



May 2023

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

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 From the Pastor's Desk & Our New Youth Leader
- 3 Mission Update
- 4 UMCOR Kits for Conference
- 5 Financial Update & Summer Celebration & Cookout
- 6 Meet Our Graduates
- 7 Meet More of Our Graduates & Women's Bible Study
- 8 May Calendar
- 9 Birthdays & Prayer List

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.



*Hooray for all the moms in our lives!
Hooray for the mothers, grandmothers,
godmothers, stepmothers,
mothers-in-law, aunts, wives, sisters,
friends, fellow moms, mentors
and women who love
with a mother's heart.*

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!





From the Pastor's Desk



The pastor decided to go on his honeymoon instead of writing an article for the newsletter! "From the Pastor's Desk" will return next month.



Let Me Introduce Myself by Bridgett Crawford

I am Bridgett Crawford and I am very excited to be the incoming Youth Leader for Bethany! I co-teamed this position several years ago before COVID. We had lots of fun learning about each other and growing in relationship with Christ. I look forward to the new journeys awaiting us now!

I live in Mount Sidney with my husband, Darold "Weezer" (who just retired from law enforcement April 28th). We also have a 21-year-old daughter, Paige, who is a rising Senior at Virginia Tech. She is part of the Corps of Cadets and the military branch of the Army. She is studying International Relations and Arabic. Mackenzie is our youngest daughter. She is 18 and graduating from Turner Ashby this year. Next year she will also be at Virginia Tech studying Dairy Science. She ultimately wants to be a large animal veterinarian.

I am a graduate of Fort Defiance High School. I obtained my undergrad degree from James Madison University in Public Relations. Several (haha) years later I went back for my Master's degree in Elementary and Middle School Education from Liberty University. I loved applying my new knowledge with a Christ center of thought. During



COVID, I went back to JMU for an add-on endorsement with Teacher Leadership. I currently teach 7th grade English Language Arts at Pence Middle School, which is part of the Turner Ashby district.

Family is my heart. I feel like I have my blood family and then my church family. My favorite Bible quotes are Romans 12:2 and Matthew 7:7. God is currently taking me on new paths and new opportunities. I am blessed that Youth Leader is a journey He asked me to take.



Mission Update

by Lori Mooney

May is here! We have graduations, Mother's Day, the end of school, Memorial Day, and maybe some vacations going on. Enjoy this wonderful springtime and all it has to offer.

Thank you to everyone who donated time and treats for the Community Easter Egg Hunt.

If you were able to make donations to the Great Community Give, thank you for helping all those organizations.

Thank you for those of you who volunteered on the Spring Clean-up Day to help the church get spiffed up.

Thank you for the food, drinks, and monetary donations that were sent to RAM.

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers out there!! Hope you get to enjoy your day the way you want because you deserve it.

Thank you for the people donating

hygiene kits for Rosemary Wagoner to take to conference. A list of what to put in the hygiene kits is available on the table in the foyer. She normally gets about 30 kits, so let's see if we can surpass that and shoot for 50 kits.

Mission spotlight of the month: Habitat for Humanity in Staunton. Their mission is: "Building and restoring homes, lives and communities through faith." They have been helping in the area for 25 years. Right now, they are not doing critical home repairs, but focusing on new home construction. If you would like to donate, please mark it for Habitat

for Humanity in the memo section of the check.

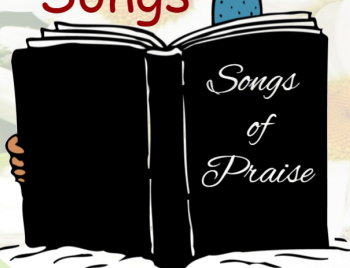
If you know of anyone who needs help, please let us know.

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

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



Tell Us Your
Favorite
Hymns
P&W
Songs



SONGS OF SUMMER!

