



February 2023

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

WHAT'S INSIDE



- 2 Note from the Pastor & Lenten Book Study
- 3 Ash Wednesday
- 4 Mission Update
- 5 Member Article
- 6 Financial Update
- 7 30 Hours of Famine & Gideon Thank You
- 8 Women's Ministries, Birthdays & Prayer List
- 9 February Calendar



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.



May you be able to understand
how long, wide and deep
His love really is. Ephesians 3:18

Happy Valentine's Day

From the Pastor's Desk ...

Embracing the Uncertain. How do we do this? In what way should we move through the uncertainty that is all around us? As the Lenten season sneaks up on us, these are some major questions that fill my brain these days. I cannot imagine the uncertainty that the followers of Jesus would have had when they heard Jesus talking about the approaching hour of his death, or how they would have felt when Jesus was being grilled by the Pharisees. It is safe to say that the disciples of Jesus for the three years of his ministry would have lived in a constant sense of uncertainty and anxiety of the unknown.

All that to say, I want to invite you to join me as we walk this Lenten journey together and as we study, read, and discuss what it means to embrace the uncertain. We will be diving through the book "Embracing the Uncertain" by Magrey deVega, a faithful and passionate UMC pastor in the Sunshine State, **on Tuesdays at 10 am and 6:30 pm.** I would invite the WHOLE congregation to join us. As well as the Lenten book study, there is also a daily devotional book "40 Devotions for Unsteady Times" that complements the study. Both of these books can be found on Amazon or Cokesbury; but if you would like us to order them for you, we can do that as well. I really hope that this study and season allows for some holy awakening in

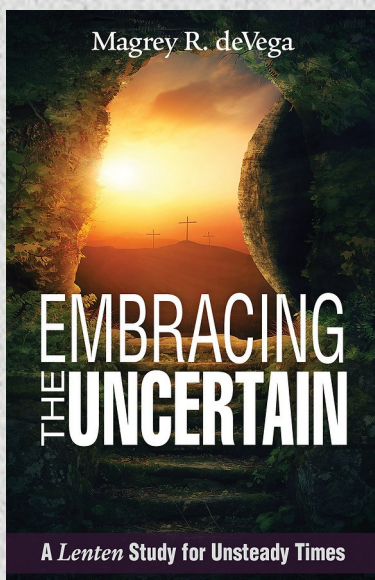
your life, as well as the life of Bethany. We will be focusing on this study not only on Tuesdays of Lent, but also on Sunday mornings as we wrestle together with these places of scriptural uncertainty. As we journey together to the cross and the tomb; I hope you will join us for a special Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 22nd at 6 pm. We will have a soup and sandwich dinner, followed by a mini-mission activity to help our brothers and sisters at Kingsway Ministries; and then concluding the evening with a short service that includes the imposition of ashes. If this is your first Lenten season or your eightieth, we welcome you to join us as we journey into a season of uncertain hope.

As we continue into a season of uncertainty; I hope and pray that you know a few things that are certain today, tomorrow, and forever:

1. **God loves you.**
2. **You are created in the holy and loving image of God.**
3. **Your pastor loves you and is here for you.**

In Christ's love,

Pastor Blaine



Join us for our Lenten study as we explore "Embracing the Uncertain" by Magrey R. deVega..

We will meet on Tuesdays beginning February 21 at 10 am and 6:30 pm. You are welcome to join either class. If you would like to purchase this book on your own feel free, or if you want the church office to purchase the book and supplemental "40 Devotions for Unsteady Times," please indicate this on the sign up sheet at the Welcome Center. The book can be found on Amazon or Cokesbury for \$10 and the devotion book for \$8.

Journey with your Bethany family through the Season of Lent as we strive to be a more faithful community.

Ash Wednesday Meal, Service and Mission Project

Believe it or not, the Season of Lent will be upon us very soon, with Ash Wednesday being February 22. We will have a special event with a soup and sandwich dinner at 6 pm. After dinner we will be doing a mini-mission project for Kingsway Prison Ministries, followed by a very brief service for the imposition of ashes. In addition, the BUMS (our youth group) will be serving dessert and asking for monetary donations for their summer mission trip.

For those who aren't familiar with Kingsway Prison Ministry, it was started at Bethany UMC by Shel and Louise Jennings, members of Bethany, almost 40 years ago. Louise is still active in prison ministry.

