe. They exist as an advocate for the lost, to bring them the saving knowledge of the Word through not only placing and distributing Scriptures, but also through personal witnessing and by associating together for service. As a united force for the Gospel, they remain rooted in tradition, but operate under the firm belief that anyone can be a valuable asset to this invaluable cause.

I am sad to inform you that Maggie Rhodes is no longer my co-chair for missions. She has let me know that her family is looking at other churches in the area. I will miss you, Maggie. So, if anyone is looking to help with missions and be a co chair person, please let me know.

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

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

Modified Conference Kits



1. Modified School Kits: (1) pair of blunt scissors (round tip no plastic scissors), (1) box (24 count) crayons, (3) one subject spiral ring notebooks, (1) pack of loose-leaf paper (100-200 pages, wide or college rule), (1) hand held pencil sharpener, (1) 12" ruler, (6) unsharpened pencils, (1) 2" eraser, (1) one gallon re-sealable plastic bag. All exterior packaging should be removed except for: crayons, loose-leaf paper.
2. Modified Hygiene Kits: (1) hand towel (15X25 – 17X27 – No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels), (1) washcloth (no kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber cloths), (1) sturdy Comb w/ 6" of teeth (no picks, or combs with handles), (1) toenail / fingernail clipper, (1) bath sized soap (3oz bar or larger), (1) toothbrush, (1) toothpaste (6oz), (10) Adhesive bandages (3/4x3 inches), (1) shampoo (12-15oz), (1) One-gallon size re-sealable bag. All exterior Packing should be removed except for: soap, toothbrush, adhesive bandages.

Please drop your kit off at the church by Sunday, June 13!

Congratulations to Our Favorite High School Seniors



Nate Carroll Gunnell ...

Parents: Candice Shull

High School: Fort Defiance HS

Favorite activities: band, playing drums, Boy Scouts, attending Valley Vo-Tech

Favorite Class: Valley Vo-Tech Computers

Best Thing About Graduating: No more Zoom meetings!

Future Plans: Finish classes at Valley Vo-Tech and then attend Blue Ridge Community College

Favorite Movies: Scary movies

Favorite Pastime: Listening to music and hanging with friends

Favorite Bethany Memory: Youth Mission Trips with Pastor John & Shawn Cook

Favorite Bible Verse: "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." (Proverbs 16:3)

Emma Lorraine Riddle ...

Parents: Sean & Elizabeth Riddle

High School: Fort Defiance HS

Favorite activities: Cross Country, Track, Softball, Choir, Musicals

Favorite Class: Choir

Best Thing About Graduating: I will have the opportunity to be more independent and meet new people and make new memories at college.

Future Plans: Attending Christopher Newport University as a member of the Presidential Leadership Program, majoring in marketing with a minor in theatre and leadership

Favorite Movies: Titanic and Favorite Book is "The Hunger Games"

Favorite Pastime: Singing and performing

Favorite Bethany Memory: I have many favorite memories from growing up at Bethany. These include SS class with Leslie and Mae, Children's Choir and being Mary in the Christmas program.

Favorite Bible Verse: "But Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)



Congratulations to Our Favorite High School Seniors



Tiana Ryan ...

Parents: Dani Martlock & William Ryan, Sr.

High School: Turner Ashby HS

Favorite activities: Marching Band & Sound Tech for Theater

Favorite Class: History

Best Thing About Graduating: Being Done!

Future Plans: Attend Blue Ridge Community College in their nursing program and then transfer to VCU to complete her BSN

Favorite Movies: The Help and Hidden Figures

Favorite Pastime: Taking care of my new best friend, Loki

Favorite Bethany Memory: 30-Hour Famine

Camden Herron ...

Parents: Scott & Kelly Herron

High School: Fort Defiance HS

Favorite activities: Basketball & Baseball

Favorite Class: Leadership

Best Thing About Graduating: Being able to look forward to college and experience new things in the future

Future Plans: Attend Bridgewater College as a student athlete for baseball and major in Health & Exercise Science

Favorite Movies: Avengers: Endgame

Favorite Pastime: Snowboarding /Wakeboarding

Favorite Bethany Memory: Making apple dumplings

Favorite Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13



Congratulations to Our Favorite High School Seniors

Jacquez (Jac) Wesley Bridges ...

