



The Echo

March 2022

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

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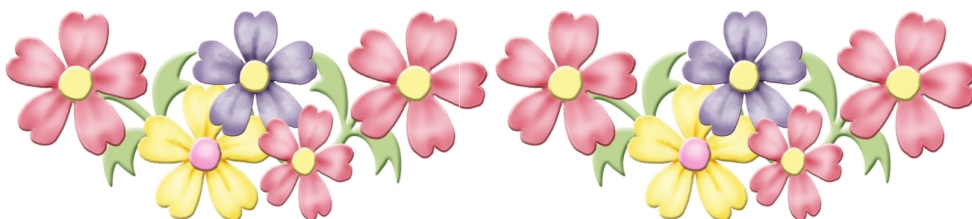
If you would like ...
and currently don't
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newsletter
and other important
updates by email, please
send your email address
to Cindy Kite at
office.bethany@gmail.com.



welcome spring

For behold, the winter is past;
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.

song of solomon 2:11-12



From the Pastor's Desk

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. (Psalm 19:1-4)

I was reminded of this scripture the other day as I was driving from my home in Staunton out to the church. I just can't help marveling at the beauty of God's creation, especially in such a scenic location as the Shenandoah Valley, bounded on the east by Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, and on the west by the Allegheny Range. When I consider the beauty, intricacy, and diversity of the natural world I can plainly see the hand of God at work in creation. That's what the psalmist is trying to convey in the scripture quoted above. It's the same message that the

Apostle Paul is going for in this passage from his Epistle to the Romans:

Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. (Romans 1:20)

We can learn a lot about God just by observing the natural world. But there are some things about God that cannot be deduced from natural observation. That is why God chose to enter into our world as the fully human Jesus of Nazareth whom we proclaim as Christ (the anointed one) - Immanuel, God with us (Matthew 1:23). By getting to know this Jesus we are provided an even deeper insight into the nature of God. From Jesus we learn that God is loving, merciful, forgiving, compassionate, patient, gentle and kind. Jesus hangs out with sinners of all kinds. Jesus has a special concern for the poor

and the marginalized. Jesus is willing to give up his own life for the sake of these "little ones"...and for us!

Learn what you can about the nature of God from observing and spending time in God's wonderful creation. Spending time in nature is a most pleasant spiritual discipline! I encourage you to get outdoors as often as you can this coming month. I'd also like to invite (and encourage) you to take some time to get to know Jesus better in the coming weeks. Spend time reading the Gospels. Spend time in prayer, in communion with our Lord and Savior.

And may you continue to grow in grace and wisdom as you seek to become more aware of God's eternal presence and support.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Dan

**For ever since the world was created,
people have seen the earth and sky.
Through everything God made,
they can clearly see his invisible
qualities—his eternal power and
divine nature.
So they have no excuse
for not knowing God.
(Romans 1:20 NLT)**

Missions Update by Lori Mooney

March... time marches on and it seems to keep getting faster and faster. We hope this month has good weather and it isn't too crazy to end wintertime.

March 2 is Ash Wednesday, and we are gathering items for the **ACTION PACKS** that we are putting together for **Voices of the Martyrs**. There is a sign-up sheet in the front hall, if you would like to donate one of the items or you can donate money to help buy the items not purchased or help pay shipping costs. We hope you can make it out to the Ash Wednesday service to enjoy a light meal, a grand service given by our very own Dan Purdom, imposition of ashes, and packing these items for this spectacular group. Thank you for all donations.

SOLES4SOULS

Turning shoes and clothing into opportunity

During the Lent Season, from Ash Wednesday until Easter, we will be accepting **SHOES FOR SOLES4SOULS**. Any used shoes are acceptable to donate to this group. We have sent shoes to this group before, and it is a great organization. They transport the shoes to a vetted nonprofits in the developing nations, who purchase them for an average of a \$1 a pair. The nonprofit partners provide training and support where job opportunities

WE MAKE
A LIVING
BY WHAT WE GET,
BUT WE MAKE
A LIFE BY
WHAT WE GIVE.

don't currently exist. People start small businesses selling shoes within their local community. Selling shoes generates the income business owners need to lift themselves and their families out of poverty and an entire community has access to affordable shoes. Since 2006, they have kept 51 million pounds of textiles out of the landfills (including 35 million pairs of shoes). They have distributed them in 127 countries and all 50 US States. So, if you have some used shoes and you want to get rid of them, please donate for this great cause. This gives you a reason to get you a new pair and donate your used ones. Clean out those closets and let's see how many pairs our church can donate. 50, 100, 150, or 200? Only time will tell. Ask friends and family members if they would be willing to help. Thank you for all the donations. No matter what number we come up with in the end, we are helping others out and that is what missions is all about.



