



June 2024

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

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 From the Pastor's Desk
- 3 Mission Update & Misc. Announcements
- 4 Cemetery Trustees
- 5 BUM Bites & Birthdays
- 6 June Calendar & Prayer List
- 7 Summer Coloring Page

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.



Dad Jokes ...

I don't trust stairs. They are always up to something!

Why don't pirates take a bath before they walk the plank? They just wash up on the shore!

Did you hear about the guy who froze to death at the drive-in? He went to see "Closed for the Winter."

What did one plate say to another? Tonight, dinner's on me!

From the Pastor's Desk

Bethany Family,

Summer is upon us. Which means the shorts have become a wardrobe staple, the vacations are starting to ramp up, and the heat and humidity have made their way back into the Valley. One thing that I remember from my summers growing up, is that summer tended to be the



time where my own family's church attendance dipped. And why wouldn't it? My mom was a hard-working teacher, so the summers meant more sleeping in and less regular schedules; while all the kids were in camps, cross country practice, and other summer activities. And not to mention we usually would spend a week in Maryland visiting my dad's side of the family, and then a week in St. Augustine visiting my mom's

side of the family. So, I am fully aware of what can oftentimes be a church lull in the summer.

But something I would like to encourage the Bethany family this summer is to continue to be faithful to our church family, even when one's physical presence is not in the building. During the summer, we are giving our faithful Sunday School teachers the summer off, which means we need YOU to step up and sign up to lead a week or two of our children's church (when you are in town and planning to be at church.) The lessons will all be put together and all we need is someone or a couple of folks to facilitate them each week. You can sign up for a week or a few weeks in the Narthex at the Welcome Center. Another way to continue to be faithful to Bethany is to remember that even if you are not at church physically on Sunday, that Christ's mission through Bethany is continuing and we need your support. Financially you can continue to contribute through our online giving, or if you prefer, you can always send a check to the church office. The last thing I would encourage to continue to be faithful to Bethany during this summer, is to be praying for guidance and discernment about where God is calling you to own your faith more intentionally. Maybe if you have children or feel called to lead them, sign up for the Children's Ministry Team, which will help facilitate learning and

fellowship activities for our children throughout the year. Maybe if you have a heart for our community or want to get to know some of our community, sign up for the Bethany Bridge Builders team. Maybe if you feel you need to be in a community of discipleship or need to surround yourself with faithful leaders of the faith; consider joining a bible study or our Sunday School class after worship.

As a pastor, I am fully aware that I am tasked to lead the church I serve faithfully. So, it makes sense that I am passionate about continuing the faithful legacy of Bethany UMC. I am also fully aware that I am only one person, and therefore I cannot do everything. I am also aware that there are many folks so involved here that they cannot take on any more responsibilities. So, if you find yourself looking for ways to get involved, please reach out to me so we can find something that fits your gifts and talents. One of the most beautiful things of being a Christian is that it is a journey that takes a lifetime when it comes to becoming more like Jesus. God calls us to lean into our faith and allow our faith to grow when we open ourselves to new ways of living out the Christian faith. So, that is my challenge and hope for Bethany. Even this summer with all that summer brings, lean into that calling, and find new ways to deepen your own faith, and the faith of others. If we all can do this, this church family will continue to thrive and be the people that Christ has tasked us to be.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Blaine



Songs for Summer!

Do you have a favorite hymn or P&W song? One you haven't heard for a while? If so, please stop by the Welcome Center to pick up a form, fill it out, and place it in the box, also at the Welcome Center. During the summer months we want to sing some of your favorite hymns and P&W songs.



Mission Update

by Lori Mooney

June will be time for vacation, and it will be hot and muggy. Be careful, wear lots of sunscreen, stay hydrated, and take care of yourself. Enjoy your summer.

A huge THANK YOU to those of you who put together kits for Conference. I know that we hit the 25 mark and I think we will get some more made with the items that were individually donated. These kits are used in a crisis event, and they are a significant help to those that have been affected. Your help with these kits has been greatly appreciated.

I would like to give a thank you shout out to Nancy Colvin who has been my

co-leader on missions for the last year and half. Please tell her thank you, too. Nancy has stepped down as the co-leader and Sarah Simmons has taken over. So, please welcome Sarah into the role of co-chair of Adult Missions. Thank you, Sarah for taking this on. She is going to try it out for a year to see how it goes.

We are in the process of trying to come up with a fundraiser to raise money to help Pastor Blaine and Gary pay their way to the Honduras Mission Trip in September. Keep your eyes open for what we come up with. Will Gary be shaving his facial hair, again???

