

January 2022

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.



Be connected. Be faithful. Be involved.

Dear Church Family,

The hope and joy of a New Year! Symbolically in early January, we dream and anticipate new commitments to projects and meeting personal goals. We carry with us the events that shaped our 2021 year. While our experiences differ (joys, successes, challenges, and maybe even the loss of loved ones) we know God has a plan for us and for our church.

In our personal lives, change in our families starts with us as individuals. As a church family what would you like to see? Are there things from Bethany's past that you would like to see restored? What are those things we do as a church family today that you would like to see maintained? Are there new branches and sequels to our mission work you would like to see considered? Your Bethany church council strives to serve the needs of you and the church family as a whole. As we envision a new year, let's first consider Bethany's vision to connect with God in community, grow in our likeness to Jesus Christ, and serve our neighbors.

May we renew our commitment to God and embrace challenges that will grow our faith and church.

Be connected. Be faithful. Be involved. Become bold in serving God by trying something new in 2022.

Elizabeth Williams
Church Council Chair



From the Pastor's Desk

♦♦♦

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Sharing the Gospel with others is one of our most important jobs as followers of Christ. This scripture from one of Paul's letters to the Corinthians reinforces this calling in a beautiful and eloquent way:

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us;

Ambassadors for Christ sounds like an important job, doesn't it? So, we should try to be well prepared for the work ahead. Like the disciples on the Day of Pentecost, we need to be able to translate the "Good News" into a language our hearers can understand. Part of being a good ambassador is being a good translator. We need to be able to put the "Gospel" into words that make sense to the people we are talking to. And to do this we need to have a sound understanding of the message ourselves. Maybe we need to think more about what we mean by that Gospel message, and what it can mean for others. Here's what I think it means, in rather simple terms that anyone can understand:

God loves you just the way you are!

Try telling somebody that one day.
Try telling yourself. Do you believe it?
Because you should. It's the "Good News". It's the "Gospel"!

Here's a way you can put that love into practice in your own life:

- Look at each other as through the eyes of Christ
- Look at the stranger as through the eyes of Christ
- Look at your world as through the eyes of Christ
- Look at yourself as through the eyes of Christ

God loves you just the way you are!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Dan



Missions Update ... by Lori Mooney

January, a new year, and a new start. Happy 2022! New years and new plans are always something to look forward to. Wishing everyone a great year.

A big thank you to all who helped with ringing the Bell for the Salvation Army. This is always a worthy cause because they help in so many ways.

Dec. 5th Sunday, Mission Encounters was so amazing. Thanks to all who made donations and helped at the end of church with all the things going on. It was so good to see all our church members together again working to help others. I know all donations were appreciated by all the groups that we helped that day. Bethany is a true blessing, and it shows with community projects like this.

Thank you to those who donated money to the Gideons to help them

purchase bibles to help spread God's word. We collected \$194!



We are still taking gently used clothing donations for the Green Hanger Project/Embrace, but this is the last month. Make sure to label your box or bag with "Embrace" and place in the social hall area. No holes or stains, please. You can also donate

personal hygiene items, such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste, pads, etc. 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. Please have items to the church by the end of January. Thank you.

Our very own, Amy Purdom (yes, the pastor's wife), is an ambassador for Equal Exchange. She told me about this wonderful group, and I looked them up

on their website and learned so much about them. They are all about fairly traded sources. They have all different kinds of things that you can purchase on their website and support this cause. Coffee, tea, hot sauce, olive oil, CHOCOLATE, hot cocoa, etc. If anyone would like to check out the website and if you would like to order anything, then please contact Amy. She will put an order together, so you don't have to pay shipping fees, whenever there are enough people ordering. Please look them up at equalexchange.coop. Or you can get with me, and I will provide a list of what all they offer. Any questions, please ask Amy (because she knows more) or you can ask me, and I will try to find out. Thank you for looking into supporting this mission.

"Outstanding people have one thing in common: an absolute sense of mission."
- Zig Ziglar

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

Chair: Lori Mooney, 540-820-7394
Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com

Results of Worship Survey

At one of our recent meetings, the Worship Team reviewed the results of the "Worship Survey" that we conducted several weeks ago. While there were a variety of opinions expressed by survey participants, the most common response was that folks were satisfied continuing with the current 9:30 am Blended Worship Service, (at least) until we get to the point where we are beginning to fill up the sanctuary once again. For those of you hoping for a return to Traditional Worship at 11:00 am, we want to assure you that we will continue to monitor the situation with an eye toward making this move when the timing seems right. Thanks to everyone who participated in the survey! We valued each of the thoughtful responses that we received. We also welcome any additional feedback that you may have regarding this issue. Comments may be directed to Pastor Dan or Jackie Dunsmore (Worship Team Chair).

Blessings, The Worship Team



Thank You!

