



# The Echo

October 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](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com).

## Prayerfully I Walk

Time alone in autumn wood,  
I stroll on a mosaic carpet  
of moist multicolored leaves --  
rust, brown, yellow, crimson.  
I ponder the deep red patches,  
scattered every step of my way.  
Silently they speak of our Savior's  
redemptive, sacrificial blood --  
blessing each pace on the path of life.

Charlotte Adelsperger



## From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings Siblings in Christ,

October means a lot of things for a lot of people... pumpkin everything, trunk-or-treats, and hopefully cooler weather. But October in the United Methodist Church oftentimes means Stewardship Month. What is Stewardship Month? Stewardship Month is a month for us as the people of Bethany UMC to commit or re-commit to being the best representation of Jesus Christ that we can be. We take this month to focus on lots of the good things we have done in the past year while looking ahead to what is to come in the next year. It is a time when we talk a lot about how we can make sure the church is supported for the next year; through our gifts, talents, time, and care. One of our beloved worship leaders, Randy Roller, is in charge of the Stewardship Committee and is always looking for new ideas and people to join him.

All of this is incredibly important, but I want to touch on an important part of Stewardship that seems to have been neglected recently here at Bethany UMC. Membership in clubs, political parties, or associations helps us

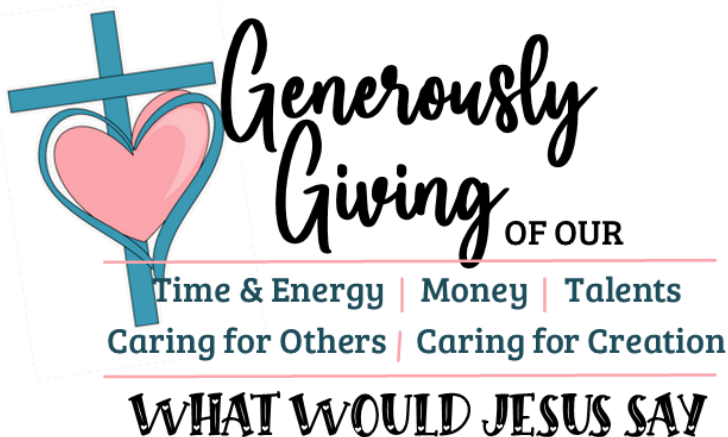
identify who and what we belong to. Membership in the church says to the world that I belong to Jesus Christ and am going to live and embrace the work of the Church. It is important in the church as well because it allows for those to be members: to have roles on committees, to vote on church matters, and to fulfill one's baptismal vows to do all they can as members of Christ's Church. Some of you reading this, have been lifelong members here at Bethany UMC. I am so grateful for you and all that you do to make this place so Spirit-filled. For others, you have never been approached to becoming a member here at Bethany UMC. And for that, I apologize. You are seen, loved, and play such a big role in this community. And for some of you becoming a member of Bethany UMC might seem like a big commitment. But I want to take the second to encourage those in our congregation and community who are not members, to make that leap of faith and join our church. A lot of you are already incredibly involved here and as your pastor, I am so incredibly thankful for that. And in the same breath, I want you to be "all in" here at Bethany and join the church as

full members.

If you are not a member and are attending regularly, I would love it if you would let myself or Cindy know. If you are not a member and want to become a member, I would love for you to talk to myself or Cindy. Part of being a faithful United Methodist Church means attending to the organization of our church, and we want to make sure we know who are members of Bethany UMC. We are planning on having a One-Sunday new member class in January and want to make sure you are a part of it. This class will be a Sunday after church and will be open to ANYONE who wants to make the leap and officially join the Bethany UMC family. Keep your eyes open for a sign-up sheet later this month. And as always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Here's to the best Stewardship month we have ever had at Bethany United Methodist Church.

