

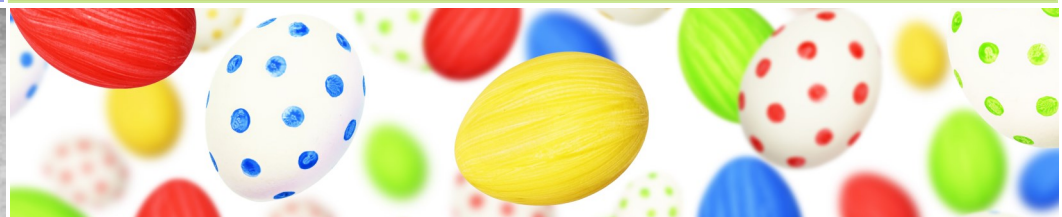
April 2023

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.



Community Easter Egg Hunt

Weyers Cave Community Center

Sunday, April 2

2 - 4 pm

Egg Hunt - Crafts - Puppets - Snacks

Invite family & friends!

If you can come out and help at the Easter Egg Hunt, please do! We need lots of helping hands from our church family!

Questions?

Contact Kathy Kile or Jackie Dunsmore.



From the Pastor's Desk

Did you know that April is National Poetry Month?? Well if you didn't, now you do! As most of you have probably guessed by now, I am not much of a poem fanatic, but I do appreciate those who have the gift of poetry. Those who can write and read poetry have a special gift of patience and grace about themselves. My 10th grade English teacher had an infatuation with two well-known American poets, Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman. For one class, we had to pick a poem from one of these two poets that was inspiring and something that we could expand upon. One of the poems was written by Dickinson, and it was called "If I can stop one heart from breaking." It reads:

*"If I can stop one heart from
breaking,
I shall not live in vain;
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain."*

Dickinson, who was what one would call an introvert these days, writes in a simplistic, yet beautiful way. Her call or challenge she leaves the reader with is one that I think our Bethany family needs to hear, in this season. We are called to help lighten the load of those around us and to support those who need it. As followers of the one true King, we ought to live a life that brings pure joy, not just happiness to those around us. I know it is impossible to please everyone, and that is not what this poem or our call is about. When we pause and listen to what is going

on in those around us, I would bet there is a need for a hand up, shoulder to cry on, or some type of reminder to let them know they are not alone, in their despair. Let us be more aware of who is not in worship on Sundays, and aware of those neighbors who seem to be carrying a heavy burden. May we as people of Jesus be people who ease one's suffering, by joining them, holding them, and being open to hear what they have to say. I want to leave you all with a quote from one of my favorite college professors:

"When you interact with someone, help to lighten the load. Inspire people to know that things are possible."

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Blaine

Holy Week Schedule

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Sunday, April 2 | After our Palm Sunday Worship Service join us for a churchwide brunch. Please bring a dish to share with all. |
| Sunday, April 2 | Community Easter Egg Hunt from 2-4 pm at WWCC |
| Thursday, April 6 | 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service with Communion |
| Saturday, April 8 | 5 pm Holy Saturday Worship Service |
| Sunday, April 9 | Easter Worship Service at 9:30 am followed by refreshments in the fellowship hall and our children's Easter Egg Hunt |

Missions Update by Lori Mooney

It is springtime! Flowers are blooming, trees are budding out, and the weather is getting warmer (even though we really didn't have much of a winter). Happy Easter from the Adult Mission Team!! He has risen!

Congratulations to Pastor Blaine and Pastor Ashley on their upcoming wedding day, April 15!

On Ash Wednesday, we put together 19 female kits and 23 male kits, with about 5 kits from the leftover items. Thank you for all the donations for this and putting them together that night.

We raised \$456 for Back Woods Lunches on Communion Sunday in March when we took up the special offering. Thank you for the donations because this will help for about a month to feed our food pantry neighbors hot meals on Monday afternoon.

Great Community Give is on Wednesday, April 19. This is their sixth year, and they have 143 awesome organizations to choose from. They are looking to raise \$2 million. If you would like to help one of the many organizations in the valley, please go to www.greatcommunitygive.org.

RAM (Remote Area Medical) Clinic will be coming to the Rockingham County Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 6 from 6 am to 6 pm and on Sunday, May 7 from 6 am to noon. This is a free medical, dental, and vision clinic for anyone who needs it. It is completely free, no pre-registration needed, or no-insurance needed. People usually start showing up at midnight on Friday to get in line for this event. We have signed up to bring some food items for the people waiting and the volunteers working that day. We need the following donated:

- 25 regular Jell-O cups
- 24 cans of diet soda
- 24 cans of soda
- 20 "Juicy Juice" juice packs (and it has to be this brand)
- 25 full-size candy bars
- and 40 packets of hot cocoa.