Mission spotlight of the month:

Resurrected Ministries. We had Nathan, who is the founder of Resurrected Ministries come and talk to us

last fall. He is providing housing and classes/presentations to help those that have just gotten out of prison. He is helping them get back on their feet after this hard period in their life. We have taken him and his mission on as part of our missions for this church. If you would like to make an extra donation to this group, please mark it for Resurrected Ministries.

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

Lori Mooney, co-chair, 540-820-7394,
Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com

Sarah Simmons, co-chair, 540-292-0956,
sarahsimmons4@aol.com



Kick-Off to Summer Celebration!



Plan to stay after the worship service on Sunday, June 2 for a picnic featuring grilled hamburgers and hotdogs and an ice cream sundae bar. There will be games for ALL, including an inflatable for the kids. Everyone please invite your neighbors and friends, especially those with children, to come join us for lots of fun.

Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and ice cream sundae fixings will be provided. We ask that you bring a side dish, pasta, veggies, fruits, cookies, cupcakes, etc. Don't miss this time of fellowship with your church family!

Women's Bible Study



"No Other Gods," a women's Bible study by Kelly Minter will be offered on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm beginning June 19. Come and explore what our modern day idols might be. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

Young at Hearts

Join the Young at Hearts for their monthly luncheon at O'Neil's in Harrisonburg on Tuesday, June 4 at 12 pm. All those 55 and older, or a little younger, are invited to attend. There's no commitment. Come when you can!

Attention Young Adults



Our Young Adults will be meeting for mini golf and ice cream on Saturday, June 1 at the Bridgewater Mini-Golf at 3 pm. We will go to Smiley's afterwards for a refreshing treat. If you are a recent high school graduate, we hope you will join us! You don't want to miss this event! You can't beat mini golf and ice cream! If you have questions, please reach out to Jac Bridges.

Coffee with the Pastor

Join Pastor Blaine at Valley Pike's Rumor Mill on Thursday, June 13 from 9:30 am - 12 pm. All are welcome to come enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and some great conversations!

Cemetery Board

As we have reached the almost midpoint through our 70th Year Anniversary here at Bethany UMC, your Cemetery Board wanted to give a few reminders of who we are and what we do for the church. So, if you are new or unfamiliar with all that Bethany UMC does, we have two cemeteries in charge of maintaining and operating. Both cemeteries are where a number of our Bethany family members are buried. The Naked Creek Cemetery which is found at 271 Dices Spring Road, Weyers Cave, VA 24486 is where the old Naked Creek Methodist Church, was before they moved to where Bethany is now. The other cemetery we operate and maintain is the Pleasant Grove Cemetery, found directly across from the Pleasant Grove Church at 32 Summit Church Road, Weyers Cave, Va 24486. This cemetery is operated and maintained by Bethany, as that church merged with us in 1988.

So, what do we want the Bethany Family to know about the cemeteries. First, the Naked Creek cemetery has several plots available for purchase. A 5'x10' plot is \$500 and corner markers are \$200. If you have questions or are

interested in purchasing a plot, please reach out to Randy Roller or Pastor Blaine. Pastor Blaine is always willing to speak to people about long-term planning and how to make decisions easier for their families. Secondly, the cemeteries are financially supported by gifts from those in our congregation and community. These gifts are essential to maintain the legacy of those who have gone before us and honor the lives of those who loved Bethany. Any gifts can be made out by check to Naked Creek Cemetery and dropped off with Cindy or to Randy Roller, who is the new President of the Cemetery Board. Thirdly, we are looking for two new members to join the Cemetery Committee. This is not a time-consuming committee as we meet twice a year and spend our time making sure all efforts to maintain and operate the cemeteries are being met. If this seems up your alley, please reach out to Randy or Pastor Blaine. Lastly, we would like to thank Don Truslow who has been the President of this Board for 39 years. His leadership and care for our beloved descendants truly is a remarkable and honorable feat, and we are grateful for all he has done.

Sincerely,

The Naked Creek Cemetery Board Committee



Naked Creek & Pleasant Grove Cemeteries Board of Trustees

Randy Roller, President
1093 Keezletown Road, Weyers Cave, VA 24486
540.908.0132 / 540.234.8312

Terri Shifflett, Treasurer
780 Battlefield Road, Ft. Defiance, VA 24437
540.294.1314 / 540.363.6602

Donald Truslow (Past President, Secretary & Treasurer)
259 Oakland Farm Road, Weyers Cave, VA 24486
540.421.1288 / 540.234.8880

Jan Fulton, Secretary
294 North River Road, Mt. Crawford, VA 22841
540.810.3759

Leary Figgins
1743 Frieden Church Road, Mt. Crawford, VA 22841
540.271.8498 / 540.434.4409

Pastor Blaine Oliver-Thomas, Pastor Bethany UMC
3700 Lee Highway, Weyers Cave, VA 24486
540.234.8880 / 850.508.7245

Summer Childrens Church

We are looking for some willing folks to help with a Childrens Church type experience during the summer months as our regular teachers take a break. In order to make this happen we will need new and willing teachers who could sign up for a week or maybe two over the summer. The first part of the time will be spent on a short hands on lesson that will be provided. The second half will be play time. We only need 3 more spots to be filled. Could you fill one of them.





