



# The Echo

November 2023

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

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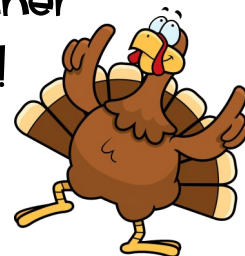
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If you would like ...  
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updates by email, please  
send your email address to  
Cindy Kite at  
[office.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com).



May your stuffing be tasty,  
May your turkey be plump.  
May your potatoes 'n gravy ...  
Have nary a lump,  
May your yams be delicious,  
May your pies take the prize,  
May your Thanksgiving dinner  
Stay off of your thighs!

Happy Thanksgiving!



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Bethany UMC Family,

November is the time of the year that we take inventory of the things that we are thankful for. I know this year I have been reminded how grateful I am for a new place to live, a good Seminole football team, and a church family that shows up when you need them most. As most of you know, Ashley and I (and Rico) recently had to move and the process of finding a place and then moving was a really quick and stressful turnaround. A couple at our church, made phone calls before the big move and assembled a team of upwards of seven members to show up the morning of the move and we were able to get the move done in FOUR hours! It was such a wonderful way to end the month of "Pastor's Appreciation Month." From all the cards and encouragement; to the move, and to the way folks at Bethany continue to show up for Jesus; I continue to be so incredibly grateful for the people of Bethany UMC.

As November rolls on I hope you take some intentional

time to consider how God has blessed you in so many ways. I also hope that you will consider joining us on the evening of November 19 at 7 pm here at Bethany UMC, as we are going to be hosting the Weyers Cave Community Thanksgiving Service. I want to encourage you to invite your neighbors and friends out to this evening of worship, communion, and lots of thanks to be given. We will be collecting a love offering for our friends at Backpack Pals, which is a mission that feeds some of our more vulnerable elementary students over the weekend so they do not go hungry. This will provide us a way to praise God for all we have and then pass on that blessing to others. I continue to pray for you all and am here for you. If you need anything at all, please do not hesitate to reach out.

In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Blaine*

Sunday, November 19 @ 7 pm  
Bethany United Methodist Church

Community  
**Thanksgiving**  
Service

Bountiful Living  
2 Corinthians 9:6-15  
Love Offering to go to Backpack Pals

## Missions Update by Lori Mooney

November is time to say THANKS. I want to thank each one of you for all you have done over this past year for our church. Enjoy Thanksgiving with your family, friends, and loved ones.

Thank you to all who came out and helped with apple dumplings and



**VOLUNTEER  
BELL RINGERS  
NEEDED!**  
*Ring a bell...Take a Stand Help Others*



bought them to fill up their bellies because they were super yummy. It is about time we got back to doing this fundraiser for the youth mission trip.



**Kingsway Ministries are sponsoring the Apple Tree Project** and I hope you picked up a couple apples to get gifts for the kids that

need help this holiday season. Thank you for helping with this and making it special for kids who deserve it. Please have unwrapped gifts to the church by Sunday, Nov. 19. If anyone would like to donate scotch tape or rolls of wrapping paper, please have those to

the church by the same time. Any money donations will also be taken to give to Kingsway Ministries to help with covering the cost of shipping.

**We will be ringing the bell for the Salvation**

**Army on Saturday, Dec. 2** all day from 10 am to 6 pm at the Shenandoah Valley Heritage Market on Rt. 11. Sign-up sheet is in the back. Please sign up if you can. If you would like to ring the bell, but can't make it this day or times, then please contact Lori and she can sign you up for a day and time that fits your schedule.

**We will be starting the Gideons fundraiser with "Presents for Jesus."** This is the tree that is in the narthex and if you donate \$5, then Gideons will purchase bibles and give them to those who need them. Please be sure to donate to this worthwhile cause.

You will put your name on an ornament and hang it on the tree.

**Mission spotlight of the month:** RISE in Harrisonburg. RISE is a community rooted in God's risk-taking love, life-changing grace, passionate outreach, and open-armed acceptance. We welcome people from all walks of life and all walks of faith to join us on our journey. And we mean it. Everyone is welcome at RISE. Everyone. We seek to be a place free of judgment and full of love. If you would like to make an extra donation for RISE, be sure to put a note on the memo section that it is for RISE. Thank you.

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)



## BUM BITES

The youth are accomplishing stupendous things! Our first apple dumpling fundraiser since COVID-19 was a huge success! The youth appreciates how all the congregation came together to make this fundraiser run smoothly. We sold approximately 690 apple dumplings. They were delicious! The money raised from this fundraiser goes to the 2024 summer youth mission trip.

October was also confirmation month for our high schoolers. We met after church on Sundays to discuss deeper what it means to be a Methodist and how it relates to God, Jesus, and the Bible.

Upcoming events include a Fall Retreat day on Saturday, Nov. 4. The youth will hike the Blue Ridge Tunnel, eating

lunch, and relating that experience to Jesus' testimony.

Our youth are very busy outside of church as well. They are involved with highly successful teams for volleyball, golf, cheer, one-act plays, and choir. In addition, each of them are achieving great things in the classroom. Our Seniors are applying to colleges and waiting anxiously for responses. Please pray for their paths to be made clear by God and what His plan is for them!

Congratulate and praise our youth for all the great things they are achieving!