When inmates are released from prison, most of them have nothing but the clothes on their backs. Kingsway has asked us to put together kits of personal items to meet their basic needs. These items are listed below. We are asking our church family to donate these items between now and Ash Wednesday. Then after the Ash Wednesday meal, we will work together to make the kits, which will be presented to Kingsway Prison Ministry. Monetary donations are also being accepted to purchase items for kits.

Items Needed for Both Male and Female Kits:

- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Shaving Cream and Disposable Razors
- Crest or Colgate Toothpaste (no larger than 6 oz.)
- Men's or Women's New Underwear and socks

There is a basket in the foyer for donations. Please mark your calendar and plan to be a part of this special evening planned for ALL ages! You will be hearing more about this event in the near future.

Oh, and there's also a sign up sheet to bring soup or sandwiches for the meal on Ash Wednesday.



Men's Prayer Breakfast
Saturday, February 18

8 am

Church Fellowship Hall

All men are invited to join us for breakfast
followed by a time of fellowship and prayer.

Questions? Contact Eddie Moyer
at canesfinsfan@aol.com.

This could be your "new thing" for 2023!

The March breakfast will be Saturday, March 18.

Did you enjoy singing with the
Christmas Choir? Or did you sit back
and listen and wish you were singing
too? Here's your chance ...

a seasonal Easter Choir will begin

rehearsing on

Wednesday, March 8 at 6 pm.

The Easter Choir will sing on
Palm Sunday and
Easter Sunday.

We invite you to join us!



Missions Update by Lori Mooney

Happy Valentine's Day! The mission team loves each and everyone of you. Thank you for all you do for our church here at Bethany. Keep up the good work of the Lord.

Adult Missions is pairing with the Worship Team and asking for donations for Ash Wednesday. We will be putting together packets for Kingsway Mission to help those who just got out of prison with nothing but what they are wearing. If you would like to donate men or women's underwear, all sizes are needed. We are asking for donations of shampoo, Crest or Colgate toothpaste (no more than 6 oz), toothbrushes, deodorant, razors, or shaving cream. We need items for men and women. At the Ash Wednesday service, we will put kits together for men and women with these items in the kit. You can purchase items together to make a whole kit or you

can purchase a bunch of a couple items. Whatever is up to you, please bring in your donations anytime and place them in the basket in the foyer or bring them with you on Ash Wednesday, February 22.



Happy
Valentine's
Day!

Also, on the night of Ash Wednesday, there will be soup and sandwiches that night for supper. The youth will be making different desserts and asking for donations for their youth mission trip that they will be taking to PA the last week in June. So, be sure to bring some cash money or your checkbook that evening to donate to the youth mission trip.

Mission spotlight of the month: Open Doors. Open Doors provides a warm, safe space for guests to stay and a hot meal. In partnership with other community organizations, we work diligently to ensure that all guests receive the required services. This includes collaborating with the Suitcase

Clinic, which provides in-house services to guests each Wednesday evening. In mid-2022, the City of Harrisonburg purchased the former Presbytery and announced that the grounds would be home to the City's first permanent low-barrier shelter. Construction will occur in a phased approach, with an estimated operational date of November 2023. Until then, Open Doors continues a rotating model through the thermal season and anticipates operating the permanent low-barrier shelter when the project is completed. If you would like to donate to Open Doors, please put it in the memo section of your check. Thank you for all extra donations.

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

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

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

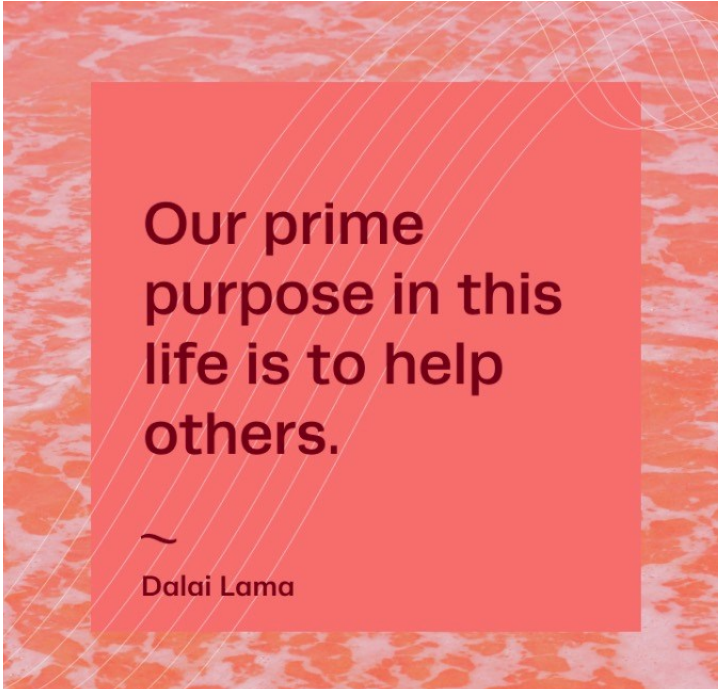
Caring Cards

has moved to the 2nd Tuesday
of each month at 10 am!

