



September 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.



BRUNCH



UNDER THE TREES

Sunday, September 19

AFTER the worship service (and weather permitting) we will have Brunch Under the Trees.

Bring your lawn chair or a blanket.

Some tables will be provided on the blacktop for those who might struggle navigating the church yard.

All food will be provided including beverages, pastries and fruit and will be served in a "Covid-safe" manner.

Please plan to stay on the 19th and enjoy a time of food and fellowship.

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:35-40

... an expert in the law, tested him with this question:
"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"
Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first
and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love
your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets
hang on these two commandments."

Love God with all your heart, mind and soul, and love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus clearly says that "all the law and the prophets" hang on these two commandments. "All the law and the prophets" is a reference to the Hebrew Bible which we call the Old Testament. And so, what Jesus is really saying is that these two simple commandments are more important than anything else in the whole Bible. In other words, these two general commandments preclude any other more specific commandments or writings in the entire Bible. We are to love God unconditionally (like God loves us), and we are to put the needs and concerns of our neighbor on an equal level with our own needs and concerns. We are called to be God-centered instead of self-centered. Putting the interests of God, and of our neighbor, before our own self interests.

This story is also told in the Gospel of Luke (10:25-37) but with a bit of a different twist. In Luke's version of the story the "expert in the law" has a follow up question for Jesus. He basically says "well if that is the case then who exactly is my neighbor?" Jesus goes on to tell the story

that we know as "The Parable of the Good Samaritan". For us to understand the implications of this parable we must understand how the Jewish people felt about Samaritans. One reference I found sums it up nicely: "Samaritans were generally considered "half-breeds" and were universally despised by the Jews". Jesus is saying that our neighbors often aren't the people like us, or even the people that we like. In fact, the neighbor that we are supposed to treat with the same concern that we have for ourselves could be one of our worst enemies, or someone that we really hate. If Jesus retold the story to us today, who would he choose to represent the neighbor? Think about it.....

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Dan



There is a Church Council meeting scheduled for
Thursday, September 16 at 6:30 pm.

All church officers and committee chairs are encouraged to attend ...
all others are welcome to join us.

Missions Update by Lori Mooney

September is here. Hope everyone is ready for summer to be over and fall is coming. We are still dealing with the coronavirus. Please mask up in places that are requiring it again and take care of yourselves. We want everyone to stay safe and healthy.

Thank you to all who donated to the Shoes for South River project. We will have at least 25 pairs of shoes to donate to South River Elementary.



Keep donations coming for the Green Hanger (Embrace-A Center for Community) project. All used

clothing donations are appreciated and will be well used by someone else in the community. We are also taking any new undergarments, new socks, and new toiletry items for men and women.

Mission focus for the month will be Disaster Relief Fund. We have the UMCOR Disaster Relief Fund and anything sent to them will aid in the recovery effort in Haiti. There is also a VAUMC Disaster Relief to Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti and this fund will help the churches of EMH directly impacted by the earthquake to help their recovery. This fund will also help provide food, water filters, kits, and traps directly to people in the circuits (districts) impacted. You can write your check out to the church



and in the memo line you please note which fund you would like it to go to UMCOR or VAUMC disaster relief. Thank you for all donations.

If there is anyone you know that needs any help, please contact me.

Chair: Lori Mooney

Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com
540-820-7394

What Would You Say?

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?"

Artie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man."

Merle said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in peoples lives."

Don said, "I'd like them to say, 'Look! He's moving!'"



Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

September is here and fall is on the way! Kids and teachers are back at school, football has kicked off (go Hokies!) and soon, the leaves will start floating to the ground in their many colors. It is a beautiful time of the year. Take time to go outdoors and take in the beauty of our Lord. Breathe it in and thank the Lord for all the blessings he rains down on us everyday.

God has certainly blessed Bethany! Due to two generous donations we are \$1,508.35 above our projected budget! I have not seen that since I took over the position of Treasurer! Thank you to everyone who continues to support Bethany! It is only because of your generosity that our church can continue to operate and grow. You are a blessing the Lord has rained down on Bethany! And I appreciate everyone of you! Let's keep up the good work in the months ahead.

August 31 - Week 35		
Budget	221,259.00	
Where We Should Be		148,924.30
Where We Are		<u>150,432.65</u>
Deficit of		1,508.35
Net Percentage		1.0%

Youth Mission Trip

by Lorna Frizzelle

Sixteen years ago, I went on my first youth mission trip with the BUMs while I was 5 months pregnant with Jake. Watching Jackie lead the group alongside parents of the youth, I was amazed at the dedication and servant hearts of everyone on the trip. In my heart, I hoped that the tradition would continue and that I would be able to one day go with my kids.

The tradition continued year after year and every time the youth presented their trip, I sat in the pew and tears ran down my face. Our church loves and supports the youth and the youth grow in their faith with the opportunity. This year was a little different, but the church family rallied and found a way to make the tradition continue.

