



The Echo

MAY 2025 Edition

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church

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June Newsletter Deadline: May 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,

I do not know about you, but I thought that Easter Sunday was such a beautiful and special culmination of the Lenten Season and then Holy Week! It is always such a special Sunday, celebrating the empty tomb, and I always enjoy seeing and meeting your extended family members, friends and neighbors, and so many wonderful folks. But did you know that the Easter Season is not just one Sunday? In fact, the Easter season reaches fifty days beginning with Easter Sunday and concluding with Pentecost! After Jesus is raised from the tomb, and meets Mary on that Easter Morning, he spends the next few weeks, appearing to his disciples, continuing to teach and instruct them on how to live in accordance with their resurrected and very much alive savior and friend! So often we in the Church think of Easter being that one Sunday where we celebrate the Risen Savior, but Easter is more than just one singular Sunday. So, the question then becomes, how can we live into the Easter season and do it well?

Well over the next few weeks, we are going to continue on Sunday mornings to journey with the grave-defying Jesus and wrestle with what the hope of Easter means for our lives. My hope and encouragement is that we carry the momentum of Easter Sunday forward and let our Easter joy and hope spring new life and new relationships here at Bethany UMC! For us to do this, I want to challenge each one of us, to invite someone new, someone who maybe has never heard of Jesus, or someone who has been away from Jesus for a while, to join us this Easter Season. My hope is that all of us can mimic Mary, and leave the tomb joyfully, inviting others to hear the Good News! As we join Jesus in taking off our grave clothes, let us bring a renewed energy and passion to what is already going on here at Bethany, being messengers to the Resurrection!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Blaine

Prayer Lists.....

Members: Barbara Long, Kathleen and Mike Stump, Carolyn Cobb, Tom and Jan Gorden

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

Extended family: Tyler Michael, son of Jeff and Amie Michael, kidney transplant surgery has been rescheduled; Suttles family whose 4-year-old Quinn passed away on April 3rd, neighbors of the Castle's; Christian Tucker, friend of Sandra Campbell and Barbara Long

Remembering Memorial Day....



“Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it.” - Unknown

Dates to Remember.....

- **Sunday Service: Every Sunday at 9:30am**
- **Food Pantry: Every Monday from 4 – 5:30pm**
- **Baby Shower:** May 4th – immediately following the service
- **Missions Committee:** May 5th at 7:30pm
- **Softball Game:** May 5th at 6:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field
- **Young at Hearts:** May 6th at 12:00pm, Mrs. Rowe’s, Staunton
- **Softball Game:** May 6th at 8:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field
- **Coffee Hours with Pastor Blaine:** May 8th from 9:30am - 12:00pm, Valley Pike
- **Softball Games:** May 12th at 6:30pm and May 14th at 8:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field
- **Donuts & Devotions:** May 17th at 8:00am
- **June Echo Articles Deadline:** May 17th
- **Softball Games:** May 20th at 8:30pm and May 21st at 7:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field
- **Coffee Hours with Pastor Blaine:** May 22nd from 3:00pm - 5:00pm, Valley Pike
- **Hygiene Kits Due:** May 25th, Annual Conference Hygiene Kit items are due at the church
- **Women’s Ministries:** May 26th at 10:00am, assembling and packing Hygiene Kits
- **Softball Game:** May 28th at 6:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field

May Birthdays.....

2 nd	Harrison Dornon	10 th	Mark Dunsmore
	Katherine Dornon		Shawn Mooney
4 th	Pierce Moyer	11 th	Karie Dornon
	Sheryl Northrop	15 th	Brian Shifflett
6 th	Stanley Houff	26 th	Jay Frizzelle
	Camden Huffer	28 th	Tom Thacker
9 th	Pat Lynn		

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

Worship News.....



May 11 - Mother's Day and Confirmation Sunday - We look forward to honoring all of the ladies in our church family. In addition, we will witness Lucy Huffer make a commitment to her faith journey as she joins the church. Light refreshments to follow.



Graduate Sunday, May 18 - We look forward to this celebration of our Bethany family senior youth who will be graduating and starting a new chapter in their lives. Congratulations to Laiken "Happy" Huffer daughter of Kelli and Kevin Huffer who will be graduating from Riverheads High School and to Addyson Mooney, daughter of Lori and Shawn Mooney who will graduate from Fort Defiance High School. Congratulations also to Emma Riddle, daughter of Sean and Libby Riddle who will be graduating from Christopher Newport University. We are so proud of our graduates and will begin now to pray for God's protection and provision as they pursue God's direction for their lives.