Come join this group as they
fellowship and write encouraging
notes and birthday cards to
members.

Come any time ... there's no
commitment!

February 14 & March 14



Our prime
purpose in this
life is to help
others.

~
Dalai Lama

Finding Your Niche at Bethany by Pam Roller

Last Saturday was my birthday. Like many people turning 62, I looked ahead to being that much closer to retirement.

I also did some reflection: where I am in life, where I have been, and what I've done. My thoughts turned to Bethany UMC and how it has been such a big part of my life.

Over the years, I have not been a good girl and gone to church every Sunday. Sometimes I would miss a whole month or more. It's easy to get into the habit of not coming to church. However, I found that if I got involved with something, it served as a good incentive to attend. I like to feel needed, and Bethany definitely has its needs. That said, I spent a long time exploring and finding my niche.

If you were a member of the church some 25 or so years ago, you may remember the hymn choir when it was a weekly thing, where members wore those voluminous blue robes and led the hymns on Sunday. I started out with the choir as my way to give back. When the weekly choir ended, I roamed around helping with various activities. I served food at brunches, was the church historian/photographer, and helped put together the church directory. I worked in the nursery, taught junior high Sunday school, helped to direct Bethany's drama team, was the cook one year for a youth mission trip, and played on the BUMC softball team (well, I was the team's token female member, anyway).



Having cancer caused a big delay of everything in my life. When I returned to church, I planted myself onto a pew and passively watched the service and activity around me, for months. Maybe even a year. It got to be extremely easy being uninvolved. Eventually, though—and especially

because I have a husband who flits around church like a mad bee doing hundreds of things all the time—I thought I might give the technical part of the Praise and Worship team a try. Five years later, I am still one of the “lyric slide” people, which fits my introverted tendencies nicely (sorry, can't socialize, gotta stare at the computer screen). I also help maintain the church's website and, just recently, I joined the P&W singers because, why not?

Volunteering to serve in different ways was a blessing for me since it helped me realize my talents as well as my big fails. For example, I am not one to ask to head up the serving of a big meal at Bethany or lead a small group. That is scary stuff. However, others may find that they love this type of thing.

If you'd like to try different volunteer positions to see what resonates with you, please prayerfully consider doing so. If one doesn't work for you, try another. Take a look at the signup sheets in the narthex, or chat with someone in the area in which you're thinking of helping. You may wander around a bit (God knows I did), but eventually you'll find your niche.

Joys and blessings.



Young at Hearts



Tuesday, February 7 at 12 noon / O'Neil's in Harrisonburg

If you missed the January Young at Hearts luncheon, think about joining them in February. It's the perfect time of year to try something new. This is a group of 55+ folks that like to enjoy some good food and fellowship. And have a good time while doing so. If you are interested, please contact

Carolyn Swartz. Don't wait. There's no time like the present!

The March luncheon will be at Mrs. Rowe's on Tuesday, March 7 at 12 pm.

Treasurer's Report by cindy Kite

2022 has come to an end and 2023 is going full speed ahead!! January has come and gone ... boy, that was quick! And fridged February is here!! Burrrrr.

So, it usually takes me a few weeks to get everything in and posted for year end. This year, it has taken me a little longer, and I apologize. Being sick for 2 months has not been a lot of fun! I'm feeling better though and with the thought of warm weather ahead, I'm hoping to stay that way!

December 31, 2022 - Week 52		
Budget	220,620.00	
Where We Should Be		222,620.00
Where We Are		<u>206,215.85</u>
Deficit of		(16,409.15)
Net Percentage		-7.4%

Let's discuss how 2022 ended. Our budget for the year was \$222,620. We received in giving \$206,215.85 thanks to your generosity. Even though it was close, it was still a shortfall of \$16,409.15 or -7.4%. In 2021, we finished over 19% behind our budget, so we did good!! We had budgeted expenses totaling \$204,265.77, which left us in the black by \$1,949.63. Another positive! We didn't spend our entire budget! Our average in giving each week was \$3,965.68 ... we needed \$4,281.15 per week to obtain our budget.