In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Blaine*



### Sunday, October 1

WWJS? Generously Giving of Our Time and Energy

### Sunday, October 8

WWJS? Generously Giving of Our Money

### Sunday, October 15

WWJS? Generously Giving of Our Talents

### Sunday, October 22

WWJS? Generously Caring for Others

### Sunday, October 29

WWJS? Generously Caring for Creation  
Southern Hospitality, Potluck Lunch







## BUM Bites by Bridgett Crawford

Autumn is in full swing with BUM youth group!

We served by going to the Gordon's and helped them with bushes and yard work they needed completed! Our youth are hard workers and finished the project in quick speed and excellent quality!

We grew with our first Bible exploration class! We went to Valley Pike after service to grab food and sat in the loft area to learn more about Jesus and some of his works in the New Testament. We read 4 Bible verses about faith, while asking ourselves where we fit with our daily life and our own faith in Jesus. We also wrote letters to ourselves about what we would accomplish if we had full faith in Jesus.

We are excited about our upcoming Apple Dumpling fundraiser to raise

money for our summer mission trip 2024. Want some dumplings? See one of our youth for your orders! Youth are taking orders between now and October 10th. We are making dough on Sunday October 8th and making the dumplings on Wednesday, October 11th. Sign up sheets are in the foyer for ingredients and people to help make dumplings. There are extra order sheets if you want to help sell some of our delicious dumplings!

October is also our confirmation classes for our high school youth. That will be taking place after service on Sunday October 8, 15, 22, and 29. Pastor Blaine and Bridgett will be co teaching these classes. Please let us know if you will be attending!

Blessings and peace to you all,



*Bridgett*



## APPLE DUMPLINGS ARE BACK!

The BUM's will once again make apple dumplings as a fundraiser for their summer mission trip on **Wednesday, October 11 starting at 12 noon.**

### Ways you can help:

- Donate ingredients for dumplings - there's a sign up list in the foyer and donations should be at the church, in the kitchen no later than Thursday, October 5
- Sign up to help make dumplings - the youth will make dough after church on Sunday, October 8 and will make apple dumplings on Wednesday, October 11 beginning at 12 noon and will need LOTS OF HELP! Bring those rolling pins and come on out to start rolling in the dough!
- **SELL, SELL, SELL!** - sell dumplings to your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. They are \$5 each. There are order forms at the Welcome Center in the foyer which you can take. Take one and fill it up! You can also write down your order on the sheets provided. Pre-order please ... these dumplings go really fast and we're only making 600, not the 900 we did before! Get your order in soon!!!
- Pick up your dumplings after 3 pm on Wednesday, October 11 or talk to Bridgett to make other arrangements if you can't pick them up that day.



# Trunk R TREAT



**Sunday, October 22 | 3-5 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!**





## Missions Update by Lori Mooney

October time means cooler nights, football, jackets, color-changing leaves, Columbus Day, Halloween, and our Trunk or Treat. Please mark your calendar for Oct. 22 and plan on helping with this great community event.

**THANK YOU** so much for all your extra donations that you all have been giving over the past couple months with the Kiss the Goat contest, bake sale, Krispy Kreme doughnut fundraiser, blood drive, Dollars for Drugs, and everything else. We really came up with some great numbers to finish paying off the roof and paying for the medicine for the Honduras Mission Trip. Bethany is so giving, and I love that we help with so many projects. Give yourself a pat on the back. Keep up the good work.

**October is Stewardship Month.** Please make sure that you are making a monthly donation to the church to keep us up and running. Make the church a line item in your budget. Think house payment/rent, electricity, water, groceries, gas, CHURCH offering, and cell phone, etc. Fill out your commitment card with what you can afford and make sure that the church gets their offering every month, whether you are in the pew or not. If it is important to you, then make it a priority.

Kingsway Ministries are sponsoring the Apple Tree Project and the apples will be out soon. Be sure to pick up an apple or two and give some kids a wonderful Christmas morning. Thank you for helping with this and making it special for kids who deserve it.

