



The Echo

August 2025 Edition

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church

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September Newsletter Deadline: August 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....

To All of the Bethany Family,

I am sure that I am not the only one who has found themselves asking, “where has the summer gone?” It seemed like yesterday we were celebrating our graduates and kicking the summer off together with a Pentecostal celebration. And now after a waterlogged July, August is upon us, and our Augusta County teachers and students are headed back into the classroom. College football kicks off at the end of the month, and we wrap up the summer with Labor Day celebrations which I am sure will be here before we know it.

As September approaches, I hope that you all have continued to be taking the intentional time to truly ask God what God requires from you, and where God is leading us as a church. I want to encourage you to continue through the month of August to pray the discernment prayer, or your own rendition of the prayer that we have passed out. We are hoping that when September rolls around to announce a few town hall meetings, where we want to hear where God has been speaking in and through you during this season of prayer. The questions I hope all of us can consider is where God is calling you to dream big dreams and to envision new ways of mission and ministry in and through Bethany UMC. My hope is that in and through these listening sessions we may consider updating or changing our mission and vision statement, as well as maybe considering some other changes here at Bethany! So, keep praying my friends, keep listening to the Spirit, and look forward to hearing some dates coming soon for some opportunities to talk about this season of intentional praying!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Blaine

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6:8 (NIV)

Prayer Lists.....

Members: Barbara Long, Tom and Jan Gorden, Cathie Sue King, Libby Riddle, Carolyn Cobb, Scott and Jennifer Williams for the passing of Jennifer's mother; Gabe and Nicole Carter and family on the loss of their infant daughter, Penelope.

Extended Family: Layla Loker, great niece of Charlotte and Robbie Saufley; Zac, Laura and Drew Hittie, "miracle baby" due any day now; Marguerite McDonald, Diana Morris, Jim Miller's sister; Lorna Frizelle's father's best friend Randy

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

Pray for peace in our Community, our Country, and our World.

Dates to Remember.....

- **Sunday Service: Every Sunday at 9:30am**
 - **Pastor Blaine out of the office:** August 14th – August 18th
 - **Young at Hearts:** August 5th at 12:00pm - Armstrong's, Verona
 - **Women's Book Study:** August 6th at 6:30pm - Sunday School Classroom
 - **Coffee Hours with Pastor Blaine:** August 7th from 9:30am – 12:00pm, Valley Pike
 - **Back to School Swim Party:** August 10th from 3:00pm – 7:00pm, Dunsmore Home
 - **Love INC Workday:** August 11th from 9:00am – 12:00pm – Love INC, Fishersville
 - **FOB Team Meeting:** August 11th at 6:00pm – Virtual and/or Sunday School Classroom
 - **Worship Meeting:** August 11th from 7:00pm – 8:00pm – Sunday School Classroom
 - **Church Council Meeting:** August 12th at 6:30pm – Fellowship Hall
 - **Donuts & Devotions:** August 16th at 8:00am – Fellowship Hall
 - **September Echo Articles Deadline:** August 17th
 - **Coffee Hours with Pastor Blaine:** August 21st from 3:00pm – 5:00pm, - Valley Pike
 - **Youth Gathering:** August 24th from 2:00 – 4:00 – Verona UMC
 - **Ice Cream Extravaganza:** August 24th at 5:00pm (after 4:00pm for the water slide) – Bethany UMC
 - **Adult Missions Meeting:** August 25th at 6:00pm – Sunday School Classroom
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August Birthdays.....

1 st	Eddie Lynn	18 th	Maryetta Reese
3 rd	Joe Meek		Kevin Huffer
5 th	Bill Kile	19 th	Dale Roller
10 th	Julie Ritchie	20 th	Lindy Sheets
11 th	Christian Michael		Robert Hill
	Scott Williams	30 th	Kevin Stroop
13 th	Don Truslow		

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



Children's Ministry News.....



SUMMER PROGRAM – Our Children's Summer Program is well under way on Sunday mornings.

The children are growing in their understanding of the Christian faith through Investigations, Unlocking Hidden Bible Verses and Identifying the Suspect. Volunteers (2 per Sunday) are still needed to oversee the children's activity (which is provided) and then take them out to play on the playground. August 3rd and 17th need volunteers. The sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center! Please prayerfully consider signing up for a Sunday!