Of course we did have some non-budgeted expenses in 2022. We had a roof, gutters and an A/C unit to repair or replace. The cost of those expenses totaled \$51,000. We took \$25,000 out of our Memorial Fund account to get us started and asked you to donate the remaining \$26,000. The total donated to the Capital Building Fund by you was \$44,932.29. We are still \$6,067.71 short. I challenge each of you to give an extra \$25, \$50 or even \$100 to the Capital Building Fund so we can break even ... or maybe go over our requested amount and have some left for this year to do those unexpected repairs and replacements. We know that with a building this old, things are bound to happen sooner rather than later!

Here's a few other numbers you might be interested in ... giving to other than the budget. We received in donations ...

Adult Mission Fund - \$419.93
 Friends of Barnabas - \$951.44
 Pastor's Discretionary Fund - \$4,077.00
 Memorial Gifts - \$5,192.06
 30 Hours of Famine - \$435
 Johnnie Barr Memorial to Cemetery Fund - \$10,150

Backpack Pals - \$5,630.31
 Food Pantry - \$9,429.57
 Youth Missions - \$1,243.44
 Voice of the Martyrs - \$270
 UMC Conference Kits - \$50
 World Communion - \$113

If there are other special offerings that you are interested in knowing about that I didn't list, please let me know and I will find out for you.

Fast forward to 2023! Our budget for the year is \$225,467 which is a \$2,847 increase over 2022. We need your contributions to total \$4,335.90 per week to achieve our budget. I know we can do that. I have every confidence in the world in each of you!. If you haven't been giving, start off with just a small contribution ... \$5, \$10 or \$20 per week. If you are a regular giver, increase your giving by \$5, \$10 or \$20 per week. I know you love this church and church family as much as I do. And it's only through your generosity and support can we continue with our mission programs, book studies, capital repairs, evangelism, and then there's the boring things like paying the pastor and keeping the heat on!! When you give to Bethany, you are giving back to God some of which he has given you and you are also giving to and blessing your church family. We all want to be part of that!!

only by
GIVING
 are you able
 to receive
MORE
 than you
 already have

- Jim Rohn

30 Hour Famine

It is that time again youth!! 30 Hour Famine is back! February 24th through 25th we will be hosting the 30 Hour Famine at Bethany! If you're new you might be asking, what is the 30 Hour Famine??? The 30 Hour Famine is through World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization. The famine is when "students around the world loving God and fighting hunger. Your students will grow closer to Christ and each other as they fast together for 30 hours and raise funds to fight hunger. What's more, when you do the Famine you're challenging your students to be part of something bigger than themselves. To take action for God's kingdom. To help save the lives of hungry kids. To permanently change the way your students see the world."

We at Bethany have decided to make our goal \$750 to donate to help starving children. If you are a youth, make sure you sign up to attend as we stay overnight at the church on Friday evening, and then do some mission oriented events as well as have lots of fellowship time! If you are an adult, consider donating to the youth and maybe even consider helping out that weekend! This is going to be a powerful weekend of transformation and faithfulness to God and the kingdom! You don't want to miss it! If you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Blaine or Isaac Chenoweth!



Weather Cancellations

If weather forces us to cancel or postpone services or events at Bethany, please be sure to check WHSV-TV3 for all updates. Closures and delays will also be posted on the church website at www.mybethany@gmail.com. We will also get a churchwide email out as soon as possible.



The Gideons Thank You

by Ken Elkins

On behalf of The Gideons, Our Augusta North Gideons Camp is most appreciative of BUMC's support of our "Birthday for Jesus" Christmas Tree ornaments project (used to inform our Youth that Christmas Day is not only a day of exchanging Gifts, but is "Jesus's Birthday..... thus we should give Jesus a Gift on that Day, and you did so by funding Bibles that Gideons will distribute throughout our world in spreading God's "word" to those that don't have a Bible, or even probably haven't seen a Bible.