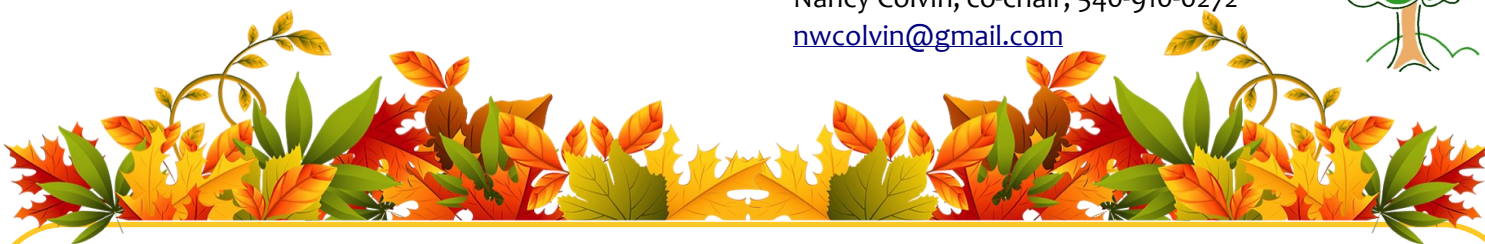
The Adult Mission Team is excited to have Sarah Simmons join our team. Welcome aboard, Sarah.

**Mission spotlight of the month:** Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta. The mission of Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta is to accomplish, at no cost to a homeowner, critical home repairs and modifications for low-income elderly, disabled, and disadvantaged homeowners. The homeowners that can apply for help are in Staunton, Waynesboro, and any of Augusta County. In the past recent years, we have been able to help 35-45 local homeowners with needed repairs each year. With more donations and more volunteers, we would be able to help even more. We have been serving our neighbors since 1996. If you would like to make an extra donation, please mark it for Renewing Homes. Thanks.

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

Lori Mooney, co-chair, 540-820-7394  
[Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com](mailto:Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com)

Nancy Colvin, co-chair, 540-910-0272  
[nwcolvin@gmail.com](mailto:nwcolvin@gmail.com)



## Trunk or Treat Bethany T-Shirts

Bethany Trunk or Treat T-shirts will be on sale for you to purchase.

We have two designs and four colors ...  
black, orange, maroon & purple.

You can purchase either short sleeves or long sleeves.  
They will have "Fall for Jesus He Never Leaves" on the front  
and Bethany United Methodist Church on the back.

**Orders are due by Sunday, October 8.**

Be sure to order yours today.  
Order sheets are in the foyer.  
Questions? Talk to Julie Ritchie.





## And the winner is ...

I know you're all waiting to hear the results of the "Kiss a Goat" contest, and so is Sharp Shooter!! First, thank you to Pastor Blaine, Dale Roller, Bill Kile and Bridgett Crawford for being willing to take the chance that they would have to "kiss a goat" at Trunk or Treat this year. You're all awesome!!

So on with the winner ... we collected \$3,978.76 during the "Kiss a Goat" contest. Our winner had donations totaling \$1,425.81. And that person is .... drum roll please ... Pastor Blaine!!! Wow! Folks really wanted to see the pastor kiss a goat!! How does that make you feel Pastor Blaine?!? Accepted? Rejected? Honored? Loved? Appreciated?

Don't miss helping at Trunk or Treat this year so you'll be there to witness Pastor Blaine give Sharp Shooter a kiss! And Sharp Shooter is getting all puckered up in anticipation of that kiss!!



## Financial Update by Cindy Kite

Yep, fall is officially here! Cooler weather, leaves changing colors, sweaters, college football, and pumpkin-spice flavored everything! Take time to enjoy this special time of the year and all the beautiful colors of fall! God painted us a beautiful canvas of breathtaking colors. Even if you're a summer person like myself, you have to love and appreciate fall just for the beauty.

On to finances ... as you can see by the chart, we are currently behind our projected budget by \$18,628.72. Yeah, it looks like a lot! If we challenge each other to increase our giving just a little, or start giving just a little, so we can catch up, and can maybe even exceed our projected budget of \$225,467.00! Wouldn't that be awesome! I know EVERYTHING is increasing in cost, from paper for the office to our oil and electric bills. But I also know my Bethany family and I know you'll do everything in your power to help us catch up by increasing your giving by a few dollars each week or month or just a one-time gift to catch up on those Sundays you missed.

