



The Echo

June 2025 Edition

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church

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July Newsletter Deadline: June 17, 2025
Please submit articles to the church office at office.bethany@gmail.com

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Our Mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision is to
CONNECT with God in community,
GROW in our likeness to Jesus Christ,
SERVE our neighbors.

From the Pastor's Desk....

Dear Bethany Family,

We have finally made it! To the best month of the year (in my humble opinion)! June means more days on the water, whether it be the lake, beach, or river. June also means more time at the ball fields and enjoying summer sports! June means warmer weather, more cookouts, later sunsets, and more time to spend outdoors. As for me, it means hopefully a bit slower pace, between Annual Conference and spending a week at Camp Overlook as the chaplain. But before we jump into June, I just want to celebrate with you all as we look back on what May brought to our church family! From a personnel standpoint, we celebrate all that May brought us, as we hired a new youth director, Kaitlin Bower, who will begin on June 8th! We are also delighted to have the return of our beloved church sexton, Danny Perry, who has returned to work, and is doing great! We also celebrated the confirmation of Lucy Huffer to our church family, as she completed her confirmation classes and is now an official member here at Bethany! We also had the honor to celebrate our two high school graduates, Laiken "Happy Huffer and Addyson Mooney, as well as our lone college graduate, Emma Riddle! We also had three marriages to celebrate in the month of May, as Nicole Curry and Gabriel Carter, Abby Michael and Josh Unger, Audrey Overton and August Youngblood all tied the knot! It is safe to say that May was a busy but exciting and thriving month at Bethany UMC!

So where do we go from here? Well on Friday June 6th we are hosting a blood drive in our Social Hall, as we continue to help fill local blood banks, knowing that our donations save lives! Even if you cannot give blood, I hope you will share the drive with family, friends, and co-workers; as we still need to fill many slots! And then on Sunday June 8th, we are going to kick-off summer together after our Pentecost Sunday worship service. This is the perfect opportunity to invite a neighbor or someone who is not already involved with a church to come and join us as we have a cook-out with games and tons of fun after church! Other things to look forward to in June is we will be hosting a youth pool party on Thursday June 19th, where we will gather with our new youth director for a fun night of fellowship!

So, I hope that if you are reading this, you can see and feel the Holy Spirit alive and well, moving in our congregation and in our community! I hope that during this summer, you will find new ways to get involved in the good that God is doing here at Bethany! Maybe sign up to supervise a lesson or two with our children this summer, or maybe decide that once every six weeks, you will help out in the nurse on Sundays! Whatever it is that you decide to jump into, the reality is that Bethany needs you, and your gifts and graces! So do not fall into the trap of letting the summer pass you by, without strengthening the mission and ministry here at Bethany UMC! For friends, we are better together and need each other!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Blaine

Prayer Lists.....

Members: Barbara Long, Carolyn Cobb, Tom and Jan Gorden, Edie Smith, Sandra Campbell

Our Shut-Ins: Carolyn Roller, Nadine Moore, Sidney Moyer, Audrey Bradshaw, Ramona Garrison



We continue to extend our deepest Christian sympathy to the Byers family, as they grieve the loss of Linda Byers who passed away on Wednesday, May 7th.

Dates to Remember.....