Parents: Leslie Wagoner

High School: Wilson Memorial HS

Favorite activities: Sign Language Club, Wellness Club, 9-year member of Augusta Archers 4-H Club, 3-year member of Augusta County Coding 4-H Club

Favorite Class: Geology

Best Thing About Graduating: Being DONE!

Future Plans: Attend Blue Ridge Community College to continue and receive additional certifications related to my technical studies. Find a job.

Favorite Movies: Gaming and traveling with family

Favorite Bethany Memory: Have many, but enjoyed bowling with the youth group

Favorite Bible Verse: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)



Update on Lloyd Meadows

CaringBridge Journal Entry by Susan Meadows ...

May 31, 2021

Hello dear family and friends,

First, I would like to apologize for taking so long to send an update on how Lloyd is doing. Life has been crazy busy but as I sit here on this beautiful Monday morning, I decided I needed to touch base with everyone.

All things considered, Lloyd has been doing pretty well. The improvements since last September are truly miraculous! The doctors did not expect him to make it to the end of 2020 and here he is at the end of May 2021 looking forward to the warm summer months! He likes to stay busy working in the yard, the garden, and the driveway. He does tire easily so he takes lots of breaks and naps often throughout the day. He continues to take the chemo pill 5 days out of every month. Most months he tolerates it pretty well but it always leaves him very tired and some months it leaves him feeling nauseous. The doctors have continued to reduce the dosage of steroids he is taking and that has helped tremendously with muscle fatigue and weakness. The MRIs (he has one every two months) shows that the main tumor has some very slight

growth but remains for the most part unchanged. Lloyd has lab work done once a week and they continue to be amazingly good. His memory is not great and he repeats himself often but rarely does he complain. Lloyd loves visitors and going out to lunch with friends.

Second, I want to thank everyone for all the cards, calls, texts, visits, lunch dates, and most importantly thank you for the prayers. We truly feel so blessed to have all of you in our lives.

As we are still learning to navigate our new normal, we continue to ask for your prayers. Even though this diagnosis has been incredibly difficult in so many ways, we have decided to choose joy and live each day with hope and gratitude. Please feel free to call, text or visit Lloyd (his cell phone is 540-810-1763.) He loves each of you and would like to see/hear from you.

God is good and we are truly blessed.



Lloyd enjoying lunch at Blue Mountain Brewery after his MRI and visit with neuro-oncologist. As we left the office he said, he felt like celebrating, so we did!

Thoughts from a Member ...

This is the day the Lord has made; rejoice and be glad in it.
(Psalms 118:24)

This past 15 or so months it may have been difficult to feel peace in saying this verse. We have been isolated from friends and family, closed off from the activities we would usually enjoy, stressing over happenings that we could not control and experiencing a lifestyle that was totally new to us. There may have been days when we had doubts that God was overseeing His world. We have probably all heard of that saying, 'When you are handed a lemon, make lemonade'. Yes, we can make something good come out of a bad experience. I learned this over the years when experiencing heartaches, sickness, and other tragedies. But having learned this, I tend to need to relearn how to make that lemonade.

There was a time in my career life when I was told that I needed to take control and be in charge. Others may have found that to be true in other situations, such as rearing children. This may be true in certain circumstances until I started thinking I was in control of my life. Again, this past year or so, I was reminded that God is in charge, not me. Years ago, I remember thinking this was good because being left to my own devices, I certainly can make a big mess. It is a relief to know that a higher power oversees my life and always will. I often ask why God would allow these things to happen but thus far I have come up with few answers. I realized that I do not need to know why, I just need to let Him continue to lead me through the life that he created and controls.