I know you've been asked to give a lot during the past few weeks; however, keeping the giving up allows us to keep doing what we're doing!! None of it can happen without you!!

Congratulations!! With your generous giving to fund our part of the Honduras mission trip that Pastor Blaine and Gary Lucas went on, you met and exceeded the goal we were hoping for. The total collected was \$3,556.25!! You also contributed a total of \$3,978.76 through the "Kiss a Goat" contest. We were just shy of our goal of \$4,115.21 by \$134.45. All proceeds from the "Kiss a Goat" contest will go to the Capital Building Fund. If we count all of the donations made to the Capital Building Fund this year, including the "Kiss a Goat" money, we gave a grand total of \$6,532.36. Thank you!! You came through once again! Bethany has such awesome people! And I love each and every one of you!!

September 28 - Week 39		
Budget	225,467.00	
Where We Should Be		169,099.20
Where We Are		150,470.48
Deficit of		-18,628.72
Net Percentage		-11.0%



## Bethany Technology Update by Pam Roller

Technology has changed a great deal at Bethany over the years. I remember the days where there was only the sound-board. There were no extra lights, no cameras, and the recording of the service was done on cassette tapes. Later, we switched to CDs. In 2007, we began to put up lyric slides. COVID necessitated the video recording of services and Facebook feed, which was implemented by Dani DeHart and Dale Roller.

Today, with the construction skills of Bill Kile, Mark Dunsmore, and Donald Michael, we have a beautiful technology booth with room for

everything needed to show lyric slides, record the service, and soon, monitor the sound. Eventually, a powerful camera will be mounted that will take the place of both the current camera in the back and the camera in the aisle toward the front. We will continue to record the service and post it on the church website at [mybethanyumc.org](http://mybethanyumc.org). At some point, the light stands in the front will be replaced with something less conspicuous. It's all a work in progress and it is very exciting to experience the improvements.

Our current technology team consists of Mark Dunsmore, Kristen Kile, and

Donald Michael on sound, and Maggie Huffer, Laura Lucas, and myself showing the slides and recording the services. If you are interested in being part of the technology crew or would simply like to sit in the booth and observe what we do, you are welcome. Maybe you'd like to have a try at clicking through the lyric slides, which is just a matter of pressing the "down" arrow to get to the next slide. The team certainly welcomes any help. Just come and talk to me if you're interested.



## October is Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. All of us, from the very young to the very old, appreciate Pastor Blaine's friendly and caring way. We are truly blessed to have him with us. Sunday October 8 is Pastor Appreciation Sunday. We will have refreshments after the service and there will be a basket for cards and gifts. I hope you will choose to show your appreciation for Blaine's service to God, our Church and our community by honoring him with a gift card, monetary gift or a card with words of encouragement and thanks.

Jane Elkins  
SPPRC Chair

## Young at Hearts

Young at Hearts will meet at Thomas

House in Dayton on Tuesday, October 3 at 12 noon for their October get-together. Anyone 55 and over, and still "young at heart" are invited and encouraged to join this lively bunch for lunch. There will be good food, fellowship and lots of laughing. We guarantee you'll have a good time. Come on ... give us a try this fall. There is no commitment. Come when you can.

## Caring Cards

Caring Cards will meet on Tuesday, October 10 at 10 am. All are invited to join this small group to write notes of encouragement to members, just to say we are thinking about you!

## Donuts & Devotions

All men are invited to attend "Donuts & Devotions" on the third Saturday of each month. This will be a time of donut eating, coffee drinking,

fellowshipping, sharing of devotions and praying! Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you. It's a great way to kick off fall with something new. There's no commitment. Come when you can. The October gathering will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 8 am in the fellowship hall.

## All Saints Day Sunday, November 5

We look forward to this special service when we celebrate and remember individuals in our church family that we have loved and lost in the past year. Please email the office if you have loved and lost a special person within Bethany's congregation. ([office.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com)) or call (540-234-8880).



