



January 2023

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.

Dear Bethany Family,

A new year...! Let us enter 2023 with hope and joy in Christ. Our outlook on life can be influenced by our personal situations, our families, our church, and our community. May we lift each other up in happy times and in times of stress in this New Year. God empowers us to love one another. Through God's love, we can find peace and joy amid work related trouble, health issues, private struggles and so much more.

Let's affirm our commitment to God's principles and serve as His hands and feet. May God give us all strength and courage to serve together as the Body of Christ in this new year. Don't just select one body part as your specialty! Challenge yourself to be hands today, and the feet of Christ tomorrow. Seek God's will in what you do.

The late Queen Elizabeth II once said, "It is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change." Take the best of 2022 into 2023! Whether you step, stride, dance or leap, may God Bless you.

In Christian Love,

Elizabeth Williams

Church Council Chairperson

From the Pastor's Desk ...

Greetings Siblings in Christ,

As the calendar makes the turn, and the Christmas decorations start coming down; we turn our attention to the New Year. As we look back on what 2022 brought us: we know we lost some loving and faithful people, and we also added some new families and people into the Bethany family, while we served the Lord through many missions and ministries. As we look forward to what 2023 will bring, I hope and pray that we all will continue to keep our goal of loving our neighbors and spreading the GOOD News of Christ's Gospel promise. I also hope that we, as a whole, will become more intentional about discipleship, and growing in our faith, through bible studies, book studies, and other plenty of opportunities that will be offered in 2023. This year will certainly bring difficult decisions and conversations, as well as new journeys and beginnings, but I pray that we will take part in all that

comes our way with love and grace.

This also hits the six-month mark of being your pastor, and it has been such a blessing. The people that make up the Bethany family are faithful, loving, and incredibly compassionate. I would like to thank ALL of you for the grace and love in which you have extended to me these last six months. I also want to thank everyone who gave for my Christmas



bonus, as it was another shocking, but loving example of who this community is. I know there have been hiccups and missteps along the way (the lettuce catastrophe being one of them, if you know you know). And yet you all have been flexible and gracious to this 25-year-old, fresh out of school pastor. We have had some ups and downs, and even in the midst

of all of it, this community continues to inspire me to be a better Christ follower and pastor.

I hope and pray that you will make 2023 the year to get more involved here at Bethany; whether it be joining our worship team, signing up for a study, or even making the commitment to join a committee or go on a mission trip to serve God's people. The Christmas story is just the

beginning of our faith story my friends, and I invite you to listen to where the Holy Spirit is calling you to get involved

with what God is doing here at Bethany United Methodist Church. I love this church and I love what the Spirit is doing here, and I am hopeful that this year will be a year of growth in numbers, but more importantly in faithful followers who heed the call of the Spirit in their lives!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Blaine

January Coffee Hours

Want to talk to Pastor Blaine outside the church? Maybe get to know him a little better? Find out what makes him tick? Besides college football? If so, make plans to join him at one of his "Coffee Hours" this January. It's the perfect time to sit, enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and some good conversation in a casual atmosphere. January coffee hours will be held at Rumor Mill at Valley Pike on ...
Tuesday, January 3 from 9:30-11:30 am
and again on **Tuesday, January 24 from 3-5 pm**. He would love to see you there!



The Future of the United Methodist Church

On Monday, January 30 at 7 pm,
Pastor Blaine will lead an informational meeting about the future of the United Methodist Church.
We will meet in the sanctuary.

This will be a great time to ask any questions and for everyone to gather the facts about what is going on in the United Methodist Church and where we at Bethany are headed.

All are invited to attend!

Missions Update ... by Lori Mooney

Happy New Year and wishing you new adventures. Around Christmas was a cold one, so let's hope we don't see more of that this year. Best of luck to everyone in 2023.

THANK YOU for all your many donations over the past year to support missions and all our activities that we do throughout the year.

We will take it slow into the new year. Everyone stay warm and take care of yourselves. We will be planning something in the next month or two, so be on the lookout for it.

Thank you for the extra donations made to pay off the roof bill if you were able to include them last month for end of the year giving. It is greatly appreciated.

Mission spotlight of the month:

The Food Pantry is always on our mind, and they will be the spotlight for the month. After COVID, we are still serving about 30 or so families each month. Who knows if we will get to our pre-COVID numbers back, but we are serving families that need food no matter what. Thank you for contributing to our food pantry, so we can purchase food to give to our neighbors. There is a basket in the foyer for all your non-perishable donated items. Items such as paper towels, toilet paper, diapers, wipes, etc. are also appreciated.

