



The Echo

September 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.



Welcome September

New month, new chapter,
new page and new wishes.
May the month give you
courage, strength, confidence,
patience, self-love and
inner peace.

Author Unknown

From the Pastor's

Desk . . .

September is upon us and before we say goodbye to summer, we say hello to Labor Day. I thought I was pretty informed when it came to holidays, but Labor Day has always been the one holiday I did not know much about. According to an article from The Pioneer Woman:

"Labor Day celebrates the women and men who campaigned tirelessly for workers' rights in the labor movement of the late 19th century. Their hard-fought wins are the reason for many of the rights we enjoy and take for granted today, such as a 40-hour work week, safe work conditions, paid time off, and sick leave. Those workers saw that there could be no freedom and liberty in this country without economic freedom for the working class."

Labor Day is so much more than a

day to celebrate the end to the summer, but it encapsulates the need for rest when it comes to those who labor so hard, for such little recognition. The call for Labor Day reminds me of something that Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew 11:28-30 says:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

If this season of life is wearisome and seems to taking every little bit of energy to get through, I would encourage you to lay it down at the feet of Jesus. Is this going to solve every anxiety or worry? No it is not. But when you give your heavy burdens over to God, you realize the creator who shaped, molded, and loves you **IS** capable of holding it for you. So bring your burdens to Jesus.

Rest in God's sweet, sweet embrace. If this is not one of those seasons, I would encourage you to still find time to rest in God's steadfast embrace. I know I am not always great when it comes to slowing down or rest; but find that time to recharge your batteries my friends. Because when we bring our recharged selves to a world that is depleted, we truly shine Christ's bright light into the world. So as we celebrate a day of rest in our country, may you find the time to rest in God's love.

In Christ's Love,

Blaine



BLOOD DRIVE

ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 FROM 9 AM - 2 PM

**TO COMMEMORATE 9/11 AND THE NEEDS OF OUR NEIGHBORS,
WE WILL HOST A BLOOD DRIVE.**

**YOU CAN SIGN UP ONLINE AT WWW.REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG OR
THERE'S A SIGN-UP SHEET AT THE WELCOME CENTER.**

**PLUS THERE WILL BE A BAKE SALE AND YOU CAN PICK UP
YOUR KRISPY KREME DONUTS!!**

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP THAT DAY. TALK TO LORI MOONEY!



Missions Update by Lori Mooney

September is here. Happy Labor Day to everyone! Good luck with everyone back in school now. Hope everything is going well for you. Can't wait for those cool, fall crisp nights.

We hope that everyone was able to come out and enjoy the ice cream social. Some yummy ice cream flavors were made, and we hope you enjoyed sampling them all.

A Big THANK YOU to all who donated snacks for us to make baskets for some of our local schools. We were able to make 7 baskets full of good treats for the teachers to enjoy during their first week back to school. All schools were appreciative for us thinking of them. The schools that received baskets were: Fort Defiance, Stewart Middle (Amy Michael), Clymore Elementary (Stephanie Caricofe), Turner Ashby (Julie Ritchie), Pence Middle (Bridgett Crawford), Ottobine Elementary (Jenifer Williams), and South River Elementary (Jackie Dunsmore).

Be sure to put your donations into the jar of the person you want to see "kiss a goat" at Trunk or Treat. You can choose from Pastor Blaine, Bill Kile, Dale Roller, and Bridgett Crawford. All money collected will go towards paying off the roof that we put on the church last summer. Thank you for all donations so far. We are doing a great job. We are only in need of \$1300 to finally pay off the roof. Keep bringing in your change and putting in the jar for who you want to win to kiss a goat. Also, be thinking about volunteering for Trunk or Treat at the Weyers Cave Community Center on Sunday, Oct. 22nd. We need all hands on deck for this event.