- **Sunday Service: Every Sunday at 9:30am**
- **Food Pantry: Every Monday from 4 – 5:30pm**
- **Softball Game:** June 2nd at 6:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field
- **Finance Committee Meeting:** June 2nd at 6:00pm, Sunday School Classroom
- **Young at Hearts:** June 3rd at 12:00pm, Taste of Thai, Harrisonburg
- **Softball Game:** June 3rd at 6:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field
- **Blood Drive:** June 6th from 10:00am – 3:00pm, Social Hall
- **Pentecost, Summer Kick Off Celebration:** June 8th, wear **RED**, and stay after the service for the picnic
- **Softball Game:** June 9th at 6:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field
- **Softball Game:** June 10th at 8:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field
- **Annual Conference:** June 11th – June 14th, Pastor Blaine out of the office
- **Softball Game:** June 16th at 7:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field
- **July Echo Articles Deadline:** June 17th
- **Church Council Meeting:** June 17th at 6:30pm
- **Ladies Book Study begins:** June 18th at 6:30pm
- **Softball Game:** June 18th at 8:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field
- **Coffee Hours with Pastor Blaine:** June 19th from 9:30am - 12:00pm, Valley Pike
- **Youth Pool Party:** June 19th from 6:00pm – 8:00pm, Dunsmore house
- **Donuts & Devotions:** June 21st at 8:00am
- **Silent Auction Ends:** June 22nd, get your bids in on one of the birdhouses
- **Softball Games:** June 24th at 8:30pm and June 25th at 7:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field
- **Ladies Book Study:** June 25th at 6:30pm
- **Food Pantry Meal:** June 30th at 4:00pm



June Birthdays.....

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

If your birthday is listed on the wrong day, or has been missed, please notify the office at office.bethany@gmail.com

Worship News.....



SUNDAY, JUNE 8 let's KICK OFF TO SUMMER - It's Pentecost! **RED** is the color and **FOOD** and **FUN** are the words! Wear red and come to a spirit-filled worship service. Afterward there will be a picnic, games and surprises for the kids! Hotdogs, hamburgers, chips and an ice cream sundae bar provided. What a great opportunity to invite a friend, co-worker or neighbor who just might need a church family! Bring a side dish to share. Sign up sheets are available at the Welcome Center.



SONGS FOR THE SUMMER - Do you have a favorite hymn? oldie but goodie tune? familiar gospel song? praise and worship song? You just let us know what it is and the Praise and Worship team will do our best to make it a selection one Sunday during the summer months. Selection forms and a box for them are at the Welcome Center and will remain there during the summer months.

SPECIAL MUSIC IN THE SUMMER? - Are you willing to share a song with your voice or instrument during the summer? If so, please talk to Dale Roller.



WE NEED YOUR DISNEY TOYS!

During the summer Pastor Blaine will be doing a sermon series using some of the most beloved Disney movies listed below. What a fun idea!!! If you or someone in your family has any toys or items from these movies that you are willing to let us borrow, we promise to take good care of them! Please put your name or an identifying

mark on the items. There is a box, clearly labeled "Disney Movie items" in the Welcome Center. Here are the movies:

Toy Story
Finding Nemo
Wall-E
Beauty and the Beast
Cars
Monsters Inc.
Lion King



Children's Ministry News.....

Summer Program - Over the summer we like to give our Children Sunday School teachers a well-deserved break! So over the summer we are looking for two folks each Sunday that will oversee the children's activity (which will be provided) and then take them out to play on the playground. A sign-up sheet, with dates listed, is available at the Welcome Center! We hope to fill this schedule quickly, as our Children Summer Programming will begin June 1st. Please prayerfully consider signing up for a Sunday or a few!

Youth News.....

Youth Pool Party – Thursday, June 19th from 6:00pm – 8:30pm at the home of Mark and Jackie Dunsmore. Invite a friend and come join us as we welcome our new youth director, Kaitlin Bower!

Women's Ministry News.....



Hygiene Kits for Annual Conference – Five ladies joined together to pack the items for the hygiene kits. We have 40 kits ready to go to the Annual Conference. Thank you to those that came to help!

Summer Bible Study - Ladies, join us this summer for a trip to Israel through the use of videos and the book Luke in the Land by Kristi McLelland. We will visit many of the places where Jesus walked and taught. We will begin this 7-session study on Wednesday, June 18th, at 6:30 pm, here at the church. Facilitators will be Barbara Somers and Becky McCarty. Please sign up at the Welcome Center, so we will know how many books to order. A \$10 donation at the first class is optional. We look forward to seeing you!

Mission Opportunities.....



Silent Auction - A silent auction is underway for three birdhouses made by Dr. Earl King. The proceeds from this auction will go towards team funds to cover medications for the September Honduras Team. The bid sheets along with the houses are located in the Welcome Center. The auction will end on Sunday, June 22nd. Thank you Dr. King for your generous donation.

