

# What's Happening at Bethany

## Mission Sunday

### Sunday, Dec. 3 immediately after the worship service

On Sunday, Dec. 3, we are having a "Mission Sunday." We have lots going on that day. If you can't stay around after church, we ask you to donate some needed items for that day. We are collecting diapers (size 5 or 6), baby wipes and laundry detergent for our food pantry.

We are also asking for donations of 3 crockpots of soup, bags/plates of cookies and 18 mason jars with lids. We will be making sandwiches, putting soup in mason jars and making cookie plates to deliver to our local fire departments ... Verona, Weyers Cave and Grottoes. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

If you can stay around after church that day, we will be making a craft project with butterflies that will go into cards for cancer patients (sponsored by Spirit FM).

We will also be making Christmas cards to attach to the diapers, wipes and detergent for our food pantry neighbors. We will make Christmas cards to send to soldiers who need a word of encouragement and love during the holidays.

Refreshments will be provided for those who stay to help with these projects. If you have questions, please talk with Lori Mooney.



Join us Sundays in December for our "Grinch" themed sermons. And don't miss the book study that will go along with the theme on Wednesdays at 10 am and 6:30 pm. Our hearts can grow this Christmas season just like the Grinch's did. And here's how: Our Hearts Grow When ... We Serve (Dec. 3), We Worship (Dec. 10), We Remember the Story (Dec. 17) and When We Celebrate His Birth (Dec. 24). You won't want to miss all the excitement and lighthearted fun. It's not too late to get a book and join the book study!!

The tree in the foyer is a fundraiser for the Gideons. A gift of \$5 will help them purchase bibles. There are paper ornaments under the tree. Make a donation of \$5 (place in the Christmas box under the tree) and write your name on the back of the ornament and then hang it on the tree. Help us cover the tree in purple ornaments!

Bethany will be "ringing the bell" for the Salvation Army on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 am - 6 pm at the Shenandoah Valley Heritage Market on Rt. 11. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center for you to sign up to help this year. Get the entire family involved!



**ATTENTION PARENTS!!** All children and youth who are participating in the children's play on Dec. 17, please plan to stay after the morning service on Dec. 3 and Dec. 10 for brief rehearsals.

On Sunday, Dec. 17 come enjoy a worship service filled with Christmas music, a play featuring our children and some fun skits presented by our Bethany Players. Afterwards we will celebrate with a Christmas Brunch Party! There is a sign-up sheet for donations for the party at the Welcome Center. This is a perfect day to invite a friend or neighbor and spread the Christmas spirit!

## Upcoming Events you don't want to miss!

**Sunday, Dec. 3 @ 9:30 am**

*Our Hearts Grow When We Serve*  
Following the service & refreshments, there will be opportunities to participate in several mini-mission projects.



**Sunday, Dec. 10 @ 9:30 am**

*Our Hearts Grow When We Worship*  
Wear your favorite Christmas sweaters ...  
UGLY OR NOT!

**Sunday, Dec. 17 @ 9:30 am**

*Our Hearts Grow When We Remember the Story*  
*Our Bethany Family Christmas Program*  
Christmas Party (Refreshments) to follow

**Sunday, Dec. 24 @ 9:30 am**

*Our Hearts Grow When We Celebrate His Birth*  
A worship service with a visit from the  
Bethany Barnyard Pals for the kids.

**@ 8 pm**

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service



**Special Music from our Christmas Choir**  
**each Sunday in Advent!!**

Caring Cards will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 10 am ...  
**PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE!** You are invited to join this group as they fellowship and write notes of encouragement to our Bethany family.



Join the Young at Hearts group for their Annual Christmas Party at Mrs. Rowe's in Staunton on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 12 noon. Meals are \$25 each and checks should be payable to Carolyn Swartz. All 55 and older are invited to join us for this fun fellowship. Don't forget your white elephant gift!!

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, fellowship, 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. **This month we will meet on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 8 am in the fellowship hall.** Questions? Contact Pastor Blaine.



SPPRC will meet on Monday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 pm. All committee members for 2023 and 2024 are asked to attend. Please let Jane Elkins know if you are unable to attend.



Been involved at Bethany UMC for a while now, but never been asked to join the church? Pastor Blaine will be leading a New Member Class directly after worship on Jan. 21, and wants all who are interested in membership at Bethany to attend. If you have any questions about membership, please let Pastor Blaine know.

January 28 is going to be a BIG and EXCITING day at Bethany UMC. We will be welcoming NEW MEMBERS and CONFIRMANTS into our loving church family. Mark your calendars for this day, as it will be a worship service that celebrates new birth here at Bethany as we kick off our 70th Year Anniversary as a church.

**Thinking about your New Year's resolutions?** How 'bout making one to become more involved in programs and events at Bethany. Your help is always needed!

**Please be in Prayer for ...**

**Members:** Jan Gorden, Pam Lynn, Laura Lucas, Jackie Dunsmore, Leslie Wagoner

**Extended Family:** Lisa McCormick - friend of Rosemary Wagoner, Alma & Neese Spitzer - aunt & uncle of Barbara Long, Sandie Donald - daughter of Carolyn Swartz & sister of Cindy Kite, Clem, Jr. & Hannah Smiley - brother and sister-in-law of Carolyn Swartz

**Happy Birthday to ...**

Dec. 1st - Gerald Fulton  
3rd - Kristen Kile  
5th - Annie Roller

9th - Hudson Dunsmore  
19th - Layne Shifflett  
20th - Elizabeth Williams