We are helping sponsor the blood drive on Saturday, Sept. 9th and we are going to have a bake sale during this time. If you are willing to make a baked good for us, please let Lori Mooney know. We will take whatever you are willing to make us ... cookies, cakes, pies, bars, rice krispy treats, breads, biscuits, muffins, etc. All money made from the bake sale and doughnut sale (hope you made a pre-order) will go towards the money needed to buy the drugs and medicine for the Honduras mission trip in October and left over funds will go towards paying off the roof fund. This will be a fun-filled day. Please plan on helping in some way. If

you can't give blood, you can sign up to hand out snacks and drinks to the ones able to give, help pick up doughnuts from Krispy Kreme in Harrisonburg that morning, help organize all the pre-orders, or help work the bake sale that day. The blood drive is from 9am -2pm. Please let Lori know if you are willing to help in any way.

Mission spotlight of the month: Valley Mission in Staunton. They have been providing shelter, support, and hope to the homeless since 1971. Valley Mission is serving more than 700 unique individuals each year, they strive to promote self-sustainability through the provision of case management, pastoral counseling, financial assistance, and onsite enrichment programs including an afterschool program and onsite mental health counseling. We help restore the lives of people experiencing homelessness. If you would like to make an extra offering, please mark it for Valley Mission.

If you know of someone 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



A Grillin' &

Chillin'

Friday Night



Friday, Sept. 15
6 pm

Hotdogs, Chips & Drinks
Live Music
Bonfire & S'mores



An evening to just hang out, enjoy some good food,
listen to some live music, chill by the fire,
get to know your neighbors and make s'mores!
Don't forget to bring your chairs!

Bethany UMC, 3700 Lee Highway, Weyers Cave
Free to All

Thank You

"Fort Defiance High School would like to thank you for your thoughtfulness of the snack basket during our second week of school. We always appreciate any form of encouragement. Thank you again."

Fort Defiance Staff & Faculty



"Dear Bethany United Methodist Congregation ... you warmed our hearts with your basket of goodies to much on during our work days. Thanks for thinking of us!"

The South River Elementary Staff



Collection of Shoes

Fort Defiance FCCLA is collecting shoes this year for people in need as a type of fundraiser. They are collecting any type of shoe as long as there are no holes and the soles aren't too worn out. They will be collecting until October 20th. There is a box in the foyer for your donated shoes.

Volunteers Needed!

On Saturday, Sept. 9, we are having our blood drive, bake sale, and doughnut pickup at the church from 9 am - 2 pm. We Will have a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center. Please sign up to help! We will need folks to help pick up the doughnuts, organize the doughnut orders, work the bake sale, and give out snacks and drinks to those donating blood. If you are available, please sign up to help in one of these areas.

We also need volunteers for Friday, Sept. 15 from 6-8 pm for our "Grillin' & Chillin' Friday Night" for our folks and the community. There will be hotdogs, chips, drinks, live music from our P&W team, bonfires, and s'mores. We will need volunteers to help make this event a success.

This is your time to step up and help Bethany show the love we all have for this community. Donate your time, at one or both of these events, and also your talents (baking, organizing, grilling, etc.

Thank you in advance for helping. If you can't help at the bake sale/doughnut fundraiser, however you would like to show your support, **make a donation to help support the Honduras Mission Trip**, which Pastor Blaine and Gary Lucas will be going on. Make a check out to Bethany UMC and mark your check for "Honduras Trip." The proceeds will help purchase medications.



Donuts and Devotions

The Men's Prayer Breakfast has a new name but still the same great time with the same great men of Bethany! We'll meet on Saturday, Sept. 16 at 8 am. All men are invited to come share devotions, fellowship with others, and EAT DONUTS!! We will continue to meet on the third Saturday of each month. No commitment. Come and check us out! Questions? Contact Pastor Blaine.



Young at Hearts

will meet for their monthly luncheon on Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 12 noon. Join us at Mrs. Rows in Staunton for some good food, fun and some of the best fellowship around. All folks, 55 or older, but still "young at heart" are invited to join us! Please contact Carolyn Swartz with any questions. Isn't it about time you check this group out!?