## **Mark Your Calendars NOW for Sunday, Oct. 29 A Fifth Sunday Celebration of Generosity**

We look forward to having Southern Hospitality,  
Dale Roller's band, at our service once again.

We will follow the service with a carry-in brunch for all to enjoy.

Please bring a dish or baked goodies to share with all.

Drinks will be provided.

Plan to attend and bring a friend or neighbor!



**FALL BACK**

**SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5**



### *Christmas Choir Time*

Can you believe it? The holiday season will soon be upon us. James Kiser has graciously agreed to direct our choir. And he has lots of experience directing choirs! Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings from 6-7 pm and will begin on October 25. Bring your Christmas spirit and joyful voice and be a part of this choir. Please let James know if you are willing to participate at [lyricbaritonejames@gmail.com](mailto:lyricbaritonejames@gmail.com).



**There will be a Finance Committee Meeting on Tuesday, October 10 at 6:30 pm.** Please let Mark Dunsmore know if you are unable to make this important meeting. We will be setting the budget for 2024.

**There will be a Church Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 17 at 6:30 pm.** Please let Elizabeth Williams know if you are unable to attend this meeting. All church officers and committee chairs are encouraged to attend. All others are invited and welcomed. We will be voting on the 2024 church budget.





## October Birthdays

1st Carolyn Roller & Tara Stroop  
2nd Wayne Frizzelle  
3rd Linda Byers  
4th Brantley Metcalfe  
5th Josh Unger  
6th Mary Beth Hill, Stephen Metcalfe & Kenneth Diehl  
10th Jan Peterson & Emma Riddle  
16th Maecy Anne Frizzelle  
21st Barbara Somers & Wyatt Dunsmore  
22nd Jan Fulton & Beth Metcalfe  
23rd Tom Ott & Tobias Casey  
29th Lois Huffer, Ruth Ann Mikesell & Amy Michael  
31st Leslie Wagoner



## November Birthdays

3rd Addyson Mooney  
4th Jean Moyer  
9th Barry Shifflett  
11th Donald Michael  
12th Sarah Huffer  
13th Rosemary Wagoner  
14th Kelly Shifflett  
17th Lorna Frizzelle  
21st Carla Whitecotton  
24th Mike Huffer & Madelyn Shifflett  
25th Cindy Kite  
27th Kathleen Stump & Susan Frease  
28th Jenn McLaughlin  
30th Anthony Streiff



If your birthday is not listed or listed incorrectly, please let Cindy know so she can correct it or add it.



## Prayer List



**Church Members:** Hazel & Don Truslow, Edie Smith, Lorna Frizzelle, Laura Lucas, Dollie Wilfong

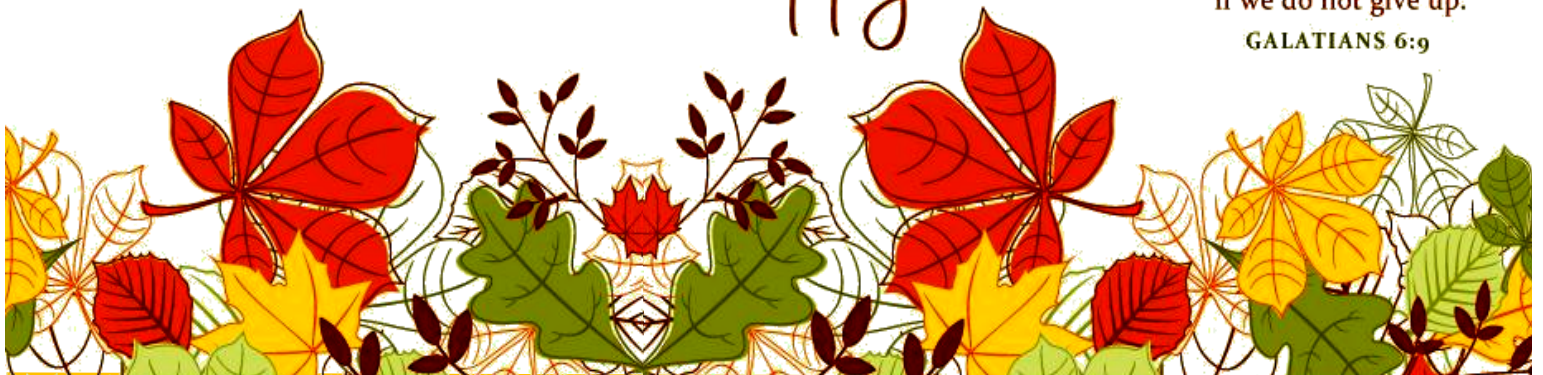
**Extended Family:** Bob Blasch - friend of Dale Roller, Tom & Bess Via - former members

