



# The Echo



April 2021

A publication of Bethany United Methodist Church, Weyers Cave, VA

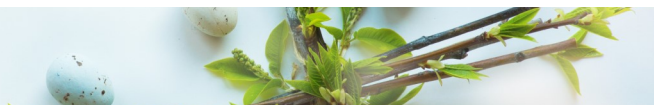
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If you would like ...  
and currently don't  
receive the church  
newsletter  
and other important  
updates by email, please  
send your email address  
to Cindy Kite at  
[office.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:office.bethany@gmail.com).

Earth's saddest day and gladdest day  
were just . . . three days apart.





## JOURNEY BACK TO CHURCH

As more are vaccinated for COVID, we hope you will journey back to in-person worship services. We promise you will be greeted by friendly faces and receive a warm welcome from people who are very glad to see you and have missed your smiling face. Make a commitment to come back beginning Palm Sunday. Our services begin at 9:30 am.

**On Palm Sunday**, smile as our children parade through the sanctuary waving their palm branches. Children's Church will also return!

**On Good Friday**, we invite you to contemplate Jesus' journey to the cross and your own journey as a real follower of Jesus Christ by walking through our five interactive stations at your own pace between 5 - 6:30 pm. A brief service will be virtual at 6:30 pm, which you can view at church or on Facebook.

**And then on Easter Sunday**, we will come together to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. There will be special music, Children's Church and an Easter Egg Hunt for children after the worship service. We invite you to stay and enjoy watching our children hunt eggs on the church lawn.

Masks and social distancing are required to help keep all safe.



## Reconnect with your Church Family to Celebrate Easter

**Palm Sunday - March 28**

Special Music - Children's Parade - Children's Church

**Good Friday - April 2**

Interactive Journey to the Cross - Virtual Service

**Easter Sunday - April 4**

Special Music - Children's Church - Children's Easter Egg Hunt

[www.mybethanyumc.org](http://www.mybethanyumc.org)





## From the Pastor's Desk

### The Before and the After

There are certain events that stand as a marker in time. For many of us September 11, 2001 was one of those events. There was life before the towers fell in New York and then there was life after. One era ended and another began. One day we felt nigh invincible as a nation and the next we realized how vulnerable we were. We mourned the lives lost and much of the world mourned with us. Many young people decided they wanted to serve in the U.S. military. Air travel changed substantially. That was the after.

I recently read a book my husband picked up at the Green Valley Book Fair because it had a picture of a pug on the cover. It was *The Pug List* by Alison Hodgson and it begins with a very serious event. Alison's house is set on fire while she and her whole family are asleep. Almost everything is lost in the fire. She goes on to write about how her whole family's life is divided into two parts by this event: there is before the fire and after the fire.

Of course, we have reached the one-year anniversary of several dates related to the pandemic. On January 20, 2020 the World Health Organization declared a global health emergency of international concern. On February 29, 2020 the United States reported the first death from COVID-19 and on March 15, 2020 the Center for Disease Control recommended gatherings not exceed 50 people for the following eight weeks. This

global pandemic has a before but we are still waiting to see what the after will be like.

As I write this, we are still in the season of Lent, a season of preparation. But my sights are set on Easter. Easter was one of those before and after moments in history. When the women came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb where Jesus' body had been lain, everything changed. It would take time for many to recognize they were living in an after moment, but the news of the risen Christ began to spread.

Paul writes in his letter to the Ephesians, "He [Jesus Christ] has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace,<sup>16</sup> and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.<sup>17</sup> So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near;<sup>18</sup> for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:15-19).

The before was adherence to the law. It was death and it was division. The after was life eternal, grace and unity. We may not understand all things, but we can rely on these three things that God wants us to have abundant life, boundless love and unity in the Spirit.

Whatever "after COVID" looks like, I know that I can claim the gifts God gave us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And that is worth celebrating.

*Pastor Susan*



## Missions Update by Lori Mooney

April showers bring May flowers... Bring it on!!! We are a little dry and some showers would be nice for the Earth right now. Just glad that we are having some warmer days and more to come are around the corner. Woo hoo!!! Happy Easter. God is Good, all the time!!

**Our new mission project is collecting items for Valley Missions in Staunton.** They are in need of: sandwich and lunch bags, Lysol wipes & spray, window and bathroom cleaner, laundry detergent, aluminum foil, umbrellas & ponchos, work gloves, and thermal underwear. We will be taking these items until Easter Sunday and then deliver them the week after. Please consider picking up a few extras when you are out in the store or ordering online. We appreciate all the donations that we receive, and we can pass on to our brothers and sisters in need. It helps take a little pressure off them when we can donate.