Please have these to the church by April 23. If we have extra donations of these items, then they will be given to Backpack Pals. They are asking for volunteers to help with set up and take down and parking. If anyone is interested, please let me know and I will get you connected with the right person. Monetary donations are also being accepted to help cover the cost for housing for the doctors and nurses who have volunteered their time.

Mission spotlight of the month: Blue Ridge CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Children is a nonprofit organization advocating for children who have experienced abuse and/or neglect through recruitment, training, and supervision of community volunteers. Every abused and neglected child will have a trained volunteer advocating for their best interest. Children taken from their home and put in foster care will have someone to lean on that will get to know them, their parents, and their foster parents and help them get through it all. If you would like to make a special donation, please mark it in the memo line for Blue Ridge CASA.

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



Play Ball!!

If you are interested in playing for the Bethany Softball Team this summer, we will begin practices on April 2nd @ 4:30 at the Weyers Cave Community Park. If you have not played before, but are interested, reach out to Eddie Moyer at (540) 294-6616 or canesflinsfan@aol.com. All, 13 and older, are welcome and invited!

Member Article

by Lorna Frizzelle

This devotion was shared with me by my mother-in-law. It is a reminder of why I became a follower of Christ. As a child, I was surrounded by people who helped others in and out of church; it helped shape who I am. At 9, I saw a need to help the younger swimmers of my club swim team, so I volunteered. In middle school, my friends and I did not give each other gifts, but instead adopted an Angel Tree and bought gifts for someone in need. My servant heart found joy in helping others and lead to a career that feeds the passion everyday.

In finding a church, I wanted to be surrounded by others who want to help others. It was obvious the servant hearted members of Bethany and since 2004, I have found ways to serve God by helping others. Whether it is within the church walls, in a school, in the community or in a different state serving with the youth mission team, I know God continues to place people in need in front of me.

Sometimes, I want to close my eyes and heart, but God continues to open the eyes of my heart. Read this devo-

tional, think about the questions and pray the prayer at the bottom. I pray that through our servant hearts at Bethany that others will see and feel God's love. Go and use the gifts God has given you to help others!

All the widows stood around Peter, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made. (Acts 9:39)

SEEING A NEED

by Cindy Hess Kasper

In the last few days of my dad's life, one of the nurses dropped by his room and asked me if she could give him a shave. As Rachel gently pulled the razor across his face, she explained, "Older men of his generation like to have a neat shave every day." Rachel had seen a need and acted on her instinct to show kindness, dignity, and respect to someone. The tender card she provided reminded me of my friend Julie who still paints her elderly mother's nails because it's important to her mom that she "look pretty."

Acts 9 tells us about a disciple named Dorcas (also known as Tabitha) who showed kindness by providing hand-made clothing for the poor (vs 36, 39). When she died, her room was

filled with friends who tearfully mourned this kind woman who loved helping others.

But Dorcas' story didn't end there. When Peter was brought to where her body lay, he knelt and prayed. In God's power, he called her by name saying, "Tabitha, get up" (vs 40). Amazingly, Dorcas opened her eyes and rose to her feet. When her friends realized she was alive, word spread quickly through the town and "many people believed in the Lord (vs 42).

And how did Dorcas spend the next day of her life? Probably exactly as she had before - seeing the needs of people and filling them.

Whom do you know that always seems to find ways to help others? What can you do to become more aware of other's needs?

Prayer: Father, open my eyes each day to see the hurting and needy people around me. Open my heart to do what I can to show them what God's love looks like. Amen.



Young at Hearts

will meet on Tuesday, April 4 at 12 noon at Thomas House in Dayton.

If you are 55 or older, we invite you to come join us

for some good food, great conversation and awesome fellowship!

If you haven't joined us yet, give it a try ... there's no commitment.

Come when you can. Questions? Contact Carolyn Swartz at

540-820-9798 or swartz1204@gmail.com.



UMCOR Hygiene Kits

This June we will be sending Hygiene Kits with Rosemary Wagoner to the United Methodist Conference. We will collect kits from April 17 thru May 19. There will be a basket in the foyer for your donations. You can either donate items, prepare a kit yourself or donate money to help purchase items to put together kits. It cost \$12 per kit.

Here is a list of items that are needed to prepare a hygiene kit ...

- One hand towel (15x25 - 17x27 inches) - No kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels
- One washcloth - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One Comb - Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth. No pocket combs or picks. Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth
- One toenail or fingernail clipper - No emery boards or metal nail files
- One Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger) - No Ivory or Jergen's soap. Do not remove from packaging.
- One adult toothbrush - Do not remove from packaging. Personal advertising not acceptable. Do not include toothpaste!