**Shut-Ins:** Audrey Bradshaw, Judy Faby, Charlene Michael, Carolyn Roller

# Happy Fall


Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

GALATIANS 6:9





## OCTOBER 2023

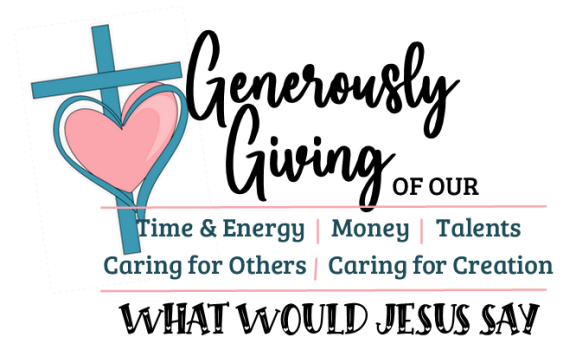
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1  <b>We need more candy for Trunk or Treat ... please!!</b>	2 	3 12 pm - Young at Hearts Luncheon @ Thomas House	4 10 am & 6:30 pm Bible Study on Ephesians	5 <b>DONATIONS DUE FOR APPLE DUMPLINGS!!</b> 6:30 pm - Nominations Committee Meeting	6	7 Duke Observer Arrives
8  <b>PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY</b> 10:45 am - Confirmation Class	9  <b>HAPPY Columbus Day</b>	10 10 am - Caring Cards  6:30 pm - Finance Meeting	11 10 am & 6:30 pm Bible Study on Ephesians  <b>APPLE DUMPLING TIME!!</b>	12 9:30 am - 12 pm - Coffee with the Pastor  Cindy Out of The Office	13	14  <b>be AWESOME today</b>
15 10:45 am - Confirmation Class	16 <b>HAPPY BOSS' DAY!</b>  Cindy Out of Office	17 9 - 11 am - Fellowship Hall Revered  6:30 pm - Church Council Meeting	18 10 am & 6:30 pm Bible Study on Ephesians	19	20 <b>Articles for the November Newsletter Due!</b>	21 8 am - Donuts & Devotions 
22 10:45 am - Confirmation Class 3-5 pm - Trunk or Treat 	23	24	25 10 am & 6:30 pm Bible Study on Ephesians  6 pm - Christmas Choir Practice	26  3-4:30 pm Coffee with the Pastor 	27	28
29 <b>SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY!!</b> Carry-In Brunch after Worship Service	30	31 HALLOWEEN				







Bethany United Methodist Church  
3700 Lee Highway  
Weyers Cave, VA 24486  
  
www.mybethanyumc.org



## Trunk TREAT

Sunday, Oct. 22  
3-5 pm

## The Echo

### "The Echo"

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church  
3700 Lee Highway, Weyers Cave, VA 24486  
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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 Leader  
Danny Perry, Sexton

November Newsletter Deadline: Nov. 20, 2023

Please submit articles to Cindy Kite at  
office.bethany@gmail.com

Webmaster: bethanyumc.website@gmail.com



At Bethany we ...

**Connect** with God in community  
**Grow** in our likeness to Jesus Christ  
**Serve** our neighbors