



# The Echo

December 2022

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

## Advent at Bethany

### Family Christmas Program – Sunday, December 18

Our Family Christmas Program called “Let All the Good Fill Your Heart” will be during our morning worship service at 9:30 am. This event featuring the music of the season, lighthearted drama and our children’s nativity, is sure to fill your heart with the love and spirit of the season. A light Christmas brunch will follow. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and neighbors!

There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for items needed for the brunch. Jane Elkins is heading up the brunch and would appreciate people to sign up for donations in the foyer. She will also need people to help set up, serve, and clean up. If you can help, please contact her.

### Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24

We will once again offer two services on Christmas Eve. Come to one or both! Bring your family and friends, or invite a neighbor. Re-imagine the sights and sounds of the night when Jesus was born.

4 pm - A brief “glowing” service for folks of all ages featuring a special activity for the children. Come enjoy the simplicity and joy of the beloved Christmas story.

9 pm - Come be part of our traditional candlelight communion service. Worship with the carols and scriptures proclaiming the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

### Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25

Join us on Christmas day for a short message, music and a “carol” sing. We hope you will bring your family and come help us celebrate our Savior’s birthday!

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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](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com).

## From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ,

As fall is behind us, the leaves have crinkled and died, and the forecast is beginning to call for that white, cold stuff; I have to admit I never realized how many people get married in the fall, in the middle of college football season, nonetheless. I missed my Bethany family while we were gone in October, but was overwhelmed by God's everlasting love that was on full display at both of the weddings I have attended. Both of these weddings were for friends Ashley and I met at Duke Divinity School, and both of them have reminded me that there is still good in this world, even in the midst of the darkness around us. For me, these weddings are a testament of God bringing me through a season of tragedy to see that God is not finished with me, or any of God's people yet. To get to witness something so sacred, in two people coming together and making a new covenant with God, is something I did not dream I would get to witness a couple of years ago. The part of the wedding that always gets me is when the pastor said, "what God has brought together, may no human tear it apart."

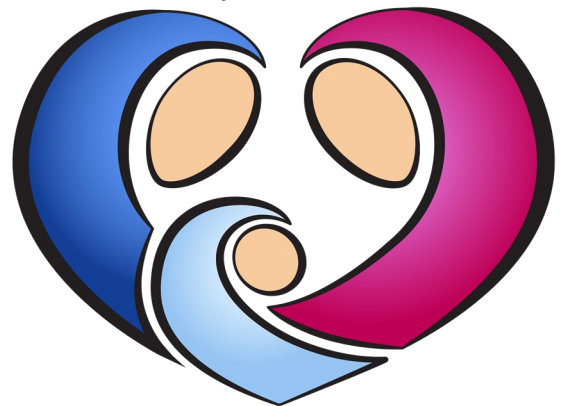
As we are now in the thick of Advent, and creeping toward Christmas, this reminder is what we as a Bethany community need to hold onto, may what God has brought together as Christ's church, may we not be caught up in trying to tear it apart. As a virgin birth is upon us and the Savior is being born, may we hold onto the Advent promise that God is with us and may we be people who truly believe that the best of all is that God is with us. May we be people

who care for our neighbors in this season, especially the ones where joy and hope seem to be gone, and may we be people who are serious about being the hands and feet of Jesus. May we learn together and live together, that even in the midst of differences, we are a chosen priesthood, who are called to live transformed lives. And ultimately during this season of preparing for the Christ, may we be people who love fully, graciously, and with an abundance of Christ's love. Merry Christmas to you all!

In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Blaine*

Jesus is the  
Heart of Christmas



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## Love Offering for Pastor Blaine

Christmas will be here before you know it. In the past, Bethany has gifted our pastors with cash for Christmas. We usually pass an envelope during the service. Anymore, lots of us walk around with a debit card, but no cash or check in our wallets. This year, I want to give you a heads up that we will pass an envelope 3 Sundays in December - December 11, 18 and Christmas Day. If you are not going to be there and want to give to the Christmas fund, feel free to mail a check to the Church payable to Blaine Thomas.

So many of you have expressed how happy you are to have Pastor Blaine at Bethany. We are not paying him a big salary and your Christmas gift is a great way to not only show your love and appreciation, but also improve his financial situation at Bethany. I encourage you to participate.

