



The Echo

July 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.

NOW THE
LORD IS
the spirit,
AND WHERE
THE SPIRIT OF
the Lord is,
THERE IS
freedom.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

Blessed Butterfly



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Beloved Siblings in Christ,

July is upon us, which means the 4th of July, fireworks, and campfires are too upon us. As we celebrate our nation's birthday and the heat ramps up, summer is certainly in full swing. July also marks the one-year anniversary of being your pastor, which is crazy and beautiful at the same time. I am incredibly grateful for you all; who gave me, the now 26-year-old pastor, an opportunity to lead you and Bethany into the future. It certainly has not been a flawless year and we have let some things get in the way of loving people and spreading the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; BUT we persist forward. We have welcomed a number of new families. Some old faces have returned to our warm, and loving sanctuary. We have worshipped together outside of our walls, and have continued to emphasize our love for the people in our community. We have been the hands, feet, and smiles of Jesus, and that truly is a blessing. Ultimately, as your pastor, I am so pleased, grateful, and honestly overwhelmed what this community continues to do.

The month of July also has become a more difficult month for me in the past three years. As most of you probably know by now, in July 2020, I was shot in the stomach in a drive by shooting, in Durham, NC. In the first three days afterwards; I underwent three emergency surgeries to fix major organs; including my spleen, large

intestine, and kidney. In this process, I needed 58 pints of blood to survive this ordeal. From the day I woke up and heard about all the extraordinary measures that were taken, I decided I would not live one day with any regrets and at some point; I would give back all 58 pints of blood, that I drained. I have been waiting to be able to host a blood drive in hopes to be the same saving hand, that I needed in my season of crisis. With all of that being said, I am incredibly grateful and excited to announce that Bethany UMC will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday September 9 from 9 am-2 pm. IF you can give blood, make sure to sign up online or in the narthex. IF you cannot give blood, no worries, we will have more opportunities to serve that day and we need volunteers!

As we look forward to the next year together, I hope you will continue to pray for our church, our community, and our world. I hope you will find a new place on one of our many different committees and volunteer for one of our many upcoming ministry opportunities. Bethany is stronger, better, and more faithful because of YOU. So sign up, show up, and continue to be the faithful people of God that I have witnessed you to be in the past year.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Blaine

1 Peter 4:10: "And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts."

**To commemorate 9/11 and the needs of our neighbors,
Bethany will be hosting a blood drive in the fellowship hall
on Sept. 9 from 9 am - 2 pm.
There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center or you can
sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org.
Every donation helps save lives in our local and neighboring
communities.**



Missions Update

by Lori Mooney

It's time to celebrate the 4th of July. Hello, cookouts, time with friends and family, and fireworks. Yeah!! It is a wonderful time of the year.

The Youth Mission trip will be back from their week in PA. We hope it was a good week and lots of items accomplished on the agenda. We know that the families that you helped were greatly appreciative. We can't wait to see and hear all about it in August. Thank you to all that went and served the Lord. Thank you to all the people who donated food, drinks, and were prayer warriors for this trip. We couldn't do it without all the support from this church family. THANK YOU!

Mission spotlight of the month:

Who Wants to Kiss a Goat?!

Not you, right??

Well, who, at church, would you like to see kiss a goat?

Would you be willing to pay to see one of our folks kiss a goat?!

Beginning on Sunday, July 9 there will be 4 jars in the foyer.

Each jar will have one of the following names on it ...

... Pastor Blaine, Bridgett Crawford, Dale Roller and Bill Kile.

You can donate money by placing it in the jar with the name of the person you would like to see kiss a goat. This contest will continue through October. The person who has the most money in their jar will be kissing a goat at our Annual Trunk or Treat.

All proceeds from our Kiss a Goat contest will go towards the Capital Building Fund to help offset the \$4,115.21 still needed for the roof last year.

Build United. Repairing homes, improving lives. They are part of the United Way in Harrisonburg. They are currently not accepting applications and referring those that need help in the area to Rebuilding Hope, Community Housing Partners, and Central Valley Habitat for Humanity. They are still using funds to help with these projects and many others that they do within the community. If you would like to make a contribution, please include it in the memo section of the check or leave a note with cash that it is for Build United.

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



Young at Hearts

will NOT meet in July since the 1st Tuesday falls on July 4.

We will meet again on Tuesday, August 1 at 12 pm at O'Neil's in Harrisonburg. If you are 55+ you are invited to join this group of awesome people. There will be lots of good food, fellowship, fun, and laughter.

Come out and give us a try in August. There is no commitment.

Come when you can!

Questions? Contact Carolyn Swartz.



Men's Prayer Breakfast

will be held on Saturday, July 15 at 8 am in the fellowship hall.

All men are invited to come enjoy a breakfast prepared by Eddie Moyer.

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

Give us a try! You'll be glad you did!!





A True Miracle

by Gail Reese

It was Memorial day 2011 when I got a phone call from my gynecologist, Amy Keats. She called to tell me that my test results had gotten lost on her desk. She told me I had stage 2, phase 3 uterine cancer. It was a real gut punch.