Caring Cards

invites you to join them on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 10 am to write cards and notes of encouragement to our members just to let them know someone is thinking about them. As we write, we have a good time fellowshiping together. Please join us! Questions? Contact Becky McCarty. We also take donations of cards ... handmade or otherwise.



A Special Opportunity

by Pat Lynn

I was given an opportunity not given to many. That opportunity was to rear a special needs daughter. You all know Pam. I had a long labor with her so always thought that was the reason for her condition. She was first diagnosed with cerebral palsy which means she probably had what the doctor said an insult at birth. This was a nice way to say brain damage from slight oxygen deficit. She has also been given other labels like Rubinstein Tabi and autism.

In spite of all this she met her milestones within the normal range. We had her in all kinds of programs to improve her progress; i.e., movement education, swimming, speech therapy. She loved reading and I give Sesame Street and Electric Company credit for teaching her to read. She was reading many words by the time she was four years old. Her kindergarten teacher sent her to second grade to read. A kid in her class told his mother that there was a girl in his class who didn't know how to play but boy could she read. Because of her reading and spelling ability she tested really high on psychological scales. Her biggest problem was social. She didn't meet any criteria for educational placement. She attended Anthony Seeger Campus School through 6th grade and Augusta County Schools for middle school in self contained classes even though she didn't fit.

In the meantime I began researching schools. We found one in Texas and one in

Pennsylvania, the Pathway School, that seemed to meet her needs. She was 15 when she went there as a resident and stayed until she was 21. We opted not to take the high school diploma until she was 21 because that was the cut off age for special Ed. She completed all the requirements for regular diplomas for the state of Pennsylvania and for the state of Virginia. When she came home, we received services through Valley Associated for Independent Living, Through their efforts Pam worked at Blockbuster Video for 5 years and at Walmart for 15 years. She also has had day support which means she goes out with friends to have fun. She has been in swimming and bowling with special Olympics.

She has had a brain tumor, benign, an ulcer and migratory arthritis. She has glaucoma and a macular problem. She had cataracts removed which improved her vision. She now has some back issues that will probably require surgery. The surgeon who removed her tumor had never been satisfied with her diagnosis and sent her to a geneticist. That is when we found that she has been mis-diagnosed her whole life. She has a rare genetic mutation called Coffin Siris Syndrome. Her's is the AIRD1B gene. She is proud to be unique she says. She'd is one in 10 million.

Our family here at Bethany has been so supportive of her and of us all along the way. God's love has guided us and given us strength through the rearing of Pam and her sisters. Thank you Bethany family for you love for her and for us.



BUM Bites by Bridgett Crawford

Exciting events are happening with the youth! We celebrate Promotion Sunday for Steele Caricofe and Reid Hill and we welcome them into BUM Youth! The same day is also Youth Sunday where youth lead and conduct all aspects of worship service while discussing mission trip. Afterwards, the youth will serve refreshments. The same afternoon, Garrett Simmons, Happy Huffer, Kaitlyn McLaughlin, Lily McLaughlin, and Mia McLaughlin are all being baptized in the River at Mae and Stanley Houff's house. Make sure to tell all the youth mentioned congratulations and surround them in Christian faith.

Upcoming in September will be the beginning of Bible Adventures one Sunday a month. We will learn more about Jesus in the Bible and how they can relate that to their lives in the present world. I look forward to seeing knowledge and faith deepen with these Sundays! We are very proud of our youth for how they balance all their school, extracurricular activities, and devotion to grow in the Word!

Trunk OR TREAT



Sunday, October 22 | 4-6 pm

Weyers Cave Community Center



FUN, FOOD, GAMES
for ALL

FREE ADMISSION

Wear Your Halloween Costume!



A Safe, Family-Friendly Event
All are Welcome!