Mission Spotlight for the month: OPEN DOORS

They are an organization that helps provide housing to the homeless. They hopped from different churches in the community each week until they found a permanent place now at the Old Red Front Supermarket. They are now able to be open more weeks to help those in need. Your donations to Open Doors, keeps the doors open. Please consider donating to this mission because we all need a safe place to lay our head at night. Thank you.

"The purpose of the local church is not primarily to be one's church home or extended family, though it can be at times. And it is not to survive by obtaining more people for its support base. Its purpose is to invite people to be part of the true mission of the church. Reception into the church is only a threshold to involvement in its mission. The task of the church is not to accumulate attendees. The church is a school for developing agents of the new creation from among those who are the beneficiaries of God's grace."

— Peter L. Steinke

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

Are you tired of being cooped up in the house? Would you like to get outside in the fresh air? Do you like the smell of fresh cut grass? If you answered yes to any of these questions, have we got the perfect opportunity for you to serve at Bethany.

The Trustees are looking for volunteers to mow the church lawn this summer ... yes, it's almost that time of year! The easiest thing, if you're interested, is to sign up for an entire month from April through October. If you need a break or can't make it a week, we will have volunteers ready to assist



you.

The church has its own zero-turn mower and you will be reimbursed for any gas you need to provide for the mower. And you can mow at any time, any day of the week ... with the exception of course, Sunday mornings!

If you would be willing to help out this summer, please contact Cindy at the church office (540-234-8880 or office.bethany@gmail.com) to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Williams.

We also need people to volunteer to be a fill-in when needed!! Please help us keep our church lawn beautiful and inviting all summer long!

Little Angel!

Little Johnny's new baby brother was screaming up a storm. Johnny asked his mom, "Where'd he come from?" "He came from heaven, Johnny." Johnny responded, "Wow! I can see why they threw him out!"



Helpful Prayer

Billy had been misbehaving and was sent to his room. After a while he emerged and informed his mother that he had thought it over and then said a prayer. "Fine," said the pleased mother. "If you asked God to help you not misbehave, He will help you." "Oh, I didn't ask Him to help me not misbehave," said Johnny. "I asked Him to help you put up with me."

Young at Hearts

will meet on Tuesday, April 5 at 12 noon at Thomas House in Dayton.

All folks 55 and over are invited to join this fun group for good food, fun and fellowship! Please contact Carolyn Swartz at 540-820-9798 or swartz1204@gmail.com.

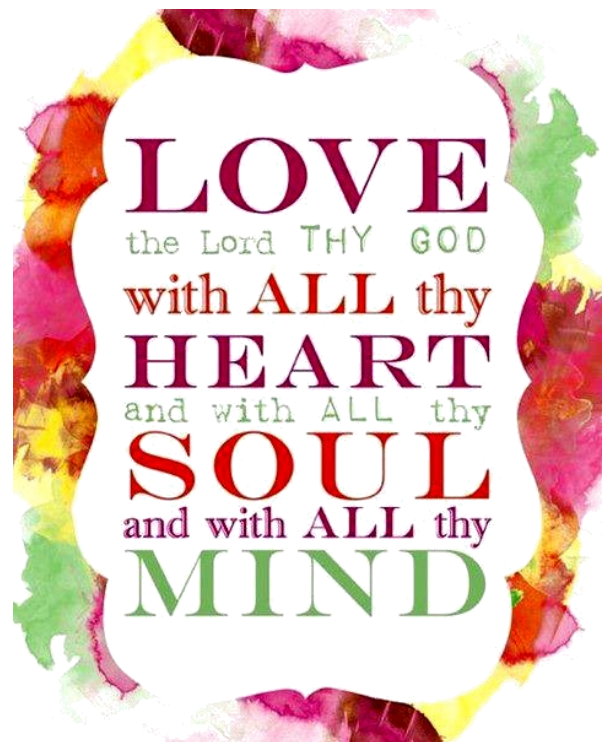


Men's Prayer Breakfast

will be held on Saturday, March 19 at 8 am.