Blessings to you,

*Bridgett*



## Hanging of the Greens

Come embrace the Christmas season as we join together in fun and fellowship on Sunday, Nov. 26 at 5 pm for our Annual Hanging of the Greens. We will eat dinner, sing some carols and decorate our Chrismon tree. And then eat dessert. Dinner will be provided. It will be a wonderful night for folks of all ages!



## Poinsettia Orders

You can help decorate the church this Christmas by purchasing a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. The cost is \$10 each. Forms will be available on Sunday, Nov. 12 and are due back by Nov. 26!

## BUM Christmas Post Office

Want to spread some old fashioned Christmas cheer? Send Christmas greetings through the BUM Post Office. Baskets will be set up in the fellowship hall. Postage is a donation of .25 cents per card or whatever donation you want to make which goes to the BUM Mission Fund. Bring your cards to church



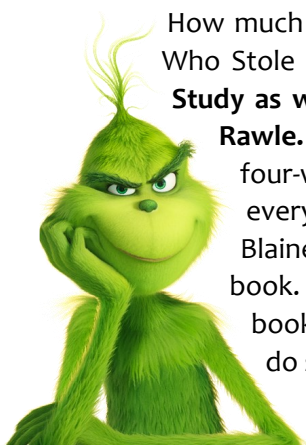
members, and “mail” place them in the appropriate baskets, make a donation and remember to check the baskets for cards sent to you! The BUM Post Office will open on Sunday, Dec. 3 and should be to the church on or before Sunday, Dec. 24. What a wonderful way to share the Christmas spirit with others!

## Calling All Musicians!

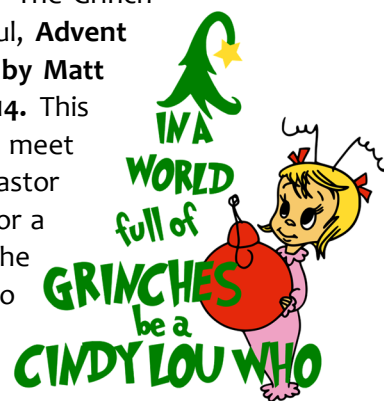
We are looking for people to share their musical talents during Advent. We would like to provide special music during our morning worship services and also during our Christmas program on December 10. If you would like to participate, please contact Jackie Dunsmore. Please consider using your musical talent and sharing it with the folks in your Bethany family!



How much of our Christmas memories include Christmas classics, such as “The Grinch Who Stole Christmas?” Join your Bethany family for a fun, yet thoughtful, **Advent Study** as we work through the book “*The Heart That Grew Three Sizes*” by Matt Rawle. Sign up at the Welcome Center so we can order books by Nov. 14. This four-week study will begin Nov. 29 and go through Dec. 20. We will meet every Wednesday at 10 am and 6:30 pm. This book will be used in Pastor Blaine’s sermons, so even if you can’t join us for the study, sign up for a book. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the books, each book cost the church \$10. You are under no pressure to do so!



## 4-Week Advent Book Study



## 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  
25th Cindy Kite  
27th Kathleen Stump & Susan Frease

28th - Jenn McLaughlin

30th Anthony Streiff

## December Birthdays

1st Jeff Ritchie & Gerald Fulton  
3rd Kristen Kile  
5th Annie Roller  
9th Hudson Dunsmore  
19th Layne Shifflett  
20th Elizabeth Williams  
21st Amber Casey  
23rd Jane Elkins  
25th Alexander Carter

26th Garrett Roller

29th Jake Frizzelle

If your birthday is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please email Cindy Kite at office.bethany@gmail.com.



I want to give a BIG thank-you to our beloved Bethany UMC family who volunteered to make our annual Trunk-or-Treat a smashing hit. I want to give a special thank you to Kathy Kile, who organized

and facilitated this wonderful and fun community event. This event takes a whole village so if you brought in candy, decorated a trunk, or volunteered with games, food, or welcome; we are incredibly grateful for your loving service! This type of outreach truly defines who we are at Bethany UMC!

## Prayer List

### Members

Don & Hazel Truslow  
Peggy Lucas & Jan Gorden,  
Pam Lynn & Laura Lucas,  
Jackie Dunsmore

### Extended Family

Lisa McCormick - friend of  
Rosemary Wagoner  
Alma & Neese Spitzer -  
aunt & uncle of Barbara Long

## Upcoming Activities & Events

Tuesday, Nov. 7 @ 12 pm - Young at Hearts Luncheon at Taste of Thai

Thursday, Nov. 9 from 9:30 am - 12 pm - Coffee with the Pastor

Sunday, Nov. 12 @ 2 pm - Charge Conference at Bridgewater UMC

Tuesday, Nov. 14 @ 10 am - Caring Cards

Saturday, Nov. 18 @ 8 am - Donuts & Devotions



Bethany United Methodist Church  
3700 Lee Highway  
Weyers Cave, VA 24486  
[www.mybethanyumc.org](http://www.mybethanyumc.org)



## Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, Nov. 19  
7 pm

## The Echo

### "The Echo"

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church  
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[www.mybethanyumc.org](http://www.mybethanyumc.org)

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[blaineoliver-thomas@vaumc.org](mailto:blaineoliver-thomas@vaumc.org)

Dale Roller, Music Director  
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer  
Bridgett Crawford, Youth Director  
Danny Perry, Sextons

December Newsletter Deadline: Nov. 20, 2023

Please submit articles to Cindy Kite at  
[office.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com)



At Bethany we ...

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