Sunday, June 8 - PENTECOST with a kick off to SUMMER!- It will be a party! Save the date! More info coming soon.

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 will be a box, clearly labeled "Disney Movie items" in the welcome area starting Sunday May 18th. Here are the movies:

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



Women's Ministry News.....

Packing Party - Women's Ministry is hosting a "packing party." All ladies are invited to come out May 26th at 10:00am. We will be gathering the donated items for the Hygiene Kits and getting them ready for delivery to the Annual Conference. There will be coffee, tea, a sweet treat, and most of all lots a fellowship.

Summer Bible Study - Becky McCarty and Barbara Somers will be facilitating the Ladies Bible study Luke in the Land, by Kristi McClelland. This is a 7-session study that involves learning about the places where Bible stories took place. Watch future Happenings for dates and time!



EASTER CHOIR THANKS!

We so appreciated our Easter Choir for providing some wonderful music during the Lent and Easter season. A special thank you to James Kiser for organizing and directing. Thanks to our choir members for their time and dedication to being a part of the choir.

Reaching into our community through our EASTER EGG HUNTS!

Thanks to those who assisted with our community and Easter day Egg Hunts! We had over 100 guest children and adults at the Community Hunt and 20+ Bethany folks assisting!

- Those who provided candy/toys and filled the eggs
- Those who hid eggs
- Those who were a part of the Bethany Barnyard Pal puppets program
- Those who did the crafts
- Those who provided and served refreshments
- Those who greeted and just helped wherever needed
- Special thank you to Julie Ritchie who organizes the filling and hiding for our community AND Easter day hunt

LENT AND EASTER THANKS!

If we start listing names we will miss someone, so here is a huge shout out of gratitude to all who made our Lent and Easter events so very meaningful. From a display of trash outside, to our sanctuary and front hall, we enjoyed decor with meaning and beauty. Many assisted with the Palm Sunday brunch and we are thankful for their

Service. For those who cleaned and mowed, thank you. And we especially thank Pastor Blaine for a creative Lent focus on the “trash” in our lives, his challenging teaching and his leadership in all!

Mission Opportunities.....

Hygiene Kits for Annual Conference – We will be collecting kits through Sunday, May 25th. The church already has Ziplock bags so we only need the items for packing.

Hygiene Kit Materials

- One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches) - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One washcloth - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One comb -Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth. No pocket combs or picks. Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth.
- One toenail or fingernail clipper -No emery boards or metal nail files
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger) - No Ivory or Jergen’s soap. Do not remove from packaging.
- One adult toothbrush - Do not remove from packaging. Personal advertising not acceptable.
- 10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches) - Common household bandages acceptable

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.

Missions Update ... by Lori Mooney

Happy May! Happy Mother’s Day to all our moms, grandmas, and loving females out there. Happy Memorial Day and soon to be summertime!

Thank you to all who donated to the California Wildfire Fund. We collected \$611.

Since we are without a youth director, the youth participating in spring sports will have their games highlighted each week. Please try to go and support the young people by attending one of their games. Supporting our youth and all that they do is so important because they are the next leaders of our community.

Congrats to our upcoming high school graduates: Laiken “Happy” Huffer and Addyson Mooney. We wish you the best in your next walk of life.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the next Bethany Blood Drive and that date is Friday, June 6th.

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 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: Weekday Religious Education. WRE is a program in the Augusta County schools where elementary students can go to a local church and learn about Jesus and his teachings. Sometimes this is the only place the kids learn about church related events. We support WRE to get the word out to those that don't attend church on Sunday mornings. If you would like to make an extra donation, please mark it for WRE.

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

Giving away.....

We have 4x8 foot pieces of good corrugated cardboard that were once used for a float. We have ALOT of them. If you would like some or know someone who would PLEASE contact the church office.

Fellowship Hall Reserved.....

The Fellowship Hall is reserved on the following dates: May 17th from 3:00-9:30pm and May 18th from 2:00-4:00pm. Please be mindful of these times if you need to be in the church.

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. Kathy is looking to pass the baton to someone else, as her last Sunday organizing and facilitating Sunday morning refreshments will be Sunday May 18th. 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.