Our Bethany UMC has a "GideonCard Rack" mounted on the Wall to the right of our Front Door, that displays several different Cards that can be used for "In Memorial", "Pastor's Appreciation", "Thinking of You", etc. that are used to provide 1, or more @ \$5.00 each), Bible/s in the designee's name, so that the Gideons can distribute that Bible/s throughout the World. These cards are "free" and you can mail to your recipient/s by itself, or enclosed into a Commercial Card (Hallmark, American Greetings, etc.). When you select a card, there is a "submission" form enclosed w/ envelope, so you can mail your funds to our Local Gideons. Since June 1st, 2022, our local Camp, has received funds for 732 Bibles through Dec 31st, from 12 of our Camps' 69 Churches....so, as you can see, this is a very personal way to express to your Recipient, just how special your feelings are for them. I personally will send 35-50 Cards per year. I keep our Rack supplied with a variety of Cards, for your selection.

In 2021, the Gideons distributed over 70 Million "free" Bibles in over 200 Counties printed in over 100 languages! Bethany UMC can feel proud to be a contributor and supporter of these distributions!

Ken Elkins, Gideon
Augusta North Gideons Camp



Women's Ministries

Attention Ladies! Still looking for something "new" to get involved in at Bethany this year? Something that won't take up too much of your time? Why not try Women's Ministries? It's not a huge commitment of time. Just a genuine desire to come together with other women of faith for book and/or Bible studies, an occasional night out, some fellowships and maybe an easy mission project or two. If you have a passion in your heart for other women ... women of all ages, please come talk to me about joining Women's Ministries! I'd love to hear from you ... all of you! We need to start planning for 2023!

Thanks! Cindy Kite, Women's Ministries Chair



Prayer List

Members

Hazel Truslow,
Dollie Wilfong
Bill Kile, Charlene Michael,
Donald & Amy Michael

Extended Family

Son & Daughter of Dollie Wilfong
Lisa McCormick - friend of Rosemary
Wagoner
Kris Lindsay - friend of Lori Mooney
Brother-in-law of Barbara Long
Donna - sister of Kathy Kile
Grandfather of Amber Casey

We extend Christian sympathy to Edie Smith upon the death of her father, Carl Smith. If you would like to send Edie a card, her address is ...
57 Pence Lane, Weyers Cave, VA
24486.

We also extend Christian sympathy to Gail Reese upon the death of her brother, Marty Miller. If you would like to send Gail a card, her address is ...
5630 Gladeview Drive,
Bridgewater, VA 22812.

Please note ...
All prayer requests will remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks unless otherwise requested.
If you have a prayer request, please call or email the church office.



February

1st	Jackie Dunsmore	10th	Bobbie Meek
	Megan Kile		Lindsay Williams
2nd	Reid Hill	12th	Steele Caricofe
3rd	Gary Ruleman		Katelyn & Lily
4th	Pam Lynn		McLaughlin
	Ron Castle	13th	Kelli Huffer
5th	Scott Herron	14th	Chuck McCarty
6th	Dylan Snyder	15th	Lisa Cox
			Laura Hittie
11th	Paige Crawford	16th	Rosa Campbell
13th	Rebekah Castle	17th	Jared Kile
14th	Bradley Dunsmore	18th	Sidney Moyer
18th	Laura Lucas	23rd	Cheryl Richards
19th	Natalie Hiner	25th	Camden Herron
21st	Sandra Campbell	26th	Barbara Long
		27th	Tim Schnittger

March

2nd	Jan Gorden	If your birthday is listed on the wrong day, or has been missed, please notify the office at office.bethany@gmail.com.
5th	Ken Elkins	
7th	Becky McCarty	
9th	Marguerite McDonald	



February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 6 pm - Worship Meeting	7 9:30 - 11 am - Coffee with the Pastor 12 pm - Young @ Hearts Luncheon at O'Neil's in H'burg	8	9 <i>Be the reason someone smiles today.</i>	10	11 
12 	13 6:30 pm - Church Council Meeting	14 10 am - Caring Cards 3-5 pm - Coffee with the Pastor 	15	16 A DAY WITHOUT LAUGHTER IS A DAY WASTED	17	18 8 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast
19	20 	21 10 am - Lenten Book Study 6:30 pm - Lenten Book Study	22 6 pm - Meal & Service 	23	24  BUMS 30 Hours of Famine	25
26 First Sunday in Lent	27 WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS	28 10 am - Lenten Book Study 6:30 pm - Lenten Book Study	If you need to use the church for a meeting, book or Bible study, fellowship, etc., please notify the office so the building and/or rooms don't get booked for 2 events at the same time! Thank you!			

Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org

and the
greatest
of these is
love



The Echo

"The Echo"

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

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

March Newsletter Deadline: Feb. 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