



Congratulations!



The Echo

May 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.

How God Created Mother

*God took the fragrance of a flower
The majesty of a tree
The gentleness of morning dew
The calm of a quiet sea
The beauty of a twilight hour
The soul of a starry night
The laughter of the rippling brook
The grace of a bird in flight
Then God fashioned from these things
A creation like no other
And when His masterpiece was through
He called it simply MOTHER*

*Happy Mother's Day
to all mothers, mothers to be,
grandmas, aunts, sisters,
and those in heaven*

From the Pastor's Desk

Are We There Yet?

For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

~~ Jeremiah 29:11 ~~

Are we there yet? It is a familiar refrain to any parent who has packed up the kids and taken to the open highway for a family vacation. When my daughter Rachel was in preschool, she was liable to give voice to this question within the first 15 minutes of what might be a four-to-seven-hour trip, depending on the amount of traffic on the New Jersey Turnpike. To help her understand how long the trip would be, I would calculate the length of time by how many times she could watch the Disney animated movie *Aladdin* before we reached our destination. It runs 90 minutes. When Rachel would ask are we almost there? I could say, *Aladdin* is trapped in the cave of Wonders now or *Aladdin* is taking Jasmine on a magic carpet ride. For Rachel having something familiar for comparison to the length of the trip helped curb her anxiety.

Right now, we are on a slightly different kind of adventure. It has been a long arduous trip so far. We don't know when the pandemic will end or what that end will look like. We all want to know, "Are we there yet?" Is now the time we can take off our masks? Is now the time we can resume singing in the sanctuary? Can we shake hands and give hugs? Are we there yet?

Perhaps a better question would be, "How can we reach our hoped-for destination?"

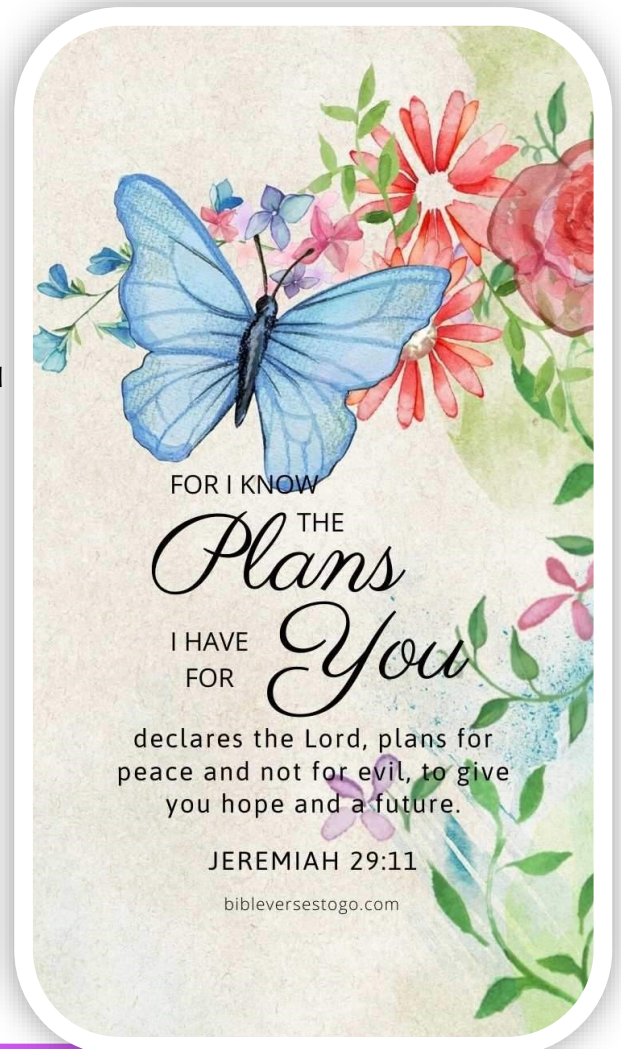
We all want to reach the same destination. We want life to be more like it was before we ever heard of COVID or paid much attention to corona viruses. The SARS-CoV-2 virus, has the ability to mutate. Multiple sources say, the more widely a virus can spread, the more opportunities it has to mutate. If the U.S. and ultimately the world don't vaccinate a sufficient percentage of the population, we'll be setting ourselves up to let the virus keep spreading, and keep mutating, creating new variants. Some of those new variants might get past current vaccines.