“On behalf of the Augusta North Gideons, we are most appreciative of the success in our “Birthday for Jesus” Christmas Tree Youth project, promoted by Lori Mooney. This will enable us to secure 39 Bibles to be placed in Hotels/Motels, Doctors’ offices, Funeral Homes , etc, and/or 155 Personal (pocket-size) Testaments that we distribute person-to-person within our Augusta County area. The real purpose behind this project was to have our Youth understand that Christmas Day is also the Birthday of our Jesus, and allows our Youth to provide a gift on his birthday that allows others to come to know Jesus, as we do ! The Gideons are very proud of our Bethany Youth (and Lori Mooney) for their support ! “

H Ken Elkins
Augusta North Gideons



Thank you to the Worship Team who worked overtime to bring us the best Advent Season possible!

It takes a lot of planning, coordinating, and work to make this happen.

Thanks to Jackie Dunsmore, Marguerite McDonald, Dale Roller, Dani Martlock, and Mary Beth Schwab.

And also to Pam Roller, Maggie Huffer, and the many others who helped set up trees, decorate, set out food, cleaned up the kitchen, made coffee, etc. THANK YOU!

It wouldn't have been successful without any of you!

Financial Update by Cindy Kite

Here we are again ... at the beginning of another year. Another year full of hopes and dreams. Full of expectations and excitement. We are full of hopes that this pandemic will soon die down and life will return to normal ... well, as normal as it can be. We dream about our church returning to two services because the sanctuary has become filled to compacity as so many folks have returned to church and there are so many new faces.

We are full of expectations for a year of fellowship time, study time, worship time and mission time that we can all share together as a church family. We are excited about the new possibilities that will come this year at Bethany. Mission projects. A large youth group full of excited teenagers looking to learn about God and sharing what they learn with others. A children's ministry that is overflowing! A congregation that is overly generous. Let's dream BIG!! Let's support Pastor Dan. Let's make 2022 the best year yet at Bethany!!

So let's look backwards for a minute. Our 2021 budget was set at \$221,259.00. That is what we had hoped to have in giving at the end of the year. We didn't quite meet that goal, but we came close!! We were blessed with giving of \$210,303.26, which is only 5% behind what we were hoping. In 2020, we ended the year almost 11% behind. I know it was a hard year for everyone, but you faithfully supported Bethany. We have been able to continue to worship, pay our bills and our employees and have a little nest egg for the beginning of 2022. Thank you! Thank you for your faithfulness. For your generosity. And for loving your church family.

Week 52 - December 21, 2021		
Budget	221,259.00	
Where We Should Be		221,259.00
Where We Are		210,303.26
Deficit of		(10,955.74)
Net Percentage		-5.0%
Expenses as of 12/31/21		188,716.52



Only God knows what lays ahead for Bethany and the rest of the world in 2022. Just know he has a plan for all of us. We just need to be still and know that he is in charge. He won't let us down. He will continue to bless us. As Elizabeth said, **“Be connected. Be faithful. Be involved. Become bold in serving God by trying something new in 2022.”** Please continue to give in 2022. If you aren't giving, make a resolution to give something, anything each month this year.

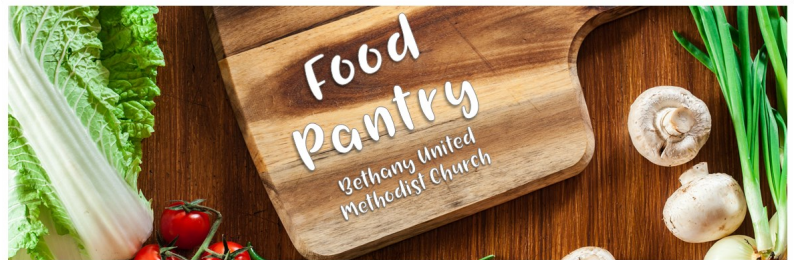
Bethany's Food Pantry

Bethany continues to serve our neighbors most every Monday afternoon between 4 and 5:30 pm by providing food to those who need it. Even though the Food Pantry is still a "drive thru" service, it continues to serve the needs of the community. Thank you to those who go to the Blue Ridge Area Food Pantry in Verona on Monday mornings to pick up food. Thank you to those who load up the bags and boxes with food each week. Thank you to those who are faithful in coming on Monday afternoons to meet our neighbors and load up their vehicles. You are all amazing!

And thank you to the many who have been very supportive of the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry ended the year with \$39,172.29 in their account. Some of this is due to not having to pay for food in the early months of 2021. It is also due to the generous donations from area businesses.

Please remember there is a basket in the foyer for food and other donations. The Food Pantry is always in need of diapers! Diapers of all sizes. If you can, please bring a bag of diapers for the Food Pantry this month! You can leave the diapers in or near the basket. They will be distributed as needed by our Food Pantry volunteers.

A special thank you to Wayne and Kathy Frizzelle for being dedicated volunteers each week!!



A Heartfelt Prayer

Little Emma had been restless in church, and her mother took her for a time-out in the nursery. Shamed to be with the babies again, Emma emerged chastened and subdued. "I prayed about how I acted," she told her mother on the way back into church.

Impressed, her mother assured her, "Honey, if you asked God to help you behave, He will do that."