BUM Bites by Bridgett Crawford

There were many youth recognized for their accomplishments and graduation accolades! Jake Frizzelle graduated from Fort Defiance and will continue his work with masonry. Amelia Simmons graduated from Fort Defiance and will continue at Radford University in the fall to study nursing. Camden Huffer graduated from Riverheads High School and will continue at West Virginia University studying Wildlife and Fishery Resources. Jon Northrop graduated from Bridgewater College with a degree in Theatre. He plans to continue this at Randolph Macon for his Master's. Paige Crawford graduated

from Virginia Tech with degrees in International Relations and Arabic. She will continue as an officer in the Army, going to Georgia and eventually Germany.

OUR SUMMER MISSION TRIP IS COMING UP! We are going through Appalachia Service Project and will be in Dickenson County, Va. We will be doing lots of construction projects for houses in that very poor area. Our mission trip dates are June 16-June 22. Members going are Happy Huffer, Lucy Huffer, Kevin Huffer, Jake Frizzelle, Maecy Ann Frizzelle, Jay Frizzelle, Lorna Frizzelle, Amelia Simmons, Sophie Ott, and Bridgett Crawford. Please be in prayer for the members, safe travels, impact to others, and joy in the work we complete. **There will be a sign up for prayer warriors in the foyer. Please have cards and/or items to the church by Friday, June 14th.**



Congratulations to ...

Congratulations to **LUCY HUFFER** for being chosen as the Rotary Code of Ethics recipient for Wilbur Pence Middle School. This award which recognizes great character and integrity is truly an honor, as Lucy was the lone female chosen in her 8th grade class. Lucy's parents are Mike and Maggie Huffer.

ADDYSON MOONEY was recently chosen as the Athlete of the Week by the Staunton News Leader. She was proven more than worthy of that designation as she won the Region 2B Singles Championship in Girl's Tennis. Addyson will continue competing as the next step will be participating in the Virginia High School League State Championship. Way to go Addyson! We are so proud of you! Shawn and Lori Mooney

are Addyson's proud parents. Former Pastor Don Hawks and wife Robyn are her grandparents.

A huge shout out to **STEPHANIE CARICOFÉ** recently recognized as Teacher of the Year at Clymore Elementary School. Stephanie is a Special Education instructor who shares her warm smile and enthusiasm with all students! Congratulations Stephanie!



June

3rd Becky Hawkins
5th Bettina Ruleman
Blaine Oliver-Thomas
7th Lucy Huffer
9th Jac Bridges
14th Jackson Frease
15th Terri Shifflett
18th Jonathan Northrop
20th Maggie Huffer
23rd Jim Miller
26th Dianna Eicher
Mae Houff
28th Dave Williams
30th Pete Richards

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
24th Tina Morris

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

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





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  Global Day of Parents
2 Kick Off to Summer Celebration	3	4 12 pm - Young at Hearts (O'Neil's) 7 pm - Trustee Meeting	5	6	7	8 <i>National Best Friends Day</i> 
9	10 	11 10 am - Caring Cards 	12	13 9:30 am - 12 pm Coffee with the Pastor 	14	15
16 	17	18 6:30 pm - Church Council Meeting	19 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study	20 JULY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE!!	21 	22 8 am  DONUTS & DEVOTIONS
ANNUAL CONFERENCE - PASTOR BLAINE OUT OF THE OFFICE						
YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP						
23	24	25	26 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study	27	28	29
PASTOR BLAINE SERVING AS CHAPLAIN FOR CAMP OVERLOOK						
30 						

Prayer List

Members: Phil & Ruth Ann Mikesell, Libby Riddle, Tom & Jan Gorden, Laura Lucas, Gary Ruleman, Carolyn Swartz

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

Extended Family: Layla - niece of Charlotte Saufley, Maria - friend of Lorna Frizzelle, Neese Spitzer - uncle of Barbara Long, Bucky - brother of Barbara Miller, sister of Jim Miller, Bowen - nephew of Kelli Huffer



Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



Summer Celebration
Sunday, June 2

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, Music Director
Bridgett Crawford, Youth Director
Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer
Danny Perry, Sexton

July Newsletter Deadline: June 20, 2024

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