There is one sure way to get back to something approaching normal and that is for as many people as possible to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Right now, over 85 million people in the United States have been fully vaccinated which is roughly 25%. At this time in Virginia, anyone over the age of 16 is eligible to be vaccinated. I know that not everyone wants to be vaccinated. Many people have doubts about going ahead and getting the vaccine. If you have doubts, I would encourage you to consult reputable sites like [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or the Virginia Health Department (<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/>).

There is probably more false than factual information circulating about the virus and about vaccinations. To significantly curtail the virus, we need to reach herd immunity which means 65-80% of people would need to have immunity. Immunity comes from being vaccinated. We

aren't there yet, but I hope we will be soon. Until then, wear a mask in public spaces, wash your hands frequently and continue to stay 6 feet apart from others; but do dare to hope. Together we will get to that place where we can sing, hug and have fellowship, all without masks.

Pastor Susan



Missions Update by Lori Mooney

May is here. Things are growing and sprouting up everywhere. Enjoy this time of new growth and take time for yourself to “grow” too. Happy Mother’s Day to all our mothers and grandmothers out there. We love you and appreciate you. Thanks for all you do because we couldn’t do anything without our mommas.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed goodies for Valley Mission. I took a trunk load to Valley Mission last week and they were very appreciative for all the donations of cleaners, wipes, aluminum foil, detergent, plastic baggies, lunch bags, gloves, umbrellas, etc.

We are still taking donations for the Green Hanger Project all year. Make sure to label your box or bag with “Green Hanger”. Do your spring cleaning and donate those gently used items. No holes or stains, please. You can also donate personal hygiene items, such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste, pads, etc.

On Saturday, April 10th, Harrisonburg offered a RAM clinic. RAM (Remote Area Medical) is a major nonprofit provider of free pop-up clinics. Their mission is to prevent pain and alleviate suffering by providing free, quality healthcare to those in need. They deliver free dental, vision, and medical services to underserved and uninsured individuals. We donated \$200 towards this event. After the event, we received a thank you from the group and said they helped

443 patients that one day. So, thank you to everyone who donates to the Adult Mission fund because we can help those that need it.

Mission Project of the Month: First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence dedicates services to providing emergency shelter and support to individuals and families in crisis because of domestic violence, dating violence, or family violence. First Step’s services are client driven, trauma informed, empowering, and safety oriented to meet the needs of individuals and their children. First Step’s services include a 24-Hour Crisis Hotline, Emergency Shelter, Individualized Safety Planning, Voluntary Case Management, Advocacy, Support Group, and Court Accompaniment. All services at First Step are available in English and Spanish. This is one of our funds that we contribute to because we know they need help, especially with more cases since COVID-19 hit last year. If you can donate to this worthwhile cause, please drop it in the offering plate and mark it for “First Step.” Thanks for considering.

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

Co-chairs: Lori Mooney Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com
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540-383-4752

Recognizing Our Young People ...

Jac Bridges suggested to his fellow members in his Coding 4-H Club to support the Food Pantry by collecting diapers. The club is led by his aunt, Rosemary Wagoner, and has around 10 members. The members motioned and voted to support our pantry. Jac was pleased to deliver the diapers and also items for the Valley Mission. Way to go Jac ... you are making a difference!



Hope by Leslie Wagoner

The word Hope appears various ways at least 100 times in the Bible. As I reflect this year of living with the COVID pandemic I think of Hope. The Hope of what God has promised us and its strength in His faithfulness.

There are many activities and simple things I have missed this year but continue with Hope of being able to reunite at church in a similar way as before COVID. Every time I have felt down in the dumps of the continual needed precautions I try to think of the benefits that the precautions are giving me. I have joked several times that I have learned to wear a mask 24/7 as I work two jobs and sleep with a CPAP mask. I am well protected!