Christmas in July Yard Sale - We will be hosting our "Christmas in July" Yard Sale on Saturday July 26th at the Weyers Cave Community Center from 8:00am-1:00pm. **YOU** can also have a table to set up for personal sales. We are asking for a \$15 donation for the space. Now is the time to clean out your garage, purge those extra things, and set them aside and be ready to earn a little extra cash! If you have any questions or want to reserve a table for your own yard sale, please reach out to Amy Michael at 540-447-9972.

Friends of Barnabas Donation Jar- We will be collecting funds for our September Honduran Mission Team, leading up to our trip. This donation jar alongside the Christmas in July Yard Sale will be our big fundraisers. The team has to raise \$11,500 team funds which will cover the cost of supplies and medications for our neighbors in Honduras, throughout the week. Each member on the team has to pay \$2,250 for their personal expenses. We invite you to prayerfully support our team with your gifts throughout the next few months.



Food Pantry Meal - Adult Missions is hosting a cookout for our food pantry neighbors on Monday, June 30th. We will be providing hot dogs, hamburgers, and buns. We need the Bethany family to donate sides and desserts. Please sign up to bring an item to help feed people from our own community. All food should be at the church by 4:00pm on the 30th. Sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center. Thank you for your generosity.

Missions Update ... by Lori Mooney

Schools are out for summer or soon to be! The hot sun will be beating down, beach trips will be planned, cookouts will fill the air with happy aromas of hot dogs and hamburgers, Happy June!

Thank you to all who donated items to make the hygiene kits for the Annual Conference. Keep supporting our youth and all that they do is so important because they are the next leaders of our community. Look at the weekly Happenings to see what is going on and try to attend a game, a play, recital, or whatever is going on. We have a

new shared youth director that will be coming on the scene shortly to help with our youth program. Let's give her a warm welcome when she gets here.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the next Bethany Blood Drive and that date is Friday, June 6th. We need more people to sign up to donate. Please sign up or if you can't, please pass the word around and maybe a co-worker, friend, or neighbor can sign up to donate. One donation can save up to 3 people's lives.

Mark your calendar for the Christmas in July Yard Sale on Saturday, July 26th from 8am – 1pm. Amy Michael is still taking donations. Bring them in and leave them in the social hall. Rilo will be selling Pulled Pork BBQ sandwiches that day. We will also be having a bake sale at the yard sale. So, if you love to bake and want to make some items for the bake sale, then be sure to let Lori Mooney know what you plan on donating. If you can donate your time to volunteer to help that day, please be sure to let us know. All proceeds will be going to the Honduras Mission Trip in September.

Mission spotlight of the month: Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta. We have been serving our neighbors since 1994. Our mission is to accomplish, at no cost to a homeowner, critical home repairs and modifications to improve the health and safety of the home. We serve low-income, elderly, disabled or disadvantaged homeowners in the SAW region. We have been able to provide help for 55-70 homes in recent years. If you would like to make an extra donation, please mark it for Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta.

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

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

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

Sunday Morning Hospitality.....

If you love fellowshiping after Worship Service and are grateful for the refreshments that are always there waiting for you, a huge THANKS is in order for Kathy Kile, who has been behind the scenes organizing these for the last few years. We are so grateful for her and her willingness to serve in that capacity. We already have a few families who take one week every month, but are going to need help with the other weeks in the month. If you have a passion for hospitality or helping us have a welcoming place to fellowship after Sunday Morning Worship, please reach out to Pastor Blaine or Laura Lucas.



Summer Mowing Schedule.....

If you need training reach out to Mark Dunsmore. Thank you for taking the time to keep our church yard groomed.

June – Garrett Roller (540) 820-6479

July – Simmons Family (540) 242-0896

August – Mike Huffer (540) 435-1053

September – available

October – Stanley Houff (540) 234-0494

Substitutes – Gabriel Carter (540) 255-2700

