



# The Echo

July 2025 Edition

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church

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August Newsletter Deadline: July 17, 2025  
Please submit articles to the church office at [office.bethany@gmail.com](mailto: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 Siblings in Christ,

Somehow, someway, we have arrived at the end of my third year of serving as your pastor! I am so grateful for the ministry, the people, and this beloved community that has surrounded me with prayers, love, and support as I have woken up every morning, with the hope and heart to serve to the best of my God-given ability. That is not to say, that I have been a perfect pastor, as I am far from it. But it is to say that this community is one of love, and one that leads others to Jesus, and I am blessed to be a small part of it. The way you all have continued to welcome Ashley and I is not something I take for granted.

As I begin my fourth year of pastoral ministry, I have been reflecting on a couple of things. The first being that I hope by now, everyone who has wanted to know me better has had that opportunity. I want you all to know that I am always available to meet for coffee, ice cream, or a meal with you. I like to think that I am approachable, so if there is anything that is ever on your mind, my door is always open, and I want to hear from you. For us to continue to be a faithful community of believers, we must be able to share transparently grievances and joys, so that we can continue the work of the Holy Spirit in this place. Secondly, I have been wondering and imagining how to best connect with those in our community that do not know the vast and inclusive love of Jesus Christ. As people become more disillusioned with Christians and the Church, how can we the people of Bethany, be a humble, Spirit-filled representation of the living and breathing Jesus Christ? If we can answer this question together, than we as a community can either reinforce our “why” or find our new “why.”

To do this, I want to boldly encourage you all to join me during the months of July AND August in praying the below prayer three times a day:

**Loving and Gracious God,**

**We call upon your holy and loving name for guidance, clarity, and direction in our purpose. God, show US where in our community your presence is needed. God, show ME where in my life, I need to respond to your guiding, leaving my ego and own ambitions at the door, so I can be led solely by you. And teach US God, how the church called Bethany UMC, can be a place of rehabilitation for the broken, chain-defying healing for those who need to be freed from their shackles, and a center for hope and light in our community. In Jesus' perfect and holy name, we pray, Amen.**

If we as the body of Christ, can do this, then we are putting our words into action, by trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide us and shape us, and help us focus on our purpose and vision here at Bethany UMC. We will print out this prayer and beginning on Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup>, we will have these prayer cards readily available. I hope you will join me in the months of July and August praying this prayer and listening for God to speak. Maybe put the prayer card on your fridge, in your bible, or on your car dashboard. I would encourage our parents to teach your

children it and pray this prayer with them together, as we want the whole body of Bethany to be waiting on the Holy Spirit to breathe fresh upon us. May this summer be a time of praying, listening, and waiting for God to move us together as one in God's current, for our God is always faithful.

*In Christ's Love,*

*Pastor Blaine*

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### **Prayer Lists.....**

**Members:** Barbara Long, Tom and Jan Gorden, Dale Roller

**Extended Family:** Charlie Elderidge, colleague of Rosemary Wagoner, lost his wife a week after the birth of his daughter Lucy; Samantha Wilfong, granddaughter of Dollie Wilfong; Annette Pittman, Joe and Bobbie Meek's daughter-in-law's sister, suffered a stroke

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

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

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### **Dates to Remember.....**

- **Sunday Service: Every Sunday at 9:30am**
- **Young at Hearts:** July 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:00pm, O'Neil's, Harrisonburg
- **Softball Game:** July 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field
- **Women's Book Study:** Wednesdays, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 3:30 – Sunday School Classroom
- **Softball Game:** July 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field
- **Pastor Blaine Out of the Office:** July 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
- **Softball Game:** July 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field
- **Softball Game:** July 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm, Weyers Cave Ruritan Ball Field
- **August Echo Articles Deadline:** July 17<sup>th</sup>
- **Coffee Hours with Pastor Blaine:** July 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:00pm – 5:00pm, Valley Pike
- **Donuts & Devotions:** July 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am – Fellowship Hall
- **Young Adult Gathering:** July 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am – 2:00pm – Sherando Lake Recreation Area
- **Softball Playoffs Begin:** July 21<sup>st</sup>
- **Christmas in July Yard Sale:** July 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am – 1:00pm, Weyers Cave Community Center



### July Birthdays.....

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kathy Frizzelle	14 <sup>th</sup>	Jerry Sheets
	Whitley Kile	16 <sup>th</sup>	Ralph Reese
4 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Gorden	17 <sup>th</sup>	Sandy Gibson
5 <sup>th</sup>	Daisy Castle	18 <sup>th</sup>	Dollie Wilfong
8 <sup>th</sup>	Avery Cox	19 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Colvin
12 <sup>th</sup>	Samuel Frease	24 <sup>th</sup>	Tina Morris
	William Frease	27 <sup>th</sup>	Drew Hittie
	Ramona Garrison		Kathy Kile

If your birthday is listed on the wrong day, or has been missed, please notify the office at [office.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com)

### Worship News.....



**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.

### 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. A sign-up sheet, with dates listed, is at the Welcome Center! Please prayerfully consider signing up for a Sunday or a few!



## Young at Hearts.....

The August 5<sup>th</sup> lunch location for Young at Hearts is Armstrong's in Verona.

## Mission Opportunities.....



**Silent Auction has ended.** The highest bidders were: Red Birdhouse, Julie Ritchie, Blue Birdhouse, Bettina Ruleman; Green Birdhouse, Charlotte Saufley. The bids totaled \$750 and will go towards team funds to cover medications for the September Honduras Team. Thank you Dr. King for your generous donation and congratulations to the bid winners!



### Christmas in July Yard Sale – You too can help!

\*Food donations needed: canned drinks, bottled water, individual chip bags, hamburger buns, baked goods

\*Friday night set up: help set up tables, Christmas goods, etc.

\*Pull a Saturday shift: concessions, Christmas sales,

Sign-up sheets on the table in the Welcome Center - you know the drill. :)

Come and enjoy the festivities! Bring your family and friends! Purchase some gorgeous Christmas treasures! Fellowship with the neighborhood! Take home pulled pork barbecue for dinner and a dessert from the bake sale!

Weyers Cave Community Center - Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am – 1:00pm

Thanks for your continued support of our mission trip with Friends of Barnabas in all the ways!

More questions? Text or call Amy 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.

## **Missions Update ... by Lori Mooney**

Happy 4th of July!!! Celebrate being able to be free in the USA!

We ended up with 40 hygiene kits that were taken to the Annual Conference. Thanks for those donations.

Welcome our new Youth Director, Kaitlin Bower, that we are sharing with Verona UMC.

The blood drive we had was able to get 21 units of blood donated. Thank you to those that donated.

Thank you to those who donated food, time to help serve, set up or clean up after the meal, grill the hamburgers/hot dogs, etc. for the Food Pantry neighbors meal that was held on June 30th.

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 put them in the last 2 rooms down the hall from the office area. 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: First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence is a private, non-profit organization that provides safe emergency shelter, support services, counseling, and resources to survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence. We are the only local nonprofit that provides comprehensive services, including safe shelter to survivors in the City of Harrisonburg and the County of Rockingham and have done so for over forty years. If you would like to make an extra donation, please mark it for First Step.

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

Lori Mooney, 540-820-7394, [Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com](mailto:Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com)

Sarah Simmons, 540-292-0956, [sarahsimmons4@aol.com](mailto: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.

## **July Summer Mowing ..... The Simmons Family**

### **Ice Cream Extravaganza.....**

Mark your calendars now for our annual Ice Cream Extravaganza that is being held on August 24<sup>th</sup>. More details to come!

### **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."

