



The Echo

August 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.



It's August and you know what that means!!!

Our Annual Ice Cream Social!!

Sunday, August 22 at 5:30 pm

Plan on making your award winning ice cream to serve to a hungry crowd!

There will be a prize for the best ice cream of the evening!

**If you are able to bring ice cream,
please sign up on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.**

Those not providing ice cream are asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

The church will provide hotdogs, buns, and drinks.

Don't forget your lawn chairs or blankets to sit outside under the trees.

This will be our first real social event since the pandemic began.

It will be a fun-filled afternoon that you don't want to miss!

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:3)

The apostle Paul opened almost all of his letters to the churches he helped to found with this very special phrase. It is no accident that the very first word of this formal address is "grace". And it is no accident that it is the very first word from me to you! Grace has been the first word in the Christian movement since its very beginning. Grace is the very foundation of the Christian message. As Christians, and especially as United Methodists, we are all familiar with this word and its meaning: **the unearned and undeserved love and blessings of God.**

Jesus was all about grace. He told many stories that tried to help people understand that they didn't have to earn God's love; that God's love was poured out on all of God's creation, even on those whom the religious folks of Jesus day and age felt were the least deserving of all. Folks like sinners, and tax collectors, and Samaritans, and lepers. The story of "The Prodigal Son" (Luke 15:11-32) and the story of "The Workers in the Vineyard" (Matthew 20:1-16) are classic examples of stories about the grace of God. These stories are about God's grace, but they also emphasize the fact that it is a part of our human nature to be offended by grace. We have this built in idea that everything should be fair, that people should get what they deserve. And so, the elder brother in the story of "The Prodigal Son" was offended that the younger brother was let off the hook with no

consequences for his reckless actions. The workers in the vineyard who had gone out to work early in the morning were offended that the workers who only worked the last few hours of the day received as much pay as they did.

Can you see how offensive grace can be? As modern-day Christians we still struggle with this notion of grace, especially when we see things through the eyes of the world. But when we see things through God's eyes we can begin to understand the mystery of grace. It is my prayer that as we grow together "in grace" we may all come to understand this a little better ourselves.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Dan

Grace to you
and peace
from God
our Father
and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

(1 Corinthians 1:3)



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 15
AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

**YOUTH (6TH - 12TH GRADES)
AND PARENTS**

**PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN THIS YOUTH SUMMIT
TO GIVE US YOUR INPUT ON FUTURE PLANS FOR OUR YOUTH GROUP.**



Missions Update

by Lori Mooney

Happy August! School will be back in session soon, so get those last minute trips in and enjoy the time that you still have off. We can all gather at the Ice Cream Social towards the end of the month. Please plan to attend, it will be our first real get together since the pandemic started in March 2020.

A huge THANK YOU to all the youth and adults who participated in the Youth Mission Trip to NC this year. We can't wait to hear all about it. Thank you to all the church members who donated money or food for this trip to happen. We couldn't do it without the help of all in the church. Thank you.

Thank you to all who donated kits for conference this year. We greatly appreciated it.

The weekend of Aug 6th-8th is the "no tax" weekend and Stuff the Bus in VA. If you are able, please go by a local Wal-Mart and make a monetary donation or buy some school supplies to donate to give to the kids in the county of the Wal-Mart that you visited.

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. We took another truckload of used clothing to Jenelle and dropped off at the end of July. Thanks to everyone who is donating their used clothes. This is such an amazing place to help. They are now called Embrace-A Center for Community. You can look them up online at embracewaynesboro.org.

Mission Project of the Month: Backpack Pals. Our church is one of several area churches that donates to Backpack Pals. This program sends a bag home on Friday for kids to have some food and snacks to carry them through the weekend when they don't have access to breakfast and lunch at school. The packing zone for this project is located in the basement of the Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren in Weyers Cave. We purchase food from the

Food Bank in Verona, Sharp Shopper, donations, and other places. The food that we get is distributed to the children at Clymore Elementary School. Each year we can have anywhere between 50-120 bags to give out each week. This helps keep our local children fed. It is a great outreach. If you would like to donate, please write in the memo line of your check "Backpack Pals". Any questions, please just ask me.

"Children are not things to be molded, but are people to be unfolded." – Jess Lair



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

Chair: Lori Mooney
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540-820-7394



A mother asked her nine year old son what he learned in Sunday School that day. He said the teach told them how God sent Moses behind enemy lines to rescue the Israelites and lead them out of Egypt. When they got to the Red Sea, the army built a pontoon bridge and everyone walked across safely. Then they saw the Egyptians coming, so Moses radioed for reinforcements. Bombers came and blew up the bridge, so the people were saved.

His mother asked, "Is that really what the teacher said?"

"No," he replied, "but if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believed it."