Sponsored by Bethany United Methodist Church

**We will be accepting non-perishable food
items for our Food Pantry!**



Kiss a Goat Contest

Ut oh! The mason jars are empty!! What are we gonna do? Ah, fill them up again, right? There are jars with Pastor Blaine, Bridgett Crawford, Dale Roller and Bill Kile's names' on them. You can place a donation (monetary or checks) in the jar with the name of the person you would most like to see "Kiss a Goat" at Trunk or Treat. It's a very close contest with Pastor Blaine in the lead! All proceeds will go to the Capital Building Fund to help cover the cost of the

roof last year.

Sharp Shooter is ready for some kissin' so let's get those jars filled up again!!



Please be in prayer for ...

Members:

Hazel & Don Truslow, Edie Smith,
Lorna Frizzelle, Laura Lucas

Extended Members:

Michael - son-in-law of Gary & Bettina Ruleman, Michelle - daughter of Dianna Eicher, Bradley Penix - grandson of Floyd & Sarah Cabell, Wanda - sister of Carolyn Cobb, Lucas family, Suzie - friend of Jan Gorden, Wanda - sister of Kathy Kile, Island & people of Maui, Bob Blasch - friend of Dale Roller



We extend Christian sympathy to Mark & Carla Whitecotton and their family. Mark's father passed away on July 27. If you would like to send them a card, their address is 33 Valley Church Road, Weyers Cave, VA 24486.

We also extend Christian sympathy to Nadine Moore on the passing of her sister, Audrey. If you would like to send Nadine a card, her address is 1184 Old Furnace Road, Apt A, Harrisonburg, VA 22802.

September

- 3 Lori Mooney
- 4 Audrey Bradshaw
- 6 Laiken "Happy" Huffer
- 7 Abby Riddle
- 8 Randy Kite
- 11 Mary Beth Schwab
- 12 Bridgett Crawford
- 15 Grant Simmons
- 18 Hattie Castle
- 19 Mia McLaughlin
- 20 Sandra Elkins
- 22 Ben Michael
- 24 Elva Shifflett



26 Weezer Crawford

October

- 1 Carolyn Roller
- Tara Stroop
- 2 Wayne Frizzelle
- 3 Linda Byers
- Landon Ryan
- 4 Brantley Metcalfe
- 5 Josh Unger
- 6 Mary Beth Hill
- Stephen Metcalfe
- 10 Jan Peterson
- Emma Riddle
- 16 Maecy Anne Frizzelle

- 21 Barbara Somers
- Wyatt Dunsmore
- 22 Jan Fulton
- Beth Metcalfe
- 23 Tom Ott
- Tobias Casey
- 29 Lois Huffer
- Ruth Ann Mikesell
- Amy Michael
- 31 Leslie Wagoner



If your birthday is wrong or if it doesn't appear, please email Cindy at office.bethany@gmail.com to correct it.



Sunday	Monday	Thursday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 1-5 pm - Fellowship Hall Reserved 
3	4 LABOR DAY Office Closed!	5 12 pm - Young at Hearts Luncheon at Mrs. Rowe's in Staunton	6	7 9 am - 12 pm - Coffee with the Pastor (Valley Pike) 	8	9 9 am - 2 pm - Blood Drive & Bakesale Krispy Kreme donut pick up 
10 	11 6:30 pm - Trustee Meeting	12 10 am - Caring Cards	13	14	15 6-8 pm - Grillin' & Chillin' Friday Night Event 	16 8 am - Men's Donuts & Devotions  11 am - Church Reserved
17	18 happy national  cheeseburger day! <small>www.happy-pooly.com @miss_meliss</small>	19	20 October Articles Due	21 3-4:30 pm - Coffee with the Pastor (Valley Pike) 	22 	23 Friends of Barnabas Mission Trip
24 Don Hawks Guest Speaker	25	26	27	28	29	30 

Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



Saturday, Sept. 9
9 am - 2 pm

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 Oliver-Thomas, Pastor
(850) 508-7245
blaineoliver-thomas@vaumc.org

Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer
Bridgett Crawford, Youth Director
Danny Perry, Sexton

Oct. Newsletter Deadline: Sept. 20, 2021

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