Blessings, Jane Elkins





## Missions Update

by Lori Mooney

December time... wow! Well, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you from the Adult Missions Team.

I would like to thank Nancy Colvin for stepping up and becoming my co-captain for missions. Thank you.

Thank you to everyone who donated presents for the Apple Tree gifts that went to Kingsway. The children who receive these gifts will be so delighted. Bethany is always a generous church in all their giving.

Thanks for donating to Dollars for Drugs to help Gary with the money needed to purchase drugs and medicine for the Honduras trip that he went on with Friends of Barnabas in October.

Thank you to those of you who rang the bell for the Salvation Army on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>

at Shenandoah Valley Heritage Market. This is always one of my favorite things for do during this holiday season.

Thank you to all the people who have donated money for the Gideon's Christmas tree. The ornaments are looking lovely, but we still have a long way to go to get the tree covered. Please consider donating to this worthwhile cause. Giving someone the word of God, might bring them into the fold.

**Mission spotlight of the month:** The roof and boiler project. We are still trying to get these paid for. It is a huge chunk of change. Yes, we know. So, this is what we want your extra money to go towards this month. Years ago, we tried a campaign that whatever amount of money we spent on Christmas presents that we would match it and give it to the Friends of Barnabas group. Some of you may remember this. Think about all the money that we

spend on loved ones to purchase Christmas presents, if you can match that or even give one-fourth of that amount to help keep your church open and operating. We had to get the roof done and the boiler will be anytime. We must have a building to have our services in, especially during the winter-time. Make an extra donation for this project, so we can get what we owed paid off. Please think about this and donate what you can.

Lori Mooney, co-chair, 540-820-7394  
[brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com](mailto:brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com)

Nancy Colvin, co-chair, 540-910-0272  
[nwcolvin@gmail.com](mailto:nwcolvin@gmail.com)



## Thank You!

The special events and décor of the Advent and Christmas season would not be possible without the extra efforts of many people. We extend appreciation to the following folks ...

- Dave & Elizabeth Williams for putting up the Chrismon tree.
- Trae Elkins for providing a lovely Advent candle wreath.
- Our BUM Youth for organizing a wonderful dinner at Hanging of the Greens.
- Cindy & Randy Kite for putting up the church wreaths and decorations.
- Stanley & Mae Houff for putting up the outside nativity.
- The Simmons family and Jane Elkins for organizing/providing our Dec. 4 refreshments.
- Jane Elkins for organizing our December 18 brunch.



## Time & Talents

With a new year fast approaching and new year resolutions about to be made, why not make a resolution to volunteer to do something at Bethany that you enjoy doing or haven't done yet ... you might find that you enjoy it. We have many, many opportunities. Here are just a few ...



**If you enjoy singing or playing an instrument,** talk to Jackie Dunsmore or Marguerite McDonald about joining the Praise and Worship Band or provide special music one Sunday during the service. I know they would love to hear from you. Give it a try. There's no commitment unless you want there to be!!

**If you're a talker and enjoy meeting people, you are perfect to be a Greeter on Sunday mornings.** Be there to greet folks, Bethany folks and visitors, with a hug or handshake if appropriate, and a warm, inviting smile. Talk with them, welcome them and aid them if they are a visitor. See, you CAN do this!! Just go and sign up for a Sunday on the sign up sheet in the foyer.



**Do you enjoy a warm beverage and some fellowship before or after the worship service? If so, we need folks to make and set out coffee on first Sundays along with some snacks.** Coffee making instructions are in the kitchen and help can be found to give you a hand until you learn to conquer the coffee maker! Coffee and snacks will be provided. Or you can bring whatever you like (reimbursement is available). Even the small things shared with your church family means so much!! There is a sign up sheet in the foyer, so grab a friend and sign up!

**Do you enjoy being around children? Love to hear their chatter and laughing?**

We have the perfect place for you to volunteer! Children's Church is looking for teachers and helpers. All lesson plans and activities are planned. You just need to show up and help the kids learn and make their crafts. If you're interested or would like a little more information, please contact Mary Beth Hill at [mbhill124@gmail.com](mailto:mbhill124@gmail.com) or sign up in the foyer.