I have seen God at work just like I always have. God has not changed. He still cares, provides, forgives, and blesses us. It has been great to watch people helping others at my part-time job. When groceries were not as plentiful, I saw people buying food for each other, going to the store for those at risk, and social distancing.

The other good news is that the Bethany people have not changed. Cards are still being sent, we are still praying for each other, calling each other, and showing kindness to our community members. It has been great to walk in the doors and feel God's presence and the love from the

members present at Bethany. I have enjoyed the parking lot services and at times the Facebook services. I hope that we all know that Bethany people are there for you. If you have a concern or just need to talk, feel free to reach out. It is obvious our members have remained the same. I am very thankful for our Church and the love that members have shown me and my family.

Leslie Wagoner



A BIG THANK YOU to the folks who have volunteered to help keep the church lawn mowed and beautifully inviting to visitors and members. You are awesome!



April - Mark Dunsmore
May - Mark & Marguerite McDonald
June - Stanley Houff
July - Jerry Sheets

We are still looking for folks to volunteer to cover the months of August and September. If you can mow one of these months, please contact Cindy at the church office (office.bethany@gmail.com or 234-8880). We will have fill-ins if you can't cover a week during your month! And the church has a lawn mower in the building for you to use.

Calling all amazing individuals! Do you want to help the BUM Kids learn and grow through Children's Church?

We could use your help throughout the summer during the worship service. Everything would be prepared and organized for you, you would just have to lead the children through a 20-25 minute lesson and activity, hopefully engaging them to go forth and be the hands and feet of Christ.

Please let the Children's Ministry team know if you are interested in helping in any way. Email bmetcalfe10@gmail.com if you are interested. We appreciate you!



Treasurer's Report by Cindy Kite

Last May we had this big black cloud called COVID-19 hanging over us. We were just a few months in and thought we would see the sunshine by fall. Well ... an entire year has gone by with that black cloud still hanging over us. It is getting a little less threatening. We have seen little glimmers of sun light. But we yearn for complete sunshine.

When that black cloud lifts completely letting the sun come out and warm our bodies and souls, what an amazing day that will be! But, how much of our world will no longer look the same? No longer feel the same? What will our church look like? Will the old, familiar faces still be here? Will we be financially able to restart our missions, community outreach projects, mission trips, children and youth programs and adult small groups and Sunday school classes?

I'm going to say YES! YES we will. Bethany folks have always been some of the most generous people I know. It has been such a blessing to have so many continue to give through these cloudy days. When the sun completely shines again, I'm positive that more familiar faces will come back through the doors. If you don't feel comfortable attending services yet, remember you can always give online. Just go to the website and click on "Online Giving." This is really easy to set up and you can give every week, every month or just once.

Right now, we are \$8,552.02 behind where we would like to be. We owe \$5,111.67 in unpaid invoices. Soon we will have April payroll to run and payroll taxes to pay, which is approximately \$6,700.00. The good news is that God has provided enough funds each month for us to pay our employees, our missions and the few ministries that are happening each month. I just ask you to please continue to give to Bethany. We can't survive without your love and support!

April 18, 2021 - Week 16		
Budget	221,259.00	
Where We Should Be		68,079.68
Where We Are		59,527.66
Deficit of		(8,552.02)
Net Percentage		-12.6%



Your church family misses you and wants you back as soon as possible. When all the clouds lift and the sun shines down, your church family will be here for each of you! Let the sun shine through!!

"As we give, we find that sacrifice brings forth the blessings of heaven, and in the end, we learn it was no sacrifice at all." (Spencer Kimball)



If you have a graduate this year, please contact Cindy Kite in the church office! We want to celebrate all our graduates and don't want to miss anyone. You will be receiving an email with a few questions for your graduate to answer. This will be featured in the June newsletter and a video/PowerPoint for

the worship service on Sunday, May 23. Dani Martlock will be contacting you to set up a time to record your video. Please email approximately 8 pictures of your graduate (from birth to graduation) to the office, or drop them off and we'll scan them. Please submit them by May 16.