Keep Up the Good Work by Lori Mooney

Can I just say how proud I am to be part of the Bethany UMC congregation? I am so proud of each and everyone of you who have contributed to the Green Hanger Project with used and new clothing donations, shoe, purses, backpacks, new personal care items, etc. This church is definitely a loving and giving church.

On Monday, July 26th, I had set up a pre-arranged drop off with Jenelle Watson to drop off a second truckload of goodies for this group. She said we would meet around noon because the office wasn't still officially open. In case, you haven't heard the place is now called Embrace-A Center for Community. Jenelle shows up and must go through a back door and then come out to me.

There is another lady there and her name is Mary. She parks and comes up. I start asking her about some shoes and she says that she doesn't work there. Oh, I am sorry I just assumed. She said no I am picking up some stuff from Jenelle. Jenelle comes out with a shopping cart and then sees how much I have and says let me go get the rolling cart. I am talking to Mary and find out that she is picking up children's clothing that they can't use because the sizes were too small. Her church is doing a school drive and handing out school supplies. Embrace is donating the



clothes to them to hand out during their drive. So, I helped Mary load 11 huge bags into her SUV for their clothing give away. Mary helped me unload my truck to fill up the bins and push back into Embrace to later be sorted and given away.

Jenelle talked about this is what John Wesley wanted when he thought of making the United Methodist Church. All of us working together to help the people in this world. I thanked her for being the middleman and she just

pointed up in the air. She asked for us to share this story. This is our community, and we need to continue taking care of it the best that we know how. Mary was from Greenville UMC in Greenville, VA (on the south side of Staunton) and taking clothes for a school drive to give away down there. I was delivering clothes from Weyers Cave, VA to be used as they are needed. Both ends of the county coming together in Waynesboro and doing God's work to cover the whole area. Thank you for making this possible. Keep up the good work Bethany folks. God is looking down and smiling. So, is John Wesley. So, are all the children who will be receiving these clothes and personal items.

With much love and gratitude,

Lori Mooney



Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

August already! Man, the summer seems to be flying by!! Soon we'll start seeing the beginning colors of fall. You know that makes me sad because I love summer! And this summer has really been a blessing since we are back to in person church, without masks! It is so wonderful to see so many people returning to church and having a chance to talk to people face to face and catch up on their lives. If you haven't returned to church yet, now is the time!! My first Sunday back felt like I was coming home after being gone for a long time. I went home with a big smile on my face. Worshipping together as a church family was great.

With folks returning back to church, our finances are in much better shape than they have been all year! We had an undesignated donation of \$8,860 from Roy Lee Stroop's daughter as she settled his estate. Thank you so much. That has helped to get our receipts up to where they should be. We ask that you please continue to support Bethany with your monetary gifts and gifts of your time and talents. You will be blessed as much as you bless the church.

| July 31 - Week 30 | | |
|--------------------|------------|------------|
| Budget | 221,259.00 | |
| Where We Should Be | | 127,649.40 |
| Where We Are | | 120,656.57 |
| Deficit of | | (6,992.83) |
| Net Percentage | | -5.5% |



If you would like to be part of Women's Ministries, please contact Cindy Kite at 540-820-5604 or office.bethany@gmail.com. We have a great time working together to plan fun fellowship events for the ladies of Bethany along with mission projects and other events for the entire church. Our first event will be the Ice Cream Social scheduled for Sunday, August 22 at 5:30 pm. We need you and your ideas for events.



Congratulations to ...

Zac and Laura Hittie on the birth of their son, Drew Elijah Hittie, born on Tuesday, July 27. He weighed in at 7 lb., 6 oz. and 20.25 inches long. Momma and baby are doing great. If you would like to send them a card, the address is ... 77 Shenandoah Avenue, Harrisonburg, VA 22802.

Please be in prayer for ...

Members: Lloyd Meadows, Jean Radocha, Johnnie Barr, Carolyn Roller

Extended Members: John Morris - brother-in-law of Jim Miller, Ian Morris (16 yr old in ICU fighting COVID), Don Smiley - brother of Carolyn Swartz

There will be a "Celebration of Life" for Charles "Bud" Somers on Saturday, August 14 at 10 am at the Kyger Funeral Home in Harrisonburg with the Rev. Jim Logan officiating.

August

- 1 Eddie Lynn
- 3 Joe Meek
- 5 Bill Kile
- 9 Jim Peterson
- 10 Julie Ritchie
- 11 Christian Michael
Scott Williams
- 13 Donald Truslow
- 14 Judy Faby
- 17 Casey Craun
- 18 Kevin Huffer
- 19 Dale Roller
- 20 Lindy Sheets
Robert Hill



- 20 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
- 17 Jean Radocha
- 18 Joe Howard
Hattie Castle
- 19 Val Hiner
- 20 Sandra Elkins
- 22 Ben Michael
- 24 Elva Shifflett
- 26 Weezer Crawford



Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



Sunday, August 22

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Marguerite McDonald, Organist & Choir Director
Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer

Sept. Newsletter Deadline: August 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