**Do you have a favorite hymn or P&W song?
One you haven't heard for a while?**

**Well, if so you need to pick up a Songs of Summer form at the
Welcome Center, list your favorite songs or hymns,
and place it in the box also found at the Welcome Center.**

**During the summer months we want to sing some of your
favorite hymns & P&W songs.**

Forms will be available each Sunday beginning May 14.



UMCOR Hygiene Kits

This June we will be sending Hygiene Kits with Rosemary Wagoner to the United Methodist Conference. We will begin collecting items to prepare hygiene kits from April 17 - May 19. 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.
- 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.

There is a basket in the foyer for your donations. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please place it in the offering plate with a note saying it's for "Kits for Conference."

Coffee with the Pastor



Want to talk with Pastor Blaine outside the church? Maybe get to know him a little better, and a little more about what makes him tick? He will be at Valley Pike Rumor Mill on Wednesday, May 3 from 9:30 am - 12 noon and again on Wednesday, May 17 from 3-5 pm. Come by and say hello. Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and some good conversation!

Caring Cards

If you like sending cards and writing

notes of encouragement, you need to give this group a try. They send cards to folks just to say thank you, get well and to encourage. This isn't a huge commitment. Come when you can. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Next get-together - May 9 at 10 am. Questions? Contact Becky McCarty.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

This group of men will meet again on Saturday, May 20 at 8 am for a yummy breakfast prepared by Eddie Moyer. After breakfast,



there is a time of fellowship and prayer. Again, no big commitment, come when you can.

Young at Hearts

This group of lively 55+ youngsters get together for lunch on the first Tuesday of each month. All folks 55 and older, and still young at heart, are invited to come join us for our June luncheon on June 6 at 12 noon. We will meet at Taste of Thai in Harrisonburg. Questions? Contact Carolyn Swartz. There's no commitment, come when you can!



Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

It's May! A new month with many new beginnings! Trees have shed off winter and now have beautiful green leaves. Azaleas have come out of hibernation and now have new blooms of bright red, pink or white. It's time to plant vegetable and flower gardens. The bees are busy flying from flower to flower. Go outside and take a moment to look around you at God's beautiful work. God has made all things new again! And he can do the same thing for you!

Another new thing is that we are only 9% behind our budget instead of 23% like last year. I know many of you are giving on a regular basis. But many of you aren't. If you miss a Sunday, that giving is usually forgotten about. If we all gave on a regular basis, we wouldn't be 9% behind our budget. We would keep up with our budget or even surpass it. Wouldn't that be awesome!

One way to keep giving on a regular basis is to use the online giving link you can find on our website. Then even if you miss a Sunday, your giving will be automatically sent to the church. You can set it up to give every week, once a month, or just a one-time donation. I use the online giving myself and give once a month. I don't have to think about bringing the check I wrote and left on my desk, or whether I've given this month? Setting it up is very easy. Take a

April 23, 2023 - Week 17		
Budget	225,467.00	
Where We Should Be		73,710.03
Where We Are		<u>67,084.86</u>
Deficit of		(6,625.17)
Net Percentage		-9.0%

look at it. if you need assistance, call or email me at the church office. You can find the online giving link at www.mybethanyumc.org.

As of April 23, our giving totals \$67,084.86 which averages out to \$3,946.16 per week. We need a total of \$4,335.90 per week to maintain our budget of \$225,467.00. Our expenses total \$54,849.44 with invoices totaling \$6,974.57 still owing. All that means we are still in the black by \$5,360.85. Right now we are not using all of our budget each month. That's why we have a surplus so far this year. January and February were very good giving months; however, March and April have not been. Let's make May a great month and June an outstanding month! That's a challenge I make to each of you!

Pentecost – Happy Birthday

Mark your calendars now for
Sunday, May 28 when we will celebrate
Pentecost Sunday ... the birthday of the church!
Make sure to wear RED that day to church.

Instead of our usual Pentecost cookout, join us for a

Summer Celebration & Cookout

on Sunday, June 4 after church to celebrate the beginning of summer.
The church will provide grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, chips and drinks.

