



# The Echo

October 2025 Edition

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church

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November Newsletter Deadline: October 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 Beloved Bethany Family and Friends,

Fall has officially arrived. Stores are filling up with pumpkin everything and cinnamon sticks, which welcome you as you walk into your local Food Lion. As we welcome the month of October, we also step into the month that is known as Stewardship Month, where we as a church focus in on why we offer ourselves as God's stewards to our church, our community, and the world. This Stewardship Month we will be wrestling with the question: "What's Your Why?" My hope and prayer are that all of us find this time to deeply reflect on what our purpose as a follower of Jesus is, but also our purpose as a faith community as we are the people of Bethany. This is a month when we intentionally focus on where and how God is calling us to commit to God and through the church at Bethany UMC.

During the month of October there will be many different opportunities to wrestle with this question, and I hope you and your families lean into these opportunities. Beginning with Sunday mornings in October, worship is going to look a bit different, allowing more space to intentionally think about our own purpose and where our heart lies, as we seek where God is leading us. We also will have a Sunday Brunch on Sunday October 19th after Worship, so we can break bread together and have more conversations surrounding our purpose and vision as a church. And then we will end Stewardship Month with the exciting and faithful worship experience with Southern Hospitality on Sunday October 26th. The fun doesn't end though that morning, as we hope everyone will pitch in and join us as we love on our community at the Truck-Or-Treat that afternoon from 3-5pm at the Weyers Cave Community Center! As if there was not enough going on at Bethany during the month of October, I will be leading a pastor-led Bible Study on the Book of 1 John on Wednesdays at 10am and 6:30pm. This is a churchwide study, so I am encouraging you to prioritize this study, as we delve deep into the Scriptures to hear where God is seeking after you. All that you need to bring is a Bible (and if you need a Bible, let me know and I will get you one.) and yourself!

I hope this month, if you have been waiting to dip your toe a bit deeper into the water at Bethany, that you will courageously jump in, and allow God's presence to fill you and lead you. Friends, we have the opportunity to be a place where God's hope and presence abound and is ALIVE, so let us not waste this moment in time.

*In Christ's Love,*

*Pastor Blaine*

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Whatever you do, do it from the heart for the Lord and not for people.  
Colossians 3:23 (CEB)

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## Prayer Lists...

**Members:** Tom and Jan Gorden, Barbara Long, Jane Elkins, Sidney Moyer

Kathleen and Mike Stump as Mike gets settled in at English Meadows.

**Our Shut-ins:** Audrey Bradshaw, Ramona Garrison, Carolyn Roller, Nadine Moore

**Extended Family:** Alden, daughter of Paul Wilson and Martha Carper; family of Sherry Pittman, friend of Leslie Wagoner; Kelly Redifer, Felicia's mother; Drumheller family, Don Truslow's cousin; Tim Floyd, Amy Michael's brother-in-law; Christina Loker family, mother of Layla Loker passed away, Charlotte and Robbie Saufley's nephew's wife; Michael, son-in-law of Gary and Bettina Ruleman; Katie Huffman-Collins family on her passing.

For those wanting to write thinking of you cards to Paul and Martha their address is: 23 Click Rd, Weyers Cave, VA 24486.

**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**
- **Food Pantry: Mondays from 4:00 – 5:30pm**
- **Bible Study:** Wednesdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 at 10:00am and 6:30pm - Sunday School Classroom
- **Trustees Meeting:** October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm - Downstairs Classroom
- **Truck or Treat Meeting:** October 5<sup>th</sup> right after worship
- **Young at Hearts:** October 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm - Wood Grill, Harrisonburg
- **Coffee Hours with Pastor Blaine:** October 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am – 12:00pm - Valley Pike
- **Youth Gathering:** October 12<sup>th</sup> at Verona UMC – Details to follow.
- **Finance Meeting:** October 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm - Sunday School Classroom
- **November Echo Articles Due:** October 17<sup>th</sup>
- **Donuts & Devotions:** October 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am - Fellowship Hall
- **Brunch and Mini Mission Project:** October 19<sup>th</sup> following worship - Fellowship Hall
- **Church Council Meeting:** October 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm – Fellowship Hall
- **Coffee Hours with Pastor Blaine:** October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30 – 5:00pm - Valley Pike
- **Southern Hospitality:** October 26<sup>th</sup> – During morning worship service.
- **Truck or Treat:** October 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 5:00pm – Weyers Cave Community Center
- **Fellowship Hall Reserved:** October 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00pm
- **Daylight Savings Time Ends:** turn clocks back 1 hour November 1<sup>st</sup>



### October Birthdays...

1 <sup>st</sup>	Carolyn Roller (90 years)	21 <sup>st</sup>	Wyatt Dunsmore
	Tara Stroop		Barbara Somers
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wayne Frizzelle	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jan Fulton
5 <sup>th</sup>	Josh Unger	25 <sup>th</sup>	Joe Morris
6 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Beth Hill	29 <sup>th</sup>	Lois Huffer
10 <sup>th</sup>	Emma Riddle		Amy Michael
16 <sup>th</sup>	Maecy Anne Frizzelle	31 <sup>st</sup>	Leslie Wagoner