**We will still be taking donations for the Green Hanger Project year around** and I will do drop offs when needed. Make sure to label your box or bag with "Green Hanger", if you plan on dropping off more. The drop off to Jenelle was great. I filled the back of



my husband's truck and had a couple small bags in the front. Jenelle was so excited to get all the items that we contributed. She gave me a tour of the facility and explained a little more about what they do. It is a great mission, and I am glad we are contributing to it.

**Mission Project of the Month: Habitat for Humanity in Staunton.** Their mission is: "Building and restoring homes, lives and communities through faith." Our youth group had to stay home last year and do local projects. They helped in the Staunton Restore (which is now closed due to a fire last year) and they helped on a new build in Staunton for a couple days. Even through the pandemic, Habitat was still able to build some houses from the ground up and get them completed last year. They also help families that need repairs to their houses, too. Please consider donating to this group because they help so many across our area and all states to become homeowners.

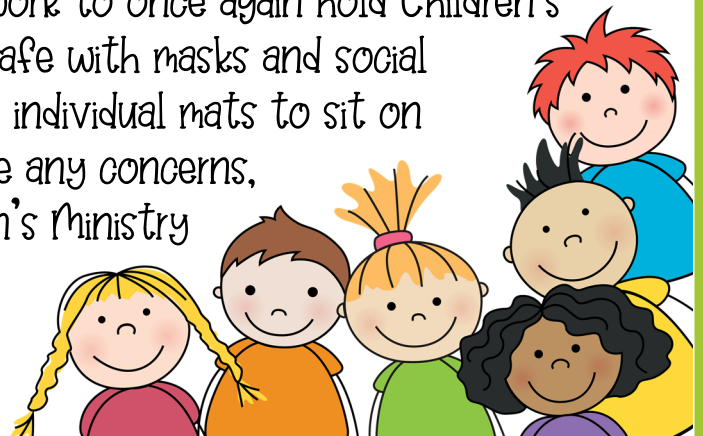
If you know of anyone who needs help, please let us know.

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

Maggie Rhodes, [r.maggiianne@gmail.com](mailto:r.maggiianne@gmail.com), 383-4752

## Hey Parents and Kids! Children's Church is Back!!

The Children's Ministry Team has been hard at work to once again hold Children's Church for your kiddos! Your kids will be kept safe with masks and social distancing in the fellowship hall. They will have individual mats to sit on in a large area of the fellowship hall. If you have any concerns, thoughts or questions, please contact a Children's Ministry Team member. (Beth Metcalfe, Mary Beth Hill, Lorna Frizzelle, Jordan Dunsmore)





## Thoughts from a Member ...

As I reflect back on the past year, I think about the impact COVID has had on my life and job. When I retired from public school administration in 2015, I started working for JMU as a University Supervisor. In this position, I go out to the public schools and work with student teachers. I observe them teaching, and hopefully, I offer some suggestions and ideas to help them improve their teaching skills.

Whether or not you have children or grandchildren in school, you are probably aware of the huge impact the virus has had on education. Some of my students have been assigned to a hybrid setting. They are teaching students in person, but classes are smaller because students attend only two days a week. Some student teachers are teaching virtually from school, while others are teaching virtually from home. When these students started the teacher preparation program, they had no idea how different student teaching would be from the “norm.” Even with all of the uncertainty and anxiety

these student teachers have experienced, one thing I have continued to see among all of my students teachers, is excitement and enthusiasm. Even though this experience has been different than they anticipated, they have maintained a positive attitude and desire to do the best they can. They haven’t whined and complained about the

situation, the restrictions, or even the expectation to clean and sanitize throughout the classroom during the day. Whatever their modality of instruction has been, they have remained positive and have made the best of the situation.

I think about how this attitude can impact all aspects of our life. The pandemic has changed all of our lives, in some way. Hopefully, we can be like my JMU students and keep a positive attitude and maintain some enthusiasm

and excitement for the things we are able to do and continue to make the best of the situation.



*Marguerite McDonald*

## It's Almost Time to Mow ...

**Are you tired of being cooped up in the house? Would you like to get outside in the fresh air? Do you like the smell of fresh cut grass?** If you answered yes to any of these questions, have we got the perfect opportunity for you to serve at Bethany.

**The Trustees are still in need of volunteers to mow the church lawn this summer ... yes, it's almost that time of year!** The easiest thing, if you're interested, is to sign up for an entire month from April through October. We already have a volunteer for the months of May and July; however, all the other months are wide open! If you need a break or can't make it a week, we will have volunteers ready to assist you.

The church has it's own zero-turn mower and you will be reimbursed for any gas you need to provide for the mower. And you can mow at any time, any day of the week ... with the exception of course, Sunday mornings!