Pastor Brad McMillan visited and prayed with my family. Before he left he asked if there was anything he could do for me. The verse from James 5:13-15 popped into my head. I asked if he could have the elders pray for me. He called together members of my Bible study and others. Two days before my scheduled surgery Ralph and I and ten other people arrived at the church. There was Pastor Brad, Pat Lamb, Bev Roller, Dot Roller, Jean Dunsmore, Terri Shifflett, Becky McCarty, Chuck McCarty, Becky Hawkins, and Kathleen (Pollock) Stump.

What followed was truly a miracle. We gathered at the front of the church. I was surrounded by my eleven saints. They laid hands on me and Pastor Brad prayed. I felt a weight lift off of me. Becky who was standing in front of me told me afterwards that as they prayed my face was "transformed". I felt the peace that passes all understanding.

As Ralph and I were driving home I realized my pain was gone. I told him I thought I was healed. I asked him if he thought going through with the surgery would be a lack of faith. He nonchalantly told me I no longer needed all those things. I went through with the hysterectomy. Interestingly, when Dr. Duska tested a lymph node no cancer was found. Then they tested an ovary and again no cancer was found. Finally they tested the uterus itself and only a few abnormal cells were found.

Praise God and thanks to my saints who prayed for me. That was now twelve years ago. Now I know if I had not gone through with the surgery there would not have been proof of my miraculous healing. It's not lost on me there were twelve people gathered and I am telling this story twelve years later. My God is a God of numbers and I believe a sense of humor!!

The Lord says, I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you.

2 Kings 20:5



Let's Update the Church Directory

by Cindy Kite

Yes, it's that time! It's well past that time! We have so many new faces and families, we need to update our church picture directory!! Everyone likes to be addressed by their name and not a "hey you." A picture directory lets folks put names to the faces they see. I'm asking everyone to submit a family or individual photo, preferably taken outside to put in the directory. Have someone take one with your cellphone and then just email it to me. You can email it to office.bethany@gmail.com. I will be available to take photos from the middle to the end of July if you would like. I will have my camera at church on Sundays ... if I'm here, my camera will be with me!

I also need updated addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and birthdays (month, day and year). Have no fear, the year will not be published in the directory. It will only be seen by myself or Pastor Blaine and will go into our database. I will be emailing an Information Form to all and

Church Photo Directory



ask you to please fill it out and bring it to church with you or email it back to me by July 31. There will also be copies at the Welcome Center. I need everyone's participation! If you bring it to church, please leave it in the "Secretary's" mailbox across from the ladies restroom in the foyer.

Once I have all the information I need, I will print a copy and leave it in the foyer for each family to check to make sure the picture is okay and that all personal information is correct. After that I will get them printed. If you would like one, the cost will be \$8.00. If you have a binder already and just need to replace the inside, the cost will be \$4.00. The cost is to cover the nice paper it is printed on and the binder. If you would like one emailed to you, the cost is free.

If you have any questions, please email me at office.bethany@gmail.com.

And thanks in advance for participating!!!





Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

Happy 4th of July!! I hope you get to celebrate the holiday with your family and friends and with lots of food and fireworks. And that you appreciate all the freedoms God has granted us in the good ole USA! We are so blessed to live in such an awesome country.

And what an awesome church we are all part of!! You make Bethany a truly wonderful place to worship. Each of you! You come to worship. You lead worship. You volunteer to be part of the A/V team. You participate in the fellowships we hold. You donate funds to families in need and to our youth. You serve our neighbors at the Food Pantry. You work with our children. You go on Youth Mission Trips. You mow the church lawn. You lead Bible studies and Sunday School classes. You chair various committees. Those are the things that make Bethany a wonderful place to worship and a wonderful family to be part of.

You also give. Yes, we are behind where we expected to be at the present time. We would love to be in the black and

June 25, 2023 - Week 26		
Budget	225,467.00	
Where We Should Be		112,733.18
Where We Are		99,096.42
Deficit of		(13,636.76)
Net Percentage		-12.1%

not the red. But it's summer ... and summer giving is always low. June has not been a good month for us. I hope all of us can be more intentional about our giving during the month of July. If we all try, we can make this July the best July we've ever had. We're depending on YOU!!

Thank all of you who contributed to the Michael's Love Offering (\$4,915.00) and to the Youth Mission Trip (\$3,743.00). You're awesome!

July

2nd Kathy Frizzelle
Whitley Kile
3rd Thalia Casey
4th Tom Gorden
5th Daisy Castle
8th Avery Cox
12th Ramona Garrison
14th Jerry Sheets
16th Karen Ott
Ralph Reese
17th Sandy Gibson
18th Dollie Wilfong
19th Nancy Colvin

25th Charlene Michael
27th Kathy Kile
Drew Hittie
30th Adam Casey

August

1st Eddie Lynn
3rd Joe Meek
5th Bill Kile
9th Jim Peterson
Luke McLaughlin
10th Julie Ritchie
11th Scott Williams
Christian Michael
13th Don Truslow

14th Judy Faby
18th Kevin Huffer
19th Dale Roller
20th Lindy Sheets
Robert Hill
24th Hazel Truslow
30th Carolyn Swartz
Eddie Moyer
Kevin Stroop

