



The Echo

May 2026 Edition

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church

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June Newsletter Article Deadline: May 17th, 2026
Please submit articles to the church office at office.bethany@gmail.com

Webmaster: bethanyumc.website@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday – 8:30am – 2:30pm

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,

Just a couple of weeks ago, Ashley and I were able to spend some time together celebrating our third wedding anniversary. We were sharing how crazy it seemed to already be celebrating three years of marriage, and just how fast time flies. As we were having this conversation, I could feel the emotions welling up inside, as our story has been so deeply rooted here in this community with you all! From our time as an engaged couple, to being married, and navigating all the challenges and joys that come with marriage, it has been the folks at Bethany who have supported us, loved us, and cared so deeply for us. Weyers Cave and the Valley has been such a gracious and kind place for us to start our married life together, and such a warm and inviting place for us to begin our collective ministry together. From the endless cards that you all have written to us over the years, to the shared meals and coffees we have shared together, to the endless grace you have offered me to fail and grow into my role as a pastor, there are not enough words to express my gratitude and appreciation for you all. You all have made this Florida boy feel at home, and I could not have asked for a better first congregation to start my ministry with. Bethany will always hold a special place in mine and Ashley's heart, and it is all because of you!

As it was announced on Announcement Sunday, in late June I will transition into my new role as the Associate Pastor at Shady Grove UMC in Short Pump, Virginia. With transitions comes new seasons and relationships change. I hope by now that you all know that whether I am your pastor or not, I will always cherish our friendships over the years, and these friendships will not come to an end. However, in order to allow the new pastor to come in and begin their ministry here, I will distance myself from Bethany for a while, in order for the new pastor to get their footing. I would ask if there are any pastoral needs that arise in this season of transition, please allow our new pastor to handle these, as I know you all will. While it may be difficult, this is a healthy transition practice, and it will allow them to get settled, as well as allow me to get settled in my new appointment as well! In times of change and transitions, having healthy boundaries established are key for this next season for both you all and myself. I trust that you all will welcome our next pastor with the same amount of love, enthusiasm, and care as you have shown me; acknowledging that different pastors have different strengths and gifts; which we thank God for. I hope you will continue to join me in praying for the new pastor and their family who is to come serve at Bethany, as they step into this new season with you all in this place that is so full of Christ's love! In this time, continue to be the people who I know you are as we graciously enter into this season of transition, knowing that God is continuing to guide us and lead us.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Blaine



Prayer Lists...

Members: Tom and Jan Gorden, Charlotte Saufley, Barbara Long

Pam Lynn is at Monroe Health & Rehabilitation Center, 1150 Northwest Dr, Rm 111, Charlottesville, VA 22901.

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

Extended Family: Mike Morris, Kathy Kile's brother-in-law; Chris Raab, Charolotte and Robbie Saufley's neighbor, Doug Sheets, Jerry Sheets' brother, Tene and Josh Fox, friends of Audrey and August Overton-Youngblood; Chris, Gabe Carter and Joshua Johnson's stepdad.

We pray for all of our food Pantry Neighbors and for all those in our community and world.



May Birthdays...

2 nd	Katherine Dornon Harrison Dornon	11 th	Karie Dornon
6 th	Stanley Houff Camden Huffer	15 th	Brian Shifflett
9 th	Pat Lynn	22 nd	Layla Unger
10 th	Mark Dunsmore	23 rd	Zac Hittie
		26 th	Jay Frizzelle
		28 th	Tom Thacker

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



MOTHER'S DAY, May 10..... It's a joy to celebrate ALL of the ladies in our church family on Mother's Day. Every woman has mentored or nurtured someone(s) in their life and this is the day to recognize the gift that God has given us through the ladies in our lives. Refreshments to follow.



PENTECOST SUNDAY, May 24..... Not only are we celebrating our graduates, but it is also Pentecost Sunday, the day we celebrate the birthday of the church. Please wear the color **RED** and plan to stay after the service for a reception celebrating our graduates and the gift of the Holy Spirit! It's going to be a festive day! Happy Birthday to the CHURCH!