All men in the church are encouraged to join us for breakfast and then a time of prayer and fellowship. Questions? Contact Eddie Moyer at canesfinsfan@aol.com or 540-294-6616.



HEY KIDS!

You're Invited

Saturday,
APRIL 16
10:30-12:00 PM



Easter Egg Hunt

(rain or shine)

Bethany United Methodist Church
3700 Lee Highway, Weyers Cave
Puppet Show & CRAFTS & SNACKS

EASTER EGG HUNT DONATIONS NEEDED



We will be hosting a community-wide Easter Egg Hunt at the church on Saturday, April 16 from 10:30 am - 12 pm. Candy donations or small toys that will fit in eggs are needed. Also, we will be needing all hands on deck to help make this an awesome outreach event for our community. We had such an overwhelming outcome last October when we hosted our Trunk or Treat event at the Community Center, we hope to encourage all to come out again to help. More info will be coming soon on where help will be needed.

Please make plans to help on the morning of Saturday, April 16 from 10:30 am - 12 pm. A basket will be out front for donations of candy and toys for the eggs. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

EASTER FLOWERS

You will once again have the opportunity to order Easter flowers to place in the sanctuary in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Watch for order forms soon!



Make plans to join us on
PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 10
for a churchwide brunch
after the worship service.
Please bring a dish to share with all.

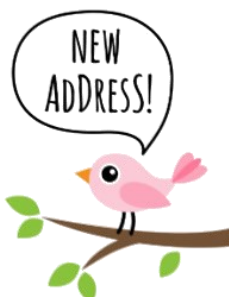


Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm
beginning March 9 throughout Lent
for a Bible study led by Pastor Dan on the Gospel of Mark.



Carolyn Roller
1336 Woodland Park Circle
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Charlene Michael
339 Westminister Drive
Fishersville, VA 22939



Upcoming Meetings

Monday, March 7 @ 6:30 pm - Worship Committee
Monday, March 21 @ 6:30 pm - Finance Committee
Tuesday, March 22 @ 6:30 pm - Church Council



March

2nd Jan Gorden
 5th Ken Elkins
 7th Becky McCarty
 9th Marguerite McDonald
 10th Bobbie Meek
 Lindsay Williams
 13th Kelli Huffer
 14th Chuck McCarty
 Dan Purdom
 15th Lisa Shifflett Cox
 Laura Hittie
 16th Rose Campbell
 17th Jared Kile
 18th Sidney Moyer
 19th Gary Byard
 23rd Cheryl Richards
 25th Camden Herron
 26th Barbara Long
 27th Tim Schnittger

7th Matt Caricofe
 9th Phil Mikesell
 Susan Thacker
 10th Chuck Schwab
 11th Tiana Ryan
 17th Rick Northrop
 Jenifer Williams
 Stephanie Caricofe
 18th Susan Meadows
 25th Carrie Dunsmore
 Nash Colvin
 28th Sarah Cook
 Amelia Simmons
 29th Gail Reese
 30th Nadine Moore
 Sarah Williams

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

April

3rd Easton Moyer
 5th Trae Elkins
 7th Jordan Dunsmore



Prayer List

Members

Gary Ruleman
 Nancy Colvin & family
 Carolyn Swartz & family
 Abe Smith & family

Extended Members

Richard Thompson - cousin of Carolyn Swartz
 Sid Grove - father of Kelly Herron

We extend Christian sympathy to ...

Nancy Colvin upon the death of her sister Carol, to Carolyn Swartz upon the death of her brother, Don Smiley and to Abe Smith upon the death of his wife Sharon.

I want to send a sincere thank you to all those who took the time to bring food, send cards and prayers, call and text to check up on me (and Randy) while recovering from my knee surgery and during the death of my uncle. It is truly a blessing to have a church family who are so generous and caring. How honored Randy and I are to call you family!

Love, Cindy Kite



Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



Ash Wednesday Service
and Meal - 6 pm

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A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church
3700 Lee Highway, Weyers Cave, VA 24486
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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, Sextons

April Newsletter Deadline: Mar. 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