Lori Mooney, co-chair, 540-820-7394
Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com

Nancy Colvin, co-chair, 540-910-0272
nwcolvin@gmail.com

When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.

— Maya Angelou



Attention Youth & Youth Parents ...



Tuesday, January 10 at 6 pm

There will be a Youth and Parent Summer Mission Trip Interest Meeting in the Fellowship Hall. All parents and students who are interested in attending the Summer Mission Trip that will be June 26th -July 1st. Plan to attend order to get information, fundraising opportunities, and much more!!

Sunday, January 22 after the Worship Service

The youth will meet in the kitchen to bake lots of goodies and then deliver them to our first responders and health care workers. If you haven't participated in a youth activity yet, this is your chance to serve your community and get to know other BUMS and our BUM leaders.

United as One in Worship - 240th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference

Reported by Rosemary Wagoner

The Annual Conference this year was held in Hampton, VA.

The Laity Session was better than it has been in a long time.

Laity and Clergy Sessions convene before the opening session of Annual Conference.

The speaker for the Laity Session was Kay Kotan.

- Methodism is a movement working together.
- John Wesley was a huge proponent of the laity. We're all called to ministry.
- There is no such thing as "just" Laity.
- God is on the move in the church today.
- We have to change our thinking to meet people where they are. We're experiencing Holy Disruption. Holy Disruption has a purpose. We need to let God Lead us. Time to open our minds, eyes and hearts.

The opening prayers were offered by the oldest member and youngest member of the Annual Conference.

Worship isn't about us. True worship is about a relationship with our Savior.

Laity Address was giving by Matha Stokes, Conference Lay Leader.

- We must sing a new song.
- Our doctrine stays the same.
- We can do so much more together than apart.

Cabinet Report was heavily debated as there was a debate over Paragraph 2553 which provides the provisions for a church to disaffiliate. If a church decides to separate from the UMC they must use paragraph 2553 of the Book of Discipline.

There was a motion that passed to better fund the Conference Youth. The motion was to give the Youth unused Legal Defense funds to the youth program.

The District Initiative was presented. The funding for the 2 District Directors that will be hired will come from the Conference for the first 3 years. After that the funds will come from the District Budget. There was a called District Conference to dissolve the Harrisonburg and Northwestern Virginia districts and to create the Shenandoah River District. The District Offices are now in Toms Brook, VA.

The Team Jeremiah report was postponed due to lack of time. The report was given in a special session in July. I attended the virtual meet of the Jeremiah Report. One important thing that came from this meeting was that the first 4 paragraphs of the Discipline of the UMC cannot be changed. Those paragraphs are below. Another issue we're waiting on information about is whether the General Conference in 2024 will be a postponed Conference or a New Conference. If it is a new conference then new motions will have to be created and presented to be considered.



Retirees were recognized in a service.

Green Church Awards were given to Ivey Memorial UMC and Bethlehem UMC.

There were several Relationship Partner Reports. Pinnacle Living- UMC Retirement Homes, Heart Havens- homes for disabled adults, and UM Family Services were highlighted.

Those elected to Boards and Agencies were consecrated.

Statistician's and Treasurer's Reports were given. If you would like more detail about this report see or email me.

The Council of Finance and Administration report was voted on. This is when the Conference Budget was approved.

The apportionments were reduced by 0.03% overall. Apportionments are what each church pays to the Conference to support the work of the Conference.

Kits were collected before going to the Conference.

- Total Kits 18,560
- For a value of \$298,724.90
- Cans 4 Conference 12,221

This year's Annual Conference has been more than the meeting in June. There have been several meetings since then and there may be more before next June.

The Articles of Religion of the Methodist Church

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church — 2016

Article I — Of Faith in the Holy Trinity

There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the

Continued on page 5

maker and preserver of all things, both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there are three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Article II — Of the Word, or Son of God, Who Was Made Very Man

The Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin; so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and Manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided; whereof is one Christ, very God and very Man, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for actual sins of men.

Article III — Of the Resurrection of Christ

Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day.

Article IV — Of the Holy Ghost

The Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty, and glory with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God.