- 10 adhesive bandages (3/4 by 3 inches) - Common household bandages acceptable
- One 1-gallon size re-sealable bag

Assembly instructions ...

1. Lay hand towel flat on a table.
2. Lay the washcloth in the center of the hand towel.
3. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth (except the plastic bag).
4. Fold the sides of the hand towel to cover the items.
5. Grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of the towel.
6. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.

All items must be new. Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new. Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.



Caring Cards

will meet on Tuesday, April 11 at 10 am
at the church.

Join us as we write short notes of encouragement
and get well soon cards to our members
who need a pick-me-up!

Come help us with this ministry for our folks.
There's no commitment ... come when you can.
We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Questions? Contact Becky McCarty.



Men's Prayer Breakfast

will meet on Saturday, April 15 at 8 am
for an awesome breakfast prepared by Eddie Moyer
in the fellowship hall.

After breakfast, there will be a time of fellowship
and prayer.

All men are invited to join us ... at least give us a try!
We meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 8 am.

Questions or need more info?

Contact Eddie Moyer at canesfansfan@aol.com.




Financial Update by Cindy Kite

March is coming to an end. And as it goes away, so does the positive number for our church finances. Last month, I was so excited to announce that we were in the black for the first time during the first quarter of a year. I'm sorry to say ... it didn't last! I'm still excited about where we are; however, there is always room for improvement.

We are \$1,413.92 behind where we should be this time of the year. That's -2.7%. It's so much better than last year at this time. We were over \$14,000 or 29.6% behind our projected budget. So it's good news and bad news, all at the same time.

Good news. And bad news. All at the same time. I've been in the middle of the good news and bad news all week. Our granddaughter came six weeks early and she's currently at UVA. The good news and bad ... she was born at a place that knew exactly what they needed to do and the bad news ... she's little. Really little. Good news ... she has the best nurses and doctors attending to her while she's in the NICU. The bad news is that she's there and not home with her family. This is where my faith in God has carried me through and many prayers have been sent on her behalf. It's also a time where I can praise God and thank him for the blessings he has given us ... her. God sent her and has kept her safe and healthy.

March 19, 2023 - Week 12			
Budget	225,467.00		
Where We Should Be		52,029.90	
Where We Are		50,615.98	
Deficit of		(1,413.92)	
Net Percentage		-2.7%	
Expenses as of 3/19/23		34,970.29	

That's the way I'm going to look at our church finances. Good news. Bad news. Bad news is we aren't in the black anymore and giving is not where it was a month ago. Good news is we are only 2.7% behind our budget, not almost 30% like last year. Bad news ... are we listening to God and giving what he asks you to with your time, talents and finances? Good news is we are able to pay all our bills. Pay our staff ... thank you! Continue with our ministries. And do events for our community like the Easter Egg Hunt.

Let's trust that God will provide for all we need. Let's continue to pray for Bethany. Asking for folks to volunteer their time, serve on a committee and continue to support us with their finances. All for the glory of God!!

It's Almost Time to Mow ...

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 still in need of volunteers to mow the church lawn this summer ... yes, it's that time of year! The easiest thing, if you're interested, is to sign up for an entire month from April through October. We have volunteers for April, May, June and October ... thank you! We are still in need of volunteers for the months of July, August and September. If you need a break or can't make it a week, we will have volunteers ready to assist you.

The church has it's 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 (office.bethany@gmail.com or 540-234-8880) 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 consider helping to keep our church beautiful and inviting for members and visitors.



Spring Clean Up Day

The Trustees are sponsoring an outside clean up day on Saturday, April 22. We'll start at 7 am and finish up around 12 noon. Come when you can and stay as long as you can. Many helping hands make light work for all.

We will trim shrubs, spread mulch, do yardwork, painting, and whatever else needs cleaned up to make our church beautiful on the outside. And it is a great first impression for visitors.

Bring your own tools ... gloves, rake, shovels, trimmers, weed eaters, wheel barrels, etc.



A Note From SPPRC

Many thanks to Marguerite for all the beautiful music she has provided for Bethany for many years, but she needs a break. Her last Sunday will be April 9th. She will be missed and always welcome to return.

Isaac Chenowith has resigned and Bridgett Crawford has graciously agreed to be youth leader for the interim period. Many thanks to Bridgett for taking on this role. Please offer her your support and help.

There will be a reception on May 6, 2023 at 4:30 at Mt Pisgah to celebrate Blaine and Ashley's wedding. We are partnering with Mt. Pisgah and Bethany will help provide finger foods.