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)



### Pastor Blaine, THANK YOU!

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. It is a special time when we honor Pastor Blaine for his faithful and untiring commitment to our church and our community. It has been said that being a pastor is one of the most challenging, joyful, devastating, frustrating, and fulfilling jobs a person can have. We are fortunate to have a young, energetic clergyman who, in his three going on four years of ministry with us, has had more experiences serving our church than most pastors have in a lifetime. We are grateful for his dedicated spirit, his caring nature, and his love of God and the members of our Bethany fellowship.

**Sunday, October 12, is Pastor Appreciation Day.** We will have refreshments after the worship service that day and then, throughout the month of October, a basket will be placed in the Welcome Center for cards and gifts of appreciation. Here are some ways to show your gratitude this month or anytime throughout the year:

1. Pray for Pastor Blaine and his wife, Ashley, who is also a pastor.
2. Write a simple note of thanks for his work and ministry.
3. Offer to take Pastor Blaine out for coffee or lunch. Invite him and Ashley to your home for a meal.
4. Have the children of the church make cards for him.
5. Consider a gift or gift card, tickets to an event, or a service that Pastor Blaine would appreciate.
6. Send him an email or text of encouragement for the week.
7. When Pastor Blaine is looking for volunteers, step up and get involved!

8. Be a biblically healthy church member. What could be more encouraging to a pastor than folks who study the Bible, are faithful in church attendance, pray for the pastor and the church, serve where you are needed, avoid controversies, and walk in humility and selflessness.

Be creative. Show your love and concern for Pastor Blaine in your own special way.



**Stewardship Month – October.....“WHAT’S YOUR WHY” BRUNCH?** - That’s an easy answer! We like to eat and fellowship together as a church family. On **Sunday, October 19**

immediately after the service, we will enjoy a fall brunch. After we eat, those interested will participate in a mini-mission moment as we pack up the items donated for Valley Misson (see Mission Opportunities). Sign-up sheets for brunch food items and those willing to help set up/clean-up is on a table in the Welcome Center.

**Southern Hospitality** will be with us again on **Sunday, October 26!** Mark your calendar for this special day when Dale Roller and his band will provide wonderful music for our worship service.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>** - Why Give My Hard Earned Money?

**October 12<sup>th</sup>** - Why Spend Long Hours?

**October 19<sup>th</sup>** - Why Pray for the World and Church? - Brunch & Mini Mission Project to follow worship

**October 26<sup>th</sup>** - Why Use Your Talents for the Church? Guest Group – Southern Hospitality

1 John Bible Study – Wednesdays at 10:00am & 6:30pm -Bethany United Methodist Church

Truck or Treat – Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00pm - Weyers Cave Community Center



**TRUCK OR TREAT.....**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 FROM 3:00 TO 5:00** at the Weyers Cave Community Center. Please plan to be a part of this community outreach event. Let’s join together to create a fun event to share the joy of our faith! Here are many ways you can assist! (if you need a sitting job, we’ve got them!)

1. We need folks to sign up to be at the welcome table, run the games, help serve food, supervise the inflatables, park cars and hand out candy at some of the trucks
2. We need trucks (big trucks/equipment that will be displayed for the kids). If you know someone with a truck please let us know.
3. Food donations (individual bags of chips and bottles of water)

Many hands make a GREAT EVENT! Please come on October 26th to our Truck Or Treat. It will put a smile on your face!

**All Saints Day Remembrance Service.....**Sunday, November 2 will be when we will remember those we have loved and lost over the last year. We don't want to miss anyone, so if you know of someone who should be included please contact Laura in the church office or Pastor Blaine.

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**Cemetery News & Information.....**Are you aware that we have two cemeteries available for use by our church members and other members of our community? Naked Creek and Pleasant Grove Cemeteries are located near our church and managed by a board of trustees as a separate legal entity from our church governance. Naked Creek Cemetery founded in 1764 is located at 271 Dice's Spring Road near Weyers Cave in Augusta County and is where our predecessor church building by the same name was located. Pleasant Grove Cemetery is located at the corner of Summit Church Road and U.S. 11 in Rockingham County and was established in 1740. We became responsible for this cemetery when Pleasant Grove Church congregation merged with Bethany in 1988. (The Evangelical United Brethren Church united with the Methodist Church to become the United Methodist Church of today.)