-Special Called Annual Conferences - So far there have been 2 called Annual Conferences to vote on churches wishing to disaffiliate with the United Methodist Church. The first 3 churches disaffiliated with ¶ 2549.3. This was the only way possible to disaffiliate prior to ¶ 2553. With the first 3 churches their property is returned to Annual Conference Trustees and then the churches must buy their property back. These churches include, New Hope UMC, Mountain View District Lafayette UMC, Valley Ridge District Starr-Bolar

UMC, Valley Ridge District.

The second Special Annual Conference was to vote on 10 churches who wish to disaffiliate with ¶ 2553. This requires paying of 2 years of Apportionments and their portion of the liability for the Pension plan for those who are on the plan. This is mostly pastors but there are some other employees that are in the VA Pension Plan. These churches are listed below. This process takes a lot of time as it begins with a meeting for discernment with the District Superintendent and then the church is to meet and pray for discernment. A vote by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the church membership is also needed to move forward then the church employs a lawyer to help them through the process. Here is the link to how much each of these churches have to pay before disaffiliation is final, <https://doc.vaumc.org/AC2022/DisaffiliationsUpdate.pdf>.

Center Point UMC, Mountain View District Harmony UMC, Mountain View District Mountain View UMC (Forest), Mountain View District Payneton UMC, Mountain View District Swansonville UMC, Mountain View District Hobson's Chapel UMC, Living Waters District Payne Memorial UMC, Living Waters District Painter-Garrison's UMC, Coastal Virginia District Crums UMC, Shenandoah River District Harriston UMC, Shenandoah River District

Members of each of these churches are given an opportunity to join another UMC if they still wish to be members of the United Methodist Church.

If you have questions or concerns, you can contact Pastor Blaine or Rosemary. All questions, concerns and comments will be addressed at "The Future of the United Methodist Church" meeting on Monday, January 30 at 7 pm.

Due to Cindy being sick, the 2022 financial report is still being worked on. A full 2022 financial report will be in the February 2023 edition of The Echo. If you have questions or concerns before then, please contact Cindy Kite at office.bethany@gmail.com.



2023 Church Budget

Our 2023 budget of \$225,467.00 was voted on and approved at the last Church Council Meeting. This means we need weekly contributions of \$4,335.90 to keep up with our budget, which is a little more than in 2022. So we can get there, think about increasing your 2023 giving by \$5, \$10 or \$50 per week or month. If everyone did that, we would meet our budget and have some to spare. I challenge each of you to increase your giving ... just a little ... in 2023! Or if you don't give, start giving. Even \$5 or \$10 a week will help us meet our budget.

Poinsettias

In Memory of ...

Agnes Wood by Randy & Annie Roller
Bev & Dot Roller by Mark Dunsmore Family
Bev & Dot Roller by Randy & Annie Roller
Bob & MaryLee McDonald by Mark & Marguerite McDonald
Carl & Grace Ruleman by Gary & Bettina Ruleman
Carol Ambler by Nancy Colvin
Charley Moore by Randy & Cindy Kite
Donald & Emmogene Kite by Randy & Cindy Kite
Ella McKell by Dianna Eicher
Geneva Burns by Bethany Family
Geneva Burns by Chuck & Becky McCarty
Geneva Burns by Sandy Gibson
Harold Roller by Dale & Pam Roller
Harold Roller by Mark & Marguerite McDonald
Helen Wagoner by Rosemary, Leslie & Jac
Charlie Shifflett by Shifflett Family
Jake & Jean Dunsmore by Jeff & Julie Ritchie
Jake & Jean Dunsmore by Mark Dunsmore Family
Johnnie & Neva Barr by Shifflett Family
Johnnie Barr, Jr. by Shifflett Family
Larry Huffer by Maggie Huffer

Lois Tucker by Sandy Gibson
Marian Winger by Dale & Pam Roller
Matt Foutz by Nancy Colvin
Our Parents by Eddie & Pat Lynn
Our Son Todd by Joe & Bobbie Meek
Pat & Lois Lamb by Mark Dunsmore Family
Paul & Milly Brown by Gary & Bettina Ruleman
Ray & Sallie Wood by Randy & Annie Roller
Roy Stroop by Kevin & Tara Stroop
Sharon Smith by Abe Smith
Wilbur Gordon Hinkle by Blaine Thomas
William Richard Thomas by Blaine Thomas
YOU by Bethany Family

In Honor of ...

Carolyn Roller by Dale & Pam Roller
Carolyn Roller by Mark &
Marguerite McDonald
Pastor Blaine & Pastor Ashley by
Chuck & Becky McCarty
Those who give their time, energy
and blessings to love on
others by Jeff & Julie Ritchie



Are You Willing to Assist with Worship?