Youth and Children Activites

To encourage involvement with our youth and children, the church office would like to hear from our parents. For our youth parents and youth please send your fall schedules as they come available to our youth director, Kaitlin Bower at (kaitlinbower@veronaumc.com). If you are willing to share your children's fall schedule please send to the church office at (office.bethany@gmail.com).

Mission Opportunities.....

- We will be having another workday with Love INC in Fishersville on Monday, August 11th. We can meet at the church and leave at 8:30am. We will be volunteering from 9-12ish. We will be sorting donated items in their warehouse. We would love to have any and all to volunteer for this event. Bring a bagged

lunch and we will find a place to enjoy lunch together after several hours of work. Please contact Lori, Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com or 540-820-7394 if you are interested or have questions.



*Thank
you!*

A BIG thank you to all those that donated, helped, baked, participated, and cleaned for the Christmas in July yard sale. We raised \$3164.19 for our Friends of Barnabas team and have now raised the full amount for the 2025 trip. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Missions Update ... by Lori Mooney

Happy August! Enjoy those last days of freedom before school starts again. Good luck to all the students heading back sometime this month.

Thank you to those that donated their time to help at Love, Inc. We helped sort through many items, pack them, and help deliver them. We will help sort again on Monday, August 11th, so mark your calendars if you want to come help. We will meet at the church and leave about 8:30, if you want to carpool. Or you can meet at the Love, Inc warehouse at 9am. We will work until noon. Pack a lunch and we will eat together afterwards.

Well, our big event - the Christmas in July Yard Sale was held on Saturday, July 26th from 8am – 1pm. Thank you to Amy Michael for making this a huge success. Thanks to Rilo for selling BBQ sandwiches that day. Thank you to those that donated baked goods, items to help with the BBQ sale, or your time on that day. All proceeds went to the Honduras Mission Trip. After we tally everything up, we will see how close we are to what we need.

Mission spotlight of the month: Backpack Pals. As we start back for another school year, let's think about the kids that don't have food to fill their bellies when they aren't in school getting free/reduced meals. Backpack Pals sends home a bag of snacks to those students at Clymore Elementary who sign up to be a part of this program. Bethany has helped with this program for years. There are about 5 local churches who help with donations to buy the food to send home with the kids for the weekends, so they don't go hungry. There is usually about 110 kids that get a free bag of snacks every week to take home. There is usually about 8 items in the bag, anything from

mac and cheese, peanut butter, gummies, pudding, oatmeal, cereal, canned fruit, canned veggies, tuna, etc. If you feel led to donate more to this group, please mark your check or money for "Backpack Pals."

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

New Address.....

Dollie Wilfong has moved. Her new mailing address is 3655F Stone Spring Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Her phone number is 540-430-1527.

August Summer Mowing Mike Huffer

Bethany Kids Back to School Swim Party, Sunday, August 10th.....

All Bethany children AND their families are invited to a SWIM PARTY at Mark and Jackie Dunsmore's home (965 Keezletown Road, Weyers Cave). Come swim any time after 3:30. Dinner at 5:00. Hamburgers and hotdogs chips and drinks provided. Bring a side and/or dessert. All families are encouraged to bring friends!

Ice Cream Extravaganza.....

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 24 for the annual Ice Cream Extravaganza! Don't miss this fun, end of summer outside event with a new name, but the same great food and fun. Homemade ice cream makers please bring your best creation! Everyone else bring a side dish and/or a dessert to go with ice cream. Grilled hotdogs, buns and beverages provided. There will also be yard games for all and a WATER INFLATABLE SLIDE for the kids. Gather at 5:00 rain or shine. Kids come any time after 4:00 for the water slide. Everyone grab your lawn chair and bring a friend/neighbor. So that we don't duplicate ice cream or sides, there will be a sign-up sheet for food at the Welcome Center. This event is sponsored by our Women's Ministry Team. If you are willing to assist please contact Elizabeth Williams or indicate on the sign-up sheet.

Giving Opportunity.....

For folks in our Bethany family who would like to financially support families who are having funeral receptions and celebration of life meals at the church, we have created a new opportunity to do so. We will have a new fund called "Funeral Meal Fund" for all those who would like to help pay for meal costs. If you feel led, please make checks out to Bethany UMC and in the Memo Line put "Funeral Meal Fund."