We will be making a cash gift to Pastor Blaine. An envelope will be passed on two Sundays ... April 2 and April 9. This is a good way to show your love and appreciation of Pastor Blaine and his new bride.

Mother-In-Law Dies In The Holy Land

A man, his wife, and his cranky mother-in-law went on vacation to the Holy Land. While they were there, the mother-in-law passed away.

The undertaker told them, "You can have her shipped home for \$5,000, or you can bury her here in the Holy Land for \$150".

The man thought about it for a while and told the undertaker he would just have her shipped home.

The undertaker asked, "Why... why would you spend \$5,000 to ship your mother-in-law home when it would be wonderful to be buried here and spend only \$150?"

The man said, "A man died here about 2000 years ago. He was buried here and three days later, he rose from the dead."

"I just can't take that chance."



What is the Resurrection: A Child's Answer (a true story)

A Baptist past was presenting a children's sermon. During the sermon he asked the children if they knew what the resurrection was. A little boy raised his hand.

The pastor called on him and the little boy said, "I know that if you have a resurrection that lasts more than four hours you are supposed to call the doctor."

It took over ten minutes for the congregation to settle down enough for the service to continue!



A day without laughter is a wasted day!

April 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>Thursday, April 20 National Volunteer Day And we thank all our volunteers that work everyday to make Bethany awesome!</p>					<p>1</p> 
<p>2 Palm Sunday Brunch 2-4 pm - Community Easter Egg Hunt</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 12 pm - Young at Hearts (Thomas House in Dayton)</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 6:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Service </p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 5 pm - Holy Saturday Service </p>
<p>9 </p>	<p>10 6:30 pm - Church Council Meeting </p>	<p>11 10 am - Caring Cards</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 8 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast Congratulations Pastors Blaine & Ashley </p>
<p>16 Amy Pennell (Weyers Cave UMC) Guest Speaker Blaine on Vacation</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 </p>	<p>21 </p>	<p>22 7 am - Outside Clean-up Day 7 pm - 10 am - Girl Scout Sleepover</p>
<p>23 Don Hawks Guest Speaker Blaine on Vacation</p>	<p>24 May Newsletter Articles Due</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 <i>be silly. be honest. be kind.</i></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 </p>						



IT'S A GIRL!

Congratulations to Ryan and Nicole Kite on the birth of their daughter, Josephine Marie, born on Friday, March 24. She was six weeks early and weighed 4 lbs, 13 ozs and 16" long. She is in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at UVA and will be there for several weeks. Excited and proud grandparents are Randy and Cindy Kite.

And great grandma, Carolyn Swartz. Your prayers for her to grow, become healthy and be able to come home soon will be greatly appreciated.



April

3rd Easton Moyer
5th Trae Elkins
Sawyer Dunsmore
7th Jordan Dunsmore
9th Phil Mikesell
Susan Thacker
10th Chuck Schwab
11th Tiana Ryan
17th Rick Northrop
Jenifer Williams
18th Susan Meadows
20th Stella Hughes
25th Carrie Dunsmore
Nash Colvin
28th Sarah Cook
29th Gail Reese
30th Nadine Moore
Sarah Williams

6th Stanley Houff
Camden Huffer
8th Helen Figgins
9th Delores Diehl
Pat Lynn
10th Mark Dunsmore
12th David Hughes
15th Brian Shifflett
17th Gary Lucas
Debbie Schofield
23rd Zac Hittie
25th Hannah Cook
26th Jay Frizzelle
28th Tom Thacker

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

May

1st Faye Youmans
4th Pierce Moyer
5th Dani Martlock DeHart



Prayer List

Members

Audrey Bradshaw,
Romana Garrison, Don
Truslow, Lorna Frizzelle

Extended Members

Dennis Huffer - father of Mike Huffer
Shawn & Jennifer Cook & family
Josie Kite - granddaughter of Randy &
Cindy Kite
Scott - nephew of Diana Eicher
Michael - son-in-law of Gary & Bettina
Ruleman
Becky Huffman - mother of Tara
Stroop

All prayer requests will remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks unless otherwise requested. If you have someone you would like placed on the prayer list, please call (540-234-8880) or email (office.bethany@gmail.com) the office. Thank you!



I want to thank Bethany folks for all the caring cards that you have taken the time to send to me during my recovery. I appreciate each and every one of them.

- Judy Faby

Bethany United Methodist Church

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Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



The Echo

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A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church
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Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader

Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer

Danny Perry, Sextons

May Newsletter Deadline: April. 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