**Do you like technology?** There is always need for help to run the PowerPoint slides with the scripture and song lyrics on Sunday mornings. Plus, help is needed to make sure the service is being recorded to be uploaded to Facebook and the website. You can talk to Dale Roller or Dani (Martlock) deHart.

There are many more ways to share your talents with your church family. If you are interested in sharing a talent, please contact Pastor Blaine or Julie Ritchie. They will get you plugged in where you will fit and feel comfortable. Well ... sometimes you might be asked to step out of your comfort zone!! But only if you want to challenge yourself! And we should all challenge ourselves once in a while!!

V O L U N T E E R  
*all that's missing is U!*

## The BUMS Christmas Post Office is officially OPEN!!

Want to spread some old fashioned Christmas cheer? Send Christmas greetings through the BUM Post Office. Postage is a donation of .25 cents per card or whatever donation you want to make, which goes to the BUM Mission Fund for their summer mission trip. Please have greetings to the church by Sunday, Dec. 25. You can place your cards in the appropriate basket in the fellowship hall.

And don't forget to check the baskets for cards sent to you by your church family!!

*What a wonderful way to share the Christmas spirit with others!*





Congratulations to Brian and Kelly Shifflett on the birth of their daughter, Madelyn Brooke, born on November 24. She weighed in at 6 lbs, 13 ozs and 18" long. Big brother, Layne, is so proud and very protective! Excited and proud grandparents are Barry and Terri Shifflett. If you would like to send Brian and Kelly a card, their address is ... 1697 Laurel Hill Road, Verona, VA 24482.



## Prayer List

### Members

Gary Ruleman, Judy Faby

### Extended Family

Mike Stump - husband of Kathleen Stump,  
Tom & Bess Via - former members, Diane  
Smiley - aunt of Cindy Kite, Bill & Mary  
Simmons - parents of Cheryl Richards

If you would like to add someone to the  
prayer list, please let Cindy Kite know at  
540-234-8880 or  
office.bethany@gmail.com.

### December Birthdays

1st Jeff Ritchie &  
Gerald Fulton

3rd Kristen Kile

5th Annie Roller

9th Hudson Dunsmore

16th Shawn Cook

19th Layne Shifflett

20th Elizabeth Williams

21st Amber Casey

23rd Jane Elkins

25th Alexander Carter

26th Garrett Roller

29th Jake Frizzelle

17th Rhylan Metcalfe

18th Abe Smith

21st Barbara Miller

Pam Roller

Randy Roller

26th Jeremy McLaughlin

27th Jean Houff

28th Peggy Lucas

### January Birthdays

1st Kim Moyer

2nd Garrett Simmons

7th MacKenzie Crawford

8th Krisalyn Mooney

12th Billy Ryan

13th Abby Michael

15th Mark Whitecotton

15th Sharon Northrop



Thank you to everyone for your prayers,  
calls, visits and cards during our mother's  
illness and passing. We are so blessed by  
our church family at Bethany.

Jerry and Lindy Sheets and family

The Mark Dunsmore family  
would like to express our  
appreciation for your prayers,  
presence and cards during the  
passing of our beloved father  
and grandfather, Jake.

The picnic celebration provided by  
the church was wonderful.

The kind gestures of our church  
family certainly sustained us during  
this difficult time. We love all of you  
and know Jake loved you too.

## Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway  
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

[www.mybethanyumc.org](http://www.mybethanyumc.org)



Family Christmas Program  
Sunday, Dec. 18  
9:30 am



### "The Echo"

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church  
3700 Lee Highway, Weyers Cave, VA 24486  
(540) 234-8880  
[www.mybethanyumc.org](http://www.mybethanyumc.org)

Blaine Thomas, Pastor  
850-508-7245  
[blainethomas@vaumc.org](mailto:blainethomas@vaumc.org)

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

January Newsletter Deadline: Dec. 20, 2022  
Please submit articles to Cindy Kite at  
[office.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com)

Webmaster: [bethanyumc.website@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyumc.website@gmail.com)



At Bethany we ...

**Connect** with God in community  
**Grow** in our likeness to Jesus Christ  
**Serve** our neighbors