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



Prayer List

Members: Don & Hazel Truslow, Abby Michael and Baby Layla, Gary Ruleman

Extended Family: Michael - son-in-law of Gary & Bettina Ruleman, Mike - husband of Kathleen Stump



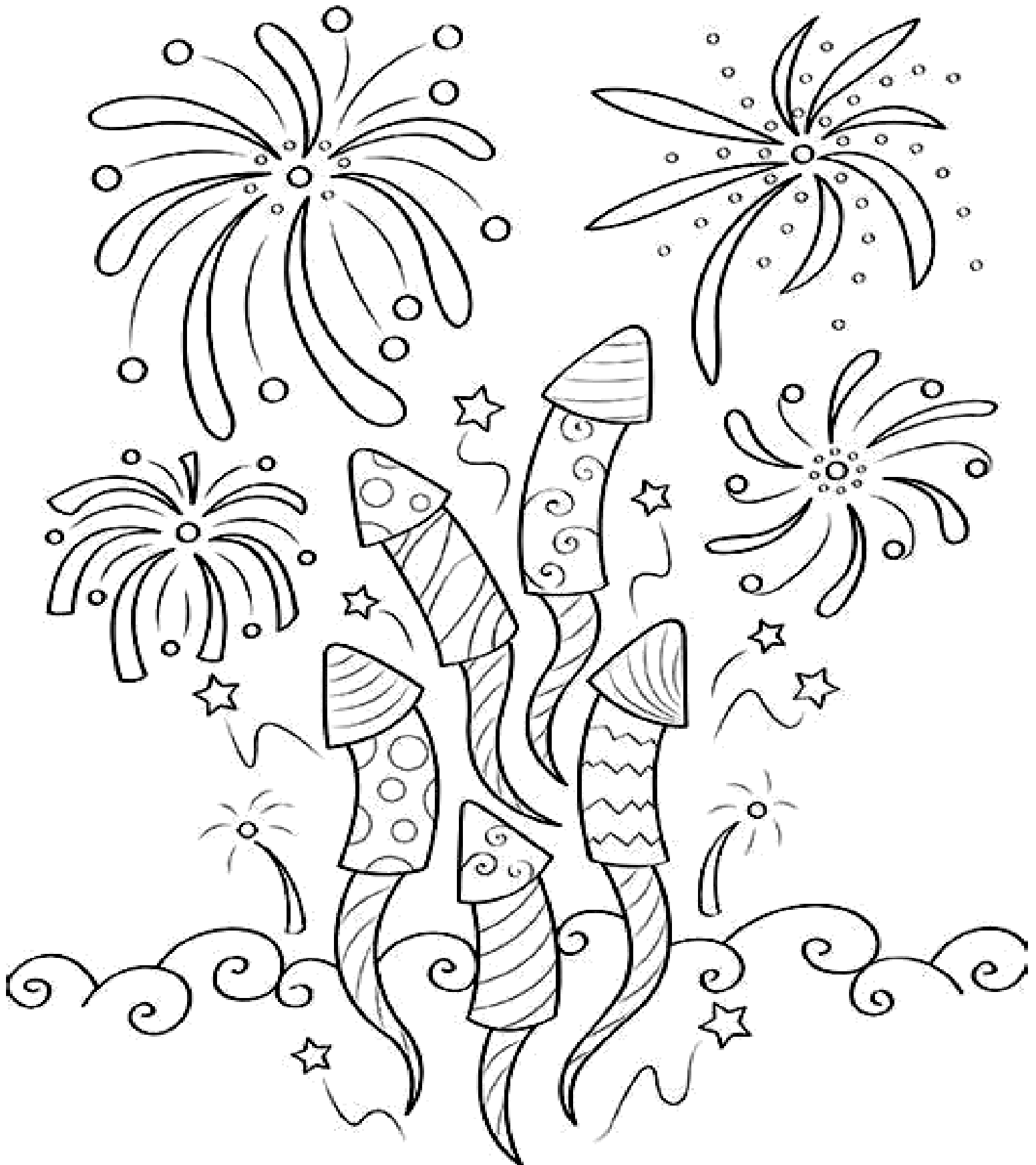
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July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
2	3	4 	5	6 9:30 am - 12 pm Coffee with the Pastor (Rumor Mill @ Valley Pike) 	7	8
9 	10 6 pm - Worship Meeting	11 10 am - Caring Cards	12 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study	13	14	15 8 am 
16 	17	18	19 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study	20 August Newsletter Articles Due!	21	22
Pastor Blaine on Vacation!						
23 Jim Harris Guest Speaker Pastor Blaine on Vacation!	24	25	26 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study	27 6 pm - Dinner with Pastor Blaine at O'Neil's in Harrisonburg 	28	29 Do small things with great love. - Mother Teresa -
30 	31					



Hey Kids and/or Adults ... color the fireworks and bring it to church with you
and hang on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall!



Bethany United Methodist Church

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Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



"The Echo"

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Blaine Oliver-Thomas, Pastor
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Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer
Bridgett Crawford, Youth Director
Danny Perry, Sexton

August Newsletter Deadline: July 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