**Always believe
that something wonderful is about to happen!**



Congratulations to Jordan & Bradley Dunsmore on the birth of their son, Swayer Miller, born Monday, April 5. He weighed in at 8 lb, 10 oz and 21" long. Proud grandparents Jackie & Mark Dunsmore. If you would like to send a card, their address is 1033 Keezletown Road, Weyers Cave, VA 24486.



Congratulations to Katie (Williams) & Curtis Fox on the birth of their daughter, Virginia Sue born on Tuesday, April 13. She was 6 lbs. 6 oz. and 19.5" long. Proud grandparents are Dave & Elizabeth Williams! If you would like to send Katie & Curtis a card, their address is 14497 Four Chimney Drive, Centerville, VA 20120.

Ms. Helen Figgins will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on May 9! Her family wants to have a card shower for her.



Help make Helen's birthday special by sending her a card. Her address is ... 1703 Freiden's Church Road, Mt. Crawford, VA 22841.

May

1st Faye Youmans
 4th Sheryl Northrop
 Pierce Moyer
 5th Dani Martlock
 6th Stanley Houff
 Camden Huffer
 7th Judi Byard
 Helen Figgins
 9th Delores Diehl
 Pat Lynn
 Helen Figgins
 10th Mark Dunsmore
 12th David Hughes
 15th Brian Shifflett
 17th Gary Lucas
 Debbie Schofield
 23rd Zac Hittie
 25th Hannah Cook
 26th Jay Frizzelle
 28th Tom Thacker

7th Brenda Hiner
 Briton Herron
 Lucy Huffer
 9th Jac Bridges
 11th Amelia Hughes
 12th Avery Craun
 15th Terri Shifflett
 18th Jonathan Northrop
 20th Maggie Huffer
 23rd Kelly Herron
 Jim Miller
 Phoebe Rhodes
 24th Deja Moyer
 26th Dianna Eicher
 Mae Houff
 28th Dave Williams
 30th Pete Richards

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

June

3rd Becky Hawkins
 5th Bettina Ruleman



Prayer List

Members

Tom & Jan Gorden
 Lloyd Meadows, Judy Faby
 Jean Radocha, Mary Tyree

Extended Members

Matt Foutz - brother-in-law of
 Nancy Colvin
 grandson & great grandson of
 Gary & Bettina Ruleman
 Jim Driscoll - father of Tara Stroop
 Martha Stout - cousin of Don Truslow

We extend Christian sympathy to Barbara Miller and Sidney Moyer upon the death of their sister, Judy Wheelbarger.

If you would like to send a card, the addresses are:

Barbara Miller, P.O. Box 333, Grottoes, VA 24441

Sidney Moyer, 320 Homestead Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812

Congratulations ...

Ben Michael, son of Donald and Amy Michael, made the Shenandoah District All-District Golf Team representing Fort Defiance. He received that honor for being one of the top 6 golfers in the district regular season. The FDHS Golf team won the district tournament and advanced to regional play.

Congratulations to Ben!



Bethany Friends ...

Thank you all so very much for all the cards and prayers after the passing of my brother. It was so encouraging to know our family was being lifted up by prayer. Blessings!

Debbie & Steve Schofield



Thank everyone for all the prayers and good thoughts. - Jean Moyer

Thanks so much for the cards everyone sent while I was in the hospital and rehab. They were all very uplifting. I'm home now and recovering.

- Judy Faby



Spring is always a good time to update our church directory and database. If you have had any changes to your phone number, address, email, etc., please send a message to me letting me know of the change. If your birthday is listed incorrectly or not listed, please let me know that too. It is also a good time to submit an updated family photo ... especially if you have young children ... they grow and change so quickly! Updated photo directories will be printed in May ... the cost is \$5 each to help cover the cost of printing. They will also be sent out by email.

Thanks for your help! - Cindy Kite

Do small things with great love. -Mother Teresa

Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



Graduate Sunday
May 23

The Echo

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Marguerite McDonald, Organist & Choir Director

Dale Roller, Praise Band Leader

Cindy Kite, Secretary/Treasurer

Phil & Ruth Ann Mikesell, Sextons

June Newsletter Deadline: May 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