We ask you to please bring a side to share with all.

There will be an ice cream bar for dessert.

We have special activities for kids of ALL AGES including a bouncy house for the younger ones,
as well as yard games and a team trivia game!

This will be a great opportunity to invite friends or neighbors to church!

Mark your calendars now!



Sunday, May 21 will be Graduate Sunday.

We look forward to recognizing our high school and college graduates and celebrating with them at a reception immediately after the service. We don't want to miss anyone, so if you have a graduate in your family PLEASE contact the church office at 540-234-8880 or office.bethany@gmail.com.

Meet our 2023 graduates ...



Nash Hunter Colvin

Nash is the son of Nancy Colvin and Trevor Colvin. Nash has been an active member of Bethany since 2004. He has worked hard and had fun on 6 youth mission trips. He'll join the youth mission again this summer. He has been blessed by the great givers of this congregation!!

Nash will graduate from Fort Defiance and played 4 years of football and completed the EMT course at Valley Technical School. He plans to continue serving others as he will join the U.S. Army and become a medic.

Isaiah 6:8 has been his guide "Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, here I am, send me."

Abigail (Abby) Grace Riddle

Abby is the daughter of Sean & Libby Riddle and will graduate from Fort Defiance High School this year. During her 4 years at Fort she has participated in multiple activities including cross country, indoor track, outdoor track

She participated in the FDHS Musical productions all 4 years. They included the following: Freshman year High School Musical as the role of cheerleader, Sophomore year Beauty & the Beast as the role of Silly Girl, Junior year Shrek as the role of Gingy/ Sugar Plum Fairy, Senior year Clue as the role of Mrs. Peacock. Abby has been a member of the National Honor Society for 2 years (junior & senior). She has been a member of Bella Voice and Advanced choir all 4 years. Including participating in Valley Honor Choir in 2021.

In addition to school activities she enjoys ballet and has been dancing since she was 3 years old. She has been dancing at the Staunton Academy of Ballet for 14 years. She has been a member of the Shenandoah Civic Dance Company for 11 years. She has performed in many ballets including her senior year roles of Clara in the Nutcracker, and will perform the role of Glinda in the spring production of The Wizard of Oz. She has received many International Dance Acclaim Awards and was selected for the Richmond Ballet Summer Intensive in 2021.

She loves going to the beach and spending time with her family, friends and especially her golden retriever, Obi (pictured above). She plans to attend Virginia Tech this fall in the Fashion Merchandising & Design Program.



**Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and
your plans will succeed. Proverbs 16:3**





Lindsay Paige Williams

Lindsay is the daughter of Scott and Jen Williams and will graduate from Spotswood High School.

Lindsay has spent 4 years as a Blazer! She was a Football sideline cheerleader for 3 years and a Competition Cheerleader for all 4 years. While cheering she was also on the yearbook staff and was Yearbook Editor for her Junior and Senior years.

Lindsay is attending Mary Washington University in the Fall and is majoring in Psychology and minoring in Photography.



Mackenzie Elizabeth Crawford



Mackenzie is the daughter of Darold "Weezer" and Bridgett Crawford. She is a senior at Turner Ashby High School. She has been an officer and active with her FFA chapter since her freshman year. She served as FFA President this year. Her FFA experience opened many leadership conference opportunities and service back to the community. Mackenzie also played Varsity softball her Freshman and Sophomore year. Her Freshman and Senior year she was also a part of the TA Golf Team. She served as a buddy on the Challenge Baseball team in Bridgewater.

Mackenzie has enjoyed her classes with Veterinary Science at Massanutten Technical Center. She interned at Ashby Herd and Health this year to give her large animal experience. She also worked at a horse farm in Linville helping to tend to the horses. At the moment, she is working at Texas Roadhouse. In her spare time, she loves to hunt and fish. She wants to go out west and be part of a ranching experience.