GRADUATE SUNDAY, May 24..... 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 Maecy Ann Frizzelle, daughter of Lorna and Jay Frizzelle, who will be graduting from Fort Defiance High School and to Garrett Simmons, son of Travis and Sarah Simmons, who will also graduate from Fort Defiance High School. Also being recognized will be Krisalyn Mooney, daughter of Lori and Shawn Mooney who is graduating from the University of Virginia. We are so proud of all of our graduates and will begin now to pray for God's protection and provision as they pursue God's direction for their lives. Plan to be a part of this special day in worship and join the reception for our

graduates after the service. ** Graduate Recognition note: We don't want to miss any Bethany graduates. Please let us know if there are other graduates we need to include.



INTENTIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, May 7.....With so much going on in our community and world, and as we enter into a season of transition here at Bethany, your leadership team at Bethany believe it is important to be intentional about praying for God's spirit to move in us and to be present in our live. So we are going to commit as a church to spend the National Day of Prayer, which is Thursday, May 7th, from 6am through 7pm (did someone say 6-7), to be in intentional prayer for our church, our community, and our world. There is a sign up sheet in the Welcome Center with 15-minute prayer slots beginning at 6am and going through 7pm. This sheet will be out through Sunday, May 3rd. Feel free to fill out as many slots as you are willing to commit to spend that time in prayer, as we want to fill those 13 hours in consistent prayer, as we strive to lean more on God each and every day!



ANNUAL CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, June 17-20.....Annual Conference is the annual meeting when all United Methodist Churches in Virginia come and gather for worship, church business, and fellowship together. This year it is at the Atlantic Bank Center at JMU in Harrisonburg from June 17th – June 20th. Many hands are needed to put this event together, so if you would like to take a volunteer shift, by providing transportation support (at this time golf carts will not be used) or helping with registration, or other opportunities, please register at this link: [Annual Conference 2026 Volunteer Shifts](#). This will be a wonderful way for Bethany to help support the larger UMC and be hospitable and loving to all of our neighbors as they show up to Annual Conference.



YOUNG AT HEARTS.....The Young at Hearts will be gathering at VMRC's Cline Center (Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community) on June 2nd at noon. Everyone is welcome to attend regardless of age!! Three of the residents joining us for lunch that day are our own Bethany family members: Barbara Long, Peggy Lucas, and Carolyn Roller. These ladies are very excited that we are going to be at VMRC. Let's show them some love and plan to join them on June 2nd. There is a sign up sheet in the Welcome Center to help get an idea of how much food will be needed and how much the cost will be for each meal.



"MEET YOU AT THE PARK"..... For many reasons most families in our community are not a part of a church family and they probably are not going to show up at a church either. How do we reach these many families with the love of Jesus Christ and the gospel message? We meet them where they are at! We have planned three "Meet You at the Park" events at the Weyers Cave Community Center playground this summer; two in June and one in July. Each event will have a theme which are listed below. These events will include games, a craft, a snack, and fellowship with families in our community. We are seeking God's direction in reaching out to families in our community and truly making a connection. Interested in being a part? There will be sign up sheets for needed items and volunteers in the Welcome Center. Maybe one on one discussion or doing stuff with kids isn't your thing? There will be many roles that need to be filled.

June 10 - LEMONADE

June 24 - S'MORES

July 8 - ICE CREAM



MISSIONS UPDATE... by LORI MOONEY

Happy Mother's Day this month to all our mother figures. We say thank you and we appreciate all that you have done for us over the years. Happy Memorial Day. Thank you to all those who have served our country in our military or are serving now.

Please help with the Kits for Conference. We are doing the hygiene kits again this year. They include a hand towel, washcloth, clippers, comb, band-aids, soap, toothbrush, and gallon baggie. Rosemary has the list and how to package them in the Newsletter and Weekly Happenings.

We will be helping Love, INC in their warehouse sorting goods for their thrift stores on Tuesday, June 23rd, Monday, July 13th, and Tuesday, August 4th. We will work at the warehouse from 9am-12pm each morning. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Mooney.