One mantra that made it easier this past year was 'Let go and let God'. When I became overly concerned about what was happening, this gave me the peace that God so freely gives us and is ours for the accepting. A sense of calm would occur when I reminded myself that God is my Heavenly Father and he knows and wants what is best for me. I get overwhelmed with joy when I fully let go and see how well God does when I stop fighting for control.

In closing, over the past 20 years, I have spent much time with my Bethany family and want to take this opportunity to thank you all for being a part of my support system, especially with your prayers and well wishes. I want to leave you with the mantra, 'Let go and let God' and pray this brings peace to your lives.

Blessings!

Geneva Burns

Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

Personally summertime is my favorite time! Sunshine, warm temps, family gatherings, picnics and vacations! But as Bethany's treasurer, it's usually not such a great time. During the summer months, the offering always goes down. People miss Sunday mornings taking advantage of the warm weather to do other things.

Even though you might miss a Sunday during the summer, please don't forget your offering during the summer months. One of the best ways to not forget is to set it up with online giving. You can set up a weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly offering. It's very easy to set up. Just go to the "Online Giving" icon on the church website (www.mybethanyumc.org). If you need assistance, please give me a call and I'll be glad to help you. We are seeing new faces every week at the in-person worship service. You are such a generous church. I'm confident that our folks will continue to be so! Get out and enjoy the summertime and I'll see you soon!

May 23, 2021 - Week 21		
Budget	221,259.00	
Where We Should Be		89,354.58
Where We Are		78,539.64
Deficit of		(10,814.94)
Net Percentage		-12.1%



Beginning Sunday, May 30, anyone who is fully vaccinated may be in the church building without a face mask! A person is fully vaccinated after receiving one shot of the J&J vaccine or two weeks after receiving the 2nd shot of either the

Moderna or Pfizer vaccines. Everyone else needs to continue wearing a well-fitting face mask. Social distancing will still be observed. If you can't social distance at least 6 feet, please check with the folks already seated to make sure they are okay with you in "their bubble." Let's respect the feelings and comfort zones of others. It will be so wonderful to see all the smiling faces!

And wait ... there's still more good news ... we can now SING along with the P&W team! If you haven't returned to in person worship services yet, this Sunday will be a great time to return! Can't wait to see you there!

If you would like to be an usher to help greet and seat folks, please contact Mary Beth Schwab at mschwab25@aol.com.

Prayer List

Members

Lloyd Meadows, Jean Radocha,
Jan Gorden

Extended Members

Don Smiley - brother of Carolyn Swartz
Michelle - daughter of Dianna Eicher
Scott - nephew of Dianna Eicher



June

3rd Becky Hawkins
5th Bettina Ruleman
7th Brenda Hiner
Briton Herron
Lucy Huffer
9th Jac Bridges
11th Amelia Hughes
12th Avery Craun
15th Terri Shifflett
18th Jonathan Northrop
20th Maggie Huffer
23rd Kelly Herron
Jim Miller
Phoebe Rhodes
24th Deja Moyer
26th Dianna Eicher
Mae Houff

28th Dave Williams
30th Pete Richards

July

2nd Kathy Frizzelle
Whitley Kile
3rd Thalia Casey
4th Tom Gorden
5th Daisy Castle
Grayson Metcalfe
Hayden Metcalfe
8th Avery Cox
11th Geneva Burns
12th Ramona Garrison
14th Jerry Sheets
16th Karen Ott
Ralph Reese
17th Sandy Gibson

17th Jean Radocha
19th Nancy Colvin
20th Taylor Rhodes
22nd Dan Harrell
25th Charlene Michael
27th Kathy Kile
30th Jacob Robertson
Adam Casey

If your birthday is listed incorrectly or not listed at all, please contact the office with the correct info. Thank you!



Bethany United Methodist Church

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Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



The Echo

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Susan Reaves, Pastor

757-653-7830 / reaves.susan.m@gmail.com

Marguerite McDonald, Organist & Choir Director

Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader

Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer

Phil & Ruth Ann Mikesell, Sextons

July Newsletter Deadline: June 20, 2021

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