Thank you church family for allowing the following to happen....15 people served in 3 homes of people who

were in need. Five people who had never been on a mission trip got to experience their first one. We watched the sunrise and sunset over water everyday. Ten youth bonded with Jackie games. Five parents got to serve beside their kids and give back to something bigger than themselves. We ate VERY well thanks to Jackie. Five people from our church family provided devotions to have us focus on fearless faith. All 16 of us tackled the hardest high ropes course we had ever seen!

I hope that you will join the youth as they present their trip during the church service on Sunday, September 12th. Without you, it would not have been possible. Seeing their servant hearts share their experience might have you in tears in your pew and don't worry - you will not be alone.

Thank you!

Lorna Frizzelle



Men's Prayer Breakfast

is making a comeback! We will meet on



Saturday, Sept. 18 at 8 am in the church fellowship hall. All men are invited to come and enjoy breakfast, fellowship and have a time of prayer for our members, family, extended family, our community and the world. Questions? Call or text Eddie Moyer at 540-294-6616.

Young at Hearts

will meet for their monthly luncheon on Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 12 noon. Join us at Mrs. Rows in Staunton for some good food, fun and some of the best fellowship around. All folks, 55 or older, but still "young at heart" are invited to join us! Please contact Carolyn Swartz at 540-820-9798 or swartz1204@gmail.com so she will know how many to expect.



Caring Cards

invites you to join them on Wednesday, Sept. 8 at 10 am to write cards and notes of encouragement to our members who might need a little encouragement, are sick, have birthdays, etc. As we write, we have a good time fellowshiping together. Please join us! Questions? Contact Geneva Burns at urnsva@comcast.net.



A Message from your Post-Covid Recovery Group (PRG Team)

Because of the increase in COVID-19 cases in Augusta County, the PRG has decided to modify our current mask policy to the following ...

Until further notice, we ENCOURAGE ALL PERSONS, REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS, TO WEAR A MASK DURING WORSHIP.

NOTE: This does not mean that masks are mandatory for attendance vaccinated persons may still choose either option. We want to minimize the risk of transmission within our congregational (and extended) family.

We will continue to respect the personal decisions of those who choose either option.

If there are any questions or concerns, please address them to one of your PRG representatives: Julie Ritchie, Randy Roller, Mike Huffer, Stanley Houff, Cindy Kite, Dan Purdom, Jackie Dunsmore, Jenifer Williams

Thank you to many folks who attended, brought food or made ice cream for the Ice Cream Social. We had a great turnout and everyone had a wonderful afternoon eating hotdogs, enjoying the many side dishes, desserts and homemade ice cream along with fellowshiping with one another.

Jeff and Julie Ritchie won "Best Ice Cream" with their chocolate peanut butter creation! Congratulations!

A big thank you to Kim & Eddie Moyer and Randy Kite for helping set up, cook, and clean up. Thanks also to the many others who helped set up tables, carry out food, clean up and carry tables back inside! You are all a blessing!

Cindy Kite



Dear Bethany Family,

Thank you so much for recognizing myself and my fellow 2021 graduates. Thank you for the Amazon gift card given by the church. Bethany is a very special place for me. Many of you have supported me not only during graduation but always. Being born and raised in the Bethany family I cherish all the warm greetings, words of encouragement, and special friendships.

Love
Jac Bridges



Please be in prayer for ...

Members:

Lloyd Meadows, Jean Radocha,
Johnnie Barr, Carolyn Roller,
Audrey Bradshaw, Laura Lucas,
Jan Gorden, Faye Youmans

Extended Members:

Ian Morris (16 yr old in ICU fighting COVID)
Don Smiley - brother of Carolyn Swartz
Duane - friend of Leslie Wagoner
Isaac Ward, Jr. - father of Lori Mooney

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

October

- 1 Carolyn Roller
Tara Stroop
- 2 Wayne Frizzelle
- 3 Linda Byers
Landon Ryan
- 4 Brantley Metcalfe
- 6 Mary Beth Hill
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
- 29 Lois Huffer
Ruth Ann Mikesell
Amy Michael
- 30 Kim Hull
Mary Tyree
- 31 Doug Hiner
Leslie Wagoner



SEPTEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 	4
5	6 	7 12 pm - Young at Hearts (Mrs. Rowe's in Staunton)	8 10 am - Caring Cards	9	10	11
CINDY ON VACATION - OFFICE CLOSED						
12 Youth Sunday Meal after the Worship Service 	13 5:30 pm - Worship Meeting	14	15	16 6:30 pm - Church Council Meeting	17	18 8 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast 
19 	20 October Newsletter Deadline	21 HAPPY Fall Y'all 	22	23	24	25
PASTOR DAN ON VACATION						
26 Pastor Dan on Vacation	27	28	29	30 		

Bethany United Methodist Church

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"The Echo"

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

Oct. Newsletter Deadline: Sept. 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