In the fall, Mackenzie will attend Virginia Tech and major in Dairy Sciences. Her ultimate goal is to become a large animal veterinarian.

Women's Ministry is offering a Bible study for women this summer, entitled Ruth (loss, love and legacy) by Kelly Minter.

In this 7-session Bible study, we will examine Ruth's journey of unbearable loss, redeeming love, and divine legacy. This study delves into the virtuous character of Ruth, her unique relationship with her mother-in-law Naomi, and her blossoming love with Boaz.

Discussion questions and a video each week.

We will begin on Wednesday, June 14 at 6:30 pm until 8 pm. The cost of the book is \$10. Please join us! Questions? Contact Becky McCarty or Barbara Somers. The deadline to sign up is May 30. A signup sheet is at the Welcome Center.



May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8:30 pm - Softball Game 	2 12 pm - Young at Hearts O'Neil's in H'burg 7:30 pm - Softball Game 	3 9:30 am - 12 pm - Coffee with the Pastor (Valley Pike) 	4 	5 	6 4:30 pm - Reception for Pastor Blaine & Pastor Ashley at Mt. Pisgah 
7 After Church - Youth to do Odd Jobs 	8 6 pm - Worship Meeting at Smiley's Ice Cream 7:30 pm - Softball Game 	9 10 am - Caring Cards 8:30 pm - Softball Game 	10	11 	12	13 8:30 am - 1 pm Fellowship Hall Reserved
14 	15 6:30 pm - Softball Game 	16 6:30 pm - Softball Game 	17 3-5 pm - Coffee with the Pastor (Valley Pike) 	18	19	20 8 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast 
21 	22 Deadline for June Newsletter 7:30 pm - Softball Game 	23 6:30 pm - Softball Game 	24	25	26 	27
28  PENTECOST SUNDAY	29 	30 8:30 pm - Softball Game 	31 7:30 pm - Softball Game 			



Join the Bethany Softball Team!



We need softball players. If you would like to play on the softball team, please contact Eddie Moyer at cansfinsfan@aol.com or 540-294-6616. Anyone age 13 or older can play. Games have begun, but you can still join the team. Check the calendar for days and times. If you're looking to exercise a little more, and have some fun doing it, here's your opportunity!



Happy Mother's Day

May

1st Faye Youmans
4th Pierce Moyer
5th Dani Martlock DeHart
6th Stanley Houff
Camden Huffer
9th Delores Diehl
Pat Lynn
10th Mark Dunsmore
15th Brian Shifflett
17th Gary Lucas
Debbie Schofield
23rd Zac Hittie
26th Jay Frizzelle
28th Tom Thacker

11th Amelia Hughes
15th Terri Shifflett
18th Jonathan Northrop
20th Maggie Huffer
23rd Jim Miller
Kelly Herron
24th Deja Moyer
26th Mae Houff
Dianna Eicher
28th Dave Williams
30th Pete Richards

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

June

3rd Becky Hawkins
5th Bettina Ruleman
Pastor Blaine
7th Brenda Hiner
Briton Herron
Lucy Huffer
9th Jac Bridges



Prayer List

Members

Don & Hazel Truslow, Lorna Frizzelle,
Joe Meek

Extended Members

Becky Huffman - mother of Tara Stroop,
Katherine Simmons - mother of Cheryl
Richards, Ralph Griffin,
Mark - friend of Rosemary Wagoner,
Michael - son-in-law of Gary & Bettina
Ruleman

All prayer requests will remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks unless otherwise requested. If you would like someone placed on the prayer list, please call or email the office.

I've Moved!



Peggy Lucas
1285 Shank Drive, #225
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
540-421-8011

Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



Graduate Sunday
May 21



"The Echo"

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

(540) 234-8880

www.mybethanyumc.org

Blaine Oliver-Thomas, Pastor

850-508-7245

blainethomas@vaumc.org

Bridgett Crawford, Youth Director

Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader

Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer

Danny Perry, Sexton

June Newsletter Deadline: May 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