Your cemetery trustees understand our responsibilities in providing a well cared for and managed property as a final resting place for our loved ones. Although it appears no burial lots are available for purchase at Pleasant Grove, the cemetery trustees want you to know that plenty of lots are available at Naked Creek. The current price for a burial plot is \$500. We understand other cemeteries in the area charge several times that amount. We accept traditional burial arrangements as well as the burial of ashes since cremation has become a popular burial procedure today. Many financial advisors recommend the idea of taking care of funeral and burial arrangements prior to death in order to spare the surviving family members from these decisions down the road. We offer this information for your consideration. If you are interested in purchasing a burial plot, please feel free to contact any of our trustees listed below.

**Trustees of the Naked Creek and Pleasant Grove Cemeteries:**

Randy Roller, President  
 Jan Fulton, Secretary  
 Terri Shifflett, Treasurer  
 Don Truslow, Past President  
 Leary Figgins, Trustee  
 Pastor Blaine Oliver-Thomas, Ex-Officio Member





**Sojourners Adult Sunday School .....** The Sojourners Adult Sunday School class will begin a new lesson series entitled, "The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught," by Adam Hamilton on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. This study is a series of six lessons regarding the most important prayer of our Christian faith with each word saturated with meaning, a meaning we often miss when we pray it. You are invited to come and join us for this exciting series. We meet shortly after the Worship Service in the Sunday School classroom across from Pastor Blaine's office. If you have thought about expanding your knowledge about the fundamentals of our faith, now is an excellent time!

**Youth and Children Activities .....** 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](mailto: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](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com)).

**Mission Opportunities .....** The Mission Team will be collecting the following items: cough drops, cough syrup, Tylenol, ibuprofen, Pepto, tissues (little purse size or regular tissue boxes), Lysol, Lysol wipes, cold and flu medicines, children's Tylenol & Motrin.

These items will be donated to Valley Mission in Staunton to help the homeless staying there during the winter months. When you are purchasing your own, please pick up some extras to donate. On Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> we will have a mini mission to make little kits of the items collected by that date. We will continue to collect these items until November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you for thinking of others this winter season in sickness and nursing them back to health. A donation bin will be located in the Welcome Center soon.



**Candy Donations Needed .....** Hope everyone is saving the Trick or Treat date of Sunday, October 26 from 3 to 5. Sign-up sheets are in the Welcome Center for food donations and help. Please continue to donate that candy! Monetary donations are welcome too!



**Holiday Choir .....** Greetings! *"It's Tiiiiime"* 🎵 🎵 [...sung in my very best Mariah impersonation]... LOL Bethany is putting together a Holiday Choir for this year's season! I'm thrilled to be helping out with this again and looking forward to making music with all of you! Here's a link to the signup form: <https://forms.gle/zoKA9ZjibxUtwFB9>. If you cannot sign-up online, let Laura know and she will sign you up! Hope to see you there! James

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

October gives us the fall season with changing of the leaves, cooler nights, football games, etc. Here it is and then you know what comes after fall. Hope everyone is ready for this season upon us.

Thank you to those that donated their time to help at Love, Inc. thrift shop in Waynesboro for the third time this summer. We helped sort and located a place for some of the priced goods, then we helped unload tubs of clothing items, tagged, and put out on the floor. It was a great day.

We will have a table set up soon with Apple Tree envelopes. Please be on the lookout for this beloved project. You pick up an envelope with an age, boy or girl, and a gift listed. You buy the gift, attach the envelope to it, put a little money in the envelope for shipping (if you like), bring it back to the church, and then we take them to Kingsway Outreach in Harrisonburg. We have helped for many years with this mission. These items go to kids that have a parent in jail. It helps make their Christmas a little brighter.

Truck or Treat is at the end of the month, please make sure to help with this fun-filled event for the Weyers Cave area. If you can't sign up to help at the event, please donate bags of candy for this community event. We need lots of candy and we need great helpers to pull this off. It is Sunday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm. Sign-up sheets are in the Welcome Center.

Love, Inc is having a Christmas extravaganza for some of their families. On Saturday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, they will be at the Augusta Expo from 8am – 3pm hosting a buying event for about 75 people. This is the first time they are doing this. They are having volunteers purchase items from \$1- up to \$100. Each child will get to come pick out 4 items from different areas. They need volunteers to help with this event. They will set up on Friday, so if you can help with that, let me know. We will have a sign-up sheet coming out soon to help with this. We are asking for you to sign up to help in the 8am – 10am slot or 10am – 12pm slot. You pick whichever time works best for you. We are going to shoot for up to 10 people in each time slot. Let's help make this a success.

Mission spotlight of the month: Food Pantry. Our very own Bethany Food Pantry that hands out free food to neighbors in need every Monday afternoon from 4-5:30pm. We have an average of about 50 families each week that come out to get food from us. This has been a Monday night tradition for many years here at Bethany. Thanks to Mrs. Jean Dunsmore for starting this for our neighbors and thanks to those over the years who have helped keep it going. If you would like to make an extra monetary donation, please mark it for Food Pantry. We all know how food prices have skyrocketed, so if you have any extra to give, then this is the place that can use it and pass it onto those that need it.

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)