Please prayerfully consider helping with “Meet You at the Park” to spread God’s word in a different way. We will be having a snack and a couple of tables to do events during the time we are there. The dates for these are: June 10th, June 24th, and July 8th. We will be at the park from 6:30-7:30pm at the Weyers Cave Community Center. Questions about this, please contact Jackie Dunsmore.

Mission spotlight of the month: Habitat for Humanity. Building and restoring homes, lives, and communities through faith. We strive to create homes and environments where families can thrive, feel safe, and build a promising future. If you would like to make an extra donation, please mark it for Habitat for Humanity. We support this local group in Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County. This is a worthwhile group to contribute to.

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



WOMEN’S MINISTRY SPRING SCHEDULE

May 20: “Tasting the Bible” lesson and planting activity from 1 – 2:30 pm at the home of Nicole Carter

May 21: “Tasting the Bible” and planting activity at 6:00 pm at the home of Elizabeth Williams



YOUNG AT HEARTS 2026 LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 - The Galley Diner - 2430 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg

Tuesday, June 2, 2026 - Cline Community Center @ VMRC (Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community)

Tuesday, July 7, 2026 - The Thomas House - 222 Main Street, Dayton

Tuesday, August 4, 2026 - O’Neills - 221 University Blvd, Harrisonburg

Tuesday, September 1, 2026 - Wood Grill - 1711 Reservoir Street, Harrisonburg

Tuesday, October 6, 2026 - TBD

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 - The Thomas House - 222 Main Street, Dayton

Tuesday, December 8, 2026 - Kathy’s - 705 Greenville Avenue, Staunton

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 spring/summer schedules as they come available to our youth director, Kaitlin Bower at (kaitlinbower@veronaumc.com). If you are willing to share your children’s spring/summer schedule please send to the church office at (office.bethany@gmail.com).

ANNUAL CONFERENCE KITS.....This year we will be collecting and assembling Hygiene Kits for Annual Conference, which will be held in Harrisonburg, June 17th – 20th. These kits will go to areas affected by natural disasters

and other emergency relief efforts through the UMC. Directions and items needed are below and we ask that the kits be at church by May 10th. The kits and items may be left in the Welcome Center. For those who do not want to put an entire kit together, feel free to bring items that go in the kit. If you have questions you can contact Rosemary Wagoner at 540-256-8066 or ros wag13@gmail.com.

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 or 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 is not acceptable

10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches)- Common household bandages acceptable.

One one-gallon size resealable bag

Assembly Instructions •

Lay hand towel flat on a table. • Lay the washcloth in the center of the hand towel. • Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth (except the plastic bag). • Fold the sides of the hand towel to cover the items. • Grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of the towel. • Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.



May Calendar on the next page.



May 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Softball Game 3:30pm – WC Ball Field	5 Young @ Hearts noon – The Galley, Harrisonburg	6 Softball Practice 8:30pm – WC Ball Field	7 Intentional Day of Prayer – 6am – 7pm Coffee Hours 9:30am-12pm - Valley Pike	8	9
10 Hygiene Kits Due	11 Laura out of the office	12 Caring Cards 10am Softball Game – 6:30pm – WC Ball Field	13 Softball Game – 6:30pm – WC Ball Field	14	15	16 Donuts & Devotions 8am
17 Fellowship Hall Reserved – 3-5pm	18	19 Softball Game – 7:30pm – WC Ball Field	20 Women’s Ministry 1- 2:30pm – Carter Home Softball Game – 7:30pm – WC Ball Field	21 Women’s Ministry 6:00pm – Elizabeth Williams’ Home Coffee Hours 3- 5pm -Valley Pike	22	23
24 Pentecost and Graduate Sunday	25	26 Softball Game – 8:30pm – WC Ball Field	27	28 Softball Game – 7:30pm – WC Ball Field	29	30
31						

- Sunday Service: Every Sunday at 9:30am
- Food Pantry: Mondays from 4:00 – 5:30pm