"Oh," the child replied, "I didn't ask God to help me behave, I asked Him to help you put up with me."



Since January is the time to make new resolutions, make a resolution to become involved in the ministries at Bethany. There are many places and ministries in which you can help. Prayerfully seek God's guidance to see where you fit in ... and then step out of your comfort zone and VOLUNTEER!!

PLACES TO VOLUNTEER

- Be a GREETER. Talk to Mary Beth Schwab and she'll give you all the details you need. Or you can sign up on the sheet in the foyer.
- Help with REFRESHMENTS on Sunday mornings. We need volunteers to make coffee and set out light snacks. Get together with a friend and support this small ministry! There is a sign up sheet in the foyer.
- Join the P&W Band. Talk to Jackie Dunsmore or Dale Roller. They are always in need of singers and those who play instruments.
- Help with CHILDREN'S CHURCH on Sunday mornings. Lesson plans are prepared for you along with all the materials you need. Just donate your time!
- Volunteer for positions that haven't been filled ... Food & Fellowship Coordinator, Nursery Coordinator, or Bereavement Coordinator.



Sunday Morning Refreshments

One way of showing hospitality to visitors and to provide a time of fellowship for all is during our Sunday morning refreshments. Coffee, tea, juice and a few snack items are a highlight for many, especially our children! We are having a tough time getting folks to sign up to provide this service. We thought that clarifying some concerns might be helpful. First, if you are setting up you do NOT need to provide food. There will ALWAYS be food provided. If anyone would like to bring in some goodies to be used that day or at another time, that is wonderful, but not necessary. If you do leave food, please clearly mark that it is for morning refreshments. Second, clear directions are posted in the kitchen for the location of food items, paper products, how to make coffee and a suggested set up.

We need folks (and teams of 2 make it so easy) to sign up. PLEASE consider one Sunday a month or at least every other month. We want to provide this special time for the church family to mingle and talk; however, it's often the folks who are already busy on Sunday morning who are trying to do refreshments as well. Sign up sheets are in the foyer. Thanks to those of you who we know will answer this need! Questions? Talk to Julie Ritchie or Jackie Dunsmore.

January

1st	Kim Moyer	3rd	Gary Ruleman
2nd	Garrett Simmons	4th	Pam Lynn
7th	Jake Dunsmore		Ron Castle
	MacKenzie Crawford	5th	Scott Herron
8th	Krisalyn Mooney	6th	Dylan Snyder
11th	Liam Howard	11th	Paige Crawford
12th	Billy Ryan	13th	Rebecca Castle
13th	Abby Michael	14th	Bradley Dunsmore
15th	Mark Whitecotton	18th	Laura Lucas
	Sharon Northrop	19th	Natalie Hiner
17th	Rhylan Metcalfe	21st	Sandra Campbell
18th	Abe Smith	If your birthday is listed on the wrong day, or has been missed, please notify the office at office.bethany@gmail.com.	
21st	Barbara Miller		
	Pam Roller		
	Randy Roller		
27th	Jean Houff		
28th	Peggy Lucas		
30th	Sarah Simmons		

February

1st	Jackie Dunsmore
	Megan Kile
2nd	Reid Hill

Happy Birthday

Prayer List

Members

Leslie Wagoner, Cindy Kite, Mary Beth Schwab, Hazel Truslow, Carolyn Roller, Susan Meadows and family, Jackie Dunsmore, Gary Ruleman

Extended Family

Riley Peery - niece of Kevin & Tara Stroop

Congratulations to Jacqueline Surrato Peery on the birth of her daughter, Riley, born Monday, January 3. Riley is just 3 lbs. 9 ozs. and is expected to remain in the NICU at UVA for the next few weeks. Jacqueline is the granddaughter of the late Roy Lee Stroop and a former BUMI

We extend Christian sympathy to the family of Johnnie Barr who went to his heavenly home on January 6.

Please keep Terri & Barry Shifflett, Lisa & Avery Cox, and Brian, Kelly & Layne Shifflett in your prayers.

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 5:30 pm - SPPRC Meeting	4 10 am - Caring Cards 12 pm - Young at Hearts Luncheon	5	6 <i>Find joy in the ordinary</i>	7	8 <i>Jesus loves me THIS I know for the BIBLE tells ME SO</i>
9	10 6 pm - Worship Meeting	11	12	13	14	15 8 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast
16	17 	18	19 	20 Articles for the February Newsletter Due!	21	22 10 am - 2 pm Fellowship Hall Reserved
23	24 	25	26	27  Chocolate Cake Day	28	29 <i>BE THE REASON SOMEONE SMILES TODAY</i>
30	31	February 1 Young at Hearts Luncheon at O'Neil's in H'burg				

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Become bold in serving God by trying something new in 2022."*

Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org

ONE
kind word
can
CHANGE
someone's
ENTIRE DAY
Anna Kutsanova



The Echo

"The Echo"

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Dan Purdom Pastor
540-292-4028
danprdm@gmail.com

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

February Newsletter Deadline: Jan. 20, 2022

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