If you would be willing to help out this summer, please contact Cindy at the church office (office.bethany@gmail.com or 540-234-8880) to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Williams.

We also need people to volunteer to be a fill-in when needed!!

**Please consider helping to keep our church beautiful and inviting for members and visitors.**





## Financial Update by Mark Dunsmore

As the first quarter of the year draws to a close, I want to update everyone on our Bethany financial status. As you can see from the information above, our giving is not meeting our budgeted spending nor our actual spending. We have spent \$6,400 more this year than we have received in contributions. While we do have some funds in our checking account from prior years that enable us to make ends meet, we can't continue to spend more than we are receiving very long!

While we have faced many challenges in the past 13 months, mostly a result of the Pandemic, yet God continues to bless Bethany... We are slowly coming out of the darker days and we can look forward to the "good ol' days" when we can all worship together again without restrictions from our State or the Methodist Church. It has been a long and frustrating journey, but there is light in the darkness and God continues to provide.

The Easter season is upon us. Our hope and strength is in the promise of this event. Please keep Bethany in your prayers. As you feel safe, please return to worship in person with your church family. Last, please help in any way you can with our church finances. Regardless of restriction, our ministries and the needs of the community continue. Bethany has always been a church that has responded to whatever challenges we may face, and I am confident we respond again.

March 21, 2021 - Week 12		
Budget	221,259.00	
Where We Should Be		51,059.76
Where We Are		32,302.06
Deficit of		(18,757.70)
Net Percentage		-36.7%
Expenses as of 3/21/21		
		38,674.95

### Please Don't Let Me Be Late!



A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

As she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again.

As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late... But please, don't shove me either!"



**Easter Sunday, April 4**  
**On the Church Lawn**  
**Right After the Worship Service**  
**Donations of Individually Wrapped Candy are needed!**



## Prayer Update

Judy Faby has been moved to VMRC after a stay in the hospital. She was treated for pneumonia and COVID and is still struggling with a stomach infection, a side effect of COVID. She remains on oxygen. If you would like to send Judy a card to let her know you are thinking about her, the address is ... VMRC, 1475 Virginia Avenue, Harrisonburg, VA 22802.



## Prayer List

### Members

Tom & Jan Gorden, Lloyd Meadows  
Jean Radocha, Gary Ruleman  
Ken Shifflett, Judy Faby, Dan Harrell

### Extended Members

Wayne Martlock - father of Dani Martlock  
Dennis Myers - nephew of Carolyn Roller

We extend Christian sympathy to Kevin & Tara Stroop and family upon the death of Kevin's father and long time member of Bethany, Roy Lee Stroop.

If you would like to send them a card, their address is...54 Buttermilk Road, Mt. Sidney, VA 24467

We want to thank everyone for the love and support we have received from our church family during our time of sorrow. We have been blessed with all of the prayers, cards, phone calls and meals that we received  
-Kevin & Tara Stroop

We also extend Christian sympathy to Tom Gorden upon the death of his sister. If you would like to send him a card, his address is ... 7762 Greenhouse Road, Weyers Cave, VA 24486

## April

3rd	Easton Moyer	6th	Stanley Houff
5th	Trae Elkins		Camden Huffer
7th	Jordan Dunsmore	7th	Judi Byard
9th	Phil Mikesell		Helen Figgins
	Susan Thacker	9th	Delores Diehl
10th	Chuck Schwab		Pat Lynn
11th	Tiana Ryan	10th	Mark Dunsmore
17th	Rick Northrop	12th	David Hughes
	Jenifer Williams	15th	Brian Shifflett
18th	Susan Meadows	17th	Gary Lucas
20th	Stella Hughes		Debbie Schofield
25th	Carrie Dunsmore	23rd	Zac Hittie
	Nash Colvin	25th	Hannah Cook
28th	Sarah Cook	26th	Jay Frizzelle
29th	Gail Reese	28th	Tom Thacker
30th	Nadine Moore		
	Sarah Williams		

If your birthday is listed incorrectly or not listed at all, please contact the office with the correct info. Thank you!

## May

1st	Faye Youmans
4th	Sheryl Northrop
	Pierce Moyer
5th	Dani Martlock



Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway  
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



EASTER  
Blessings

The Echo

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Susan Reaves, Pastor

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Marguerite McDonald, Organist & Choir Director

Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader

Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer

Phil & Ruth Ann Mikesell, Sextons

May Newsletter Deadline: April. 20, 2021

Please submit articles to Cindy Kite at  
office.bethany@gmail.com .

Webmaster: bethanyumc.website@gmail.com



connect. grow. serve.

At Bethany we ...

Connect with God in community

Grow in our likeness to Jesus Christ

Serve our neighbors