We are so thankful for all the folks who assist with worship whether it be serving as a greeter, usher, reader, praise and worship singer or band member, communion server, Bethany players or sound and computer folks. If you've been serving, rest assured you will be asked again, but we ALWAYS welcome and encourage new folks trying new things!

So... if you are willing or feel that tug on your heart to serve in a new way we will celebrate and provide that opportunity. Starting January 8, there will be a sign up sheet at the welcome desk where you can give us your name and let us know what you or your whole family might be willing to do. If it requires some training we will give it.

These activities are all occasional, not every week and your participation just might lighten the load for those who are doing things weekly. Pray about it. Do a new thing in 2023!



Thank you!

Gary and I want thank our Bethany family for their prayers, calls, texts, and visits. It's been a long journey and it's not over yet but Gary is improving and getting stronger every day.

Thank you so much.
Please keep your prayers coming.

Our Sincere Thanks

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.

Prayer List

Members

Gary Ruleman, Judy Faby,
Hazel Truslow, Dollie Wilfong,
Cindy Kite, Dani deHart

Extended Family

Mike Stump - husband of
Kathleen Stump,
Diane Smiley - aunt of Cindy Kite.
Bill & Mary Simmons - parents of
Cheryl Richards,
Tom & Bess Via - former members,
daughter & son of Dollie Wilfong,
Lisa McCormick - co-worker of
Rosemary Wagoner

If you have someone you would like placed on the prayer list, please call or email Cindy in the office.
All prayer requests will be removed after 4 weeks unless otherwise requested.

We extend Christian sympathy to Dollie Wilfong and family upon the passing of Warren Wilfong on Dec. 13. If you would like to send Dollie a card, her address is ...
60 Carrollton Court, Weyers Cave, VA, 24486

And also to Dani deHart and family upon the passing of her father. If you would like to send Dani a card, her address is ...
299 Clubhouse Court, Woodstock, VA, 22664.

January

1st	Kim Moyer	4th	Pam Lynn
2nd	Garrett Simmons	5th	Ron Castle
7th	MacKenzie Crawford	5th	Scott Herron
8th	Krisalyn Mooney	6th	Dylan Snyder
13th	Abby Michael	11th	Paige Crawford
15th	Mark Whitecotton	13th	Rebecca Castle
	Sharon Northrop	14th	Bradley Dunsmore
17th	Rhylan Metcalfe	18th	Laura Lucas
18th	Abe Smith	19th	Natalie Hiner
21st	Barbara Miller	21st	Sandra Campbell
	Pam Roller		
	Randy Roller		
26th	Jeremy McLaughlin		
27th	Jean Houff		
28th	Peggy Lucas		
30th	Sarah Simmons		

If your birthday is listed on the wrong day, or has been missed, please notify the office at
office.bethany@gmail.com.

February

1st	Jackie Dunsmore
	Megan Kile
2nd	Reid Hill
3rd	Gary Ruleman

Happy Birthday

January 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2 Office Closed!	3 9:30-11:30 am - Coffee w/the Pastor at Rumor Mill 12 -pm - Young at Hearts Luncheon (Thomas House)	4	5	6	7
8 Communion 	9 6 pm - Worship Meeting	10 10 am - Caring Cards 6 pm - Youth & Parent Mission Trip Meeting	11	12	13 	14
15 Praise & Worship Practice after Worship Service	16 	17	18 6 pm - Praise & Worship Practice	19 	20 Deadline for February Newsletter Articles	21 8 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast
22 10:45 am - BUMS Baking for First Responders	23	24 3-5 pm - Coffee with the Pastor Rumor Mill at Valley Pike 	25	26	27 	28
29	30 7 pm - The Future of the United Methodist Church Informational Meeting	31				

Search January Words

BLIZZARD

NEW YEAR

EARMUFFS

HOT COCOA

SNOWMAN

CHRISTMAS

CHOCOLATE

SLIPPERY

HOLIDAYS

SLEDDING

SWEATER

SNOWFLAKE

SNOWBALL

FREEZING

POLAR BEAR

MITTENS

CELEBRATION

TOBOGGAN

HIBERNATE

GLOVES



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



"The Echo"

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Blaine Thomas, Pastor
850-508-7245
blainethomas@vaumc.org

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

February Newsletter Deadline: Jan. 20, 2023

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