



The Echo

November 2024

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

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 From the Pastor's Desk & Community Thanksgiving Service
- 3 Mission Update & BUM Bites
- 4 Misc Announcements
- 5 Birthdays & Prayer List



Thanksgiving Blessing

May the beauty and
 blessings of Thanksgiving
 bring warmth and
 peace to your home
 this season.

Happy Thanksgiving

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.



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Bethany UMC Family,

I do not know about you, but November always seems to be the time where I begin to reflect on the last year and all the things that I am grateful for. As the Valley becomes filled with yellow and orange leaves, and the cooler temperatures begin to settle in; it seems like my mental clock automatically enters a time of reflection. With Thanksgiving and Advent right around the corner, it is the perfect time to take a trip down memory lane for the year and to count the things which we are thankful for. I know for me, I am so grateful for a church that cares so well for your pastor, as I strive every day to be the best leader and minister for you and our community. I was yet again overwhelmed by the love and care during Pastor Appreciation Month and feel so loved by you all. I am also so grateful for the staff here at Bethany UMC who do so much, especially behind the scenes to continue to sustain our ministry and mission in order for it to thrive. I am also so incredibly grateful for our faithful volunteers who keep the ministry and mission here afloat. Bethany UMC is a faithful and vital church because of YOU.

Friends, as the leaves and season change around us, I am

reminded that we are always changing. Individually and collectively, we do not stay the same, as we are people who are affected by constant change. And yes, change can be scary, especially when you might not know what is on the other side of change; but it also allows us to grow and be transformed. So as the season changes, I would encourage you to embrace the change inside of you, and the change in which we as a community, want to see and be. As you go to the polls this week, I would encourage you to vote for the change which you want to see. As we finish up Stewardship month, I would encourage you to be the change you want to see. Commit your finances, your time, your talents, and your prayers to being the most faithful follower of Jesus that you possibly can be; so that Bethany UMC can continue to be a place of transformative change in our community and world.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Blaine

Community Thanksgiving Service

**Sunday, November 24 @ 6:30 pm
Weyers Cave United Methodist Church**

**Celebrate all the things we are thankful for,
especially the love of Jesus Christ.**

The offering will go to Equipping the Saints.

Missions Update by Lori Mooney

November is here. Happy Veteran's Day. Thank you to all the veterans who fought for our country. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. Eat lots of good food and enjoy family and friends this month.

Thank you to everyone who helped with Truck or Treat this year. It is always a big event for the community. Thanks for donating all the candy, too. The kids loved it.



Thank you to those who took envelopes for the Apple Tree project. Please bring your unwrapped gift to the church by Nov. 17. If you would like to put donations in the envelope to help with shipping, then that would be amazing. You can also make donations to help the inmates with notepads, pens, and ChapSticks.

The first weekend in December will be missions oriented. Friday, Dec. 6 will

be our Blood Drive held at the church. Sign up is already on the table or you can do it online.

Saturday, Dec. 7 is when we will ring the bell for the Salvation



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell...Take a Stand Help Others



Army at the Shenandoah Valley Heritage Market from 10-6. The sign up will come out soon. Sunday, Dec 8 will be missions Sunday. We will be taking up monetary donations for WARM, which is the church group in Waynesboro that tries to house the homeless at different churches throughout the winter. We will also have a list of items that the Salvation Army needs that you can purchase and donate. Hope you are around for this fun-filled weekend. You don't have to do them all but donate in any way that you can.

Mission spotlight of the month:

First Step in Harrisonburg. For over 40 years, First Step has been committed to providing free and confidential

services to survivors of intimate partner or relationship violence who have experienced economic, physical, sexual, psychological, emotional,

and/or verbal abuse, including but not limited to controlling behavior, isolation, threats, intimidation, gaslighting, stalking, and dating violence. 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, co-chair, 540-820-7394, Brownsugarcookie@yahoo.com

Sarah Simmons, co-chair, 540-292-0956, sarahsimmons4@aol.com



Praise and Worship Team Celebration

We welcome Joe Morris, August Youngblood and Audrey Overton to our Praise and Worship Band and singers.

Their willingness to offer their musical abilities and servant hearts to our worship service is such a blessing. Indeed, they are an answer to prayer.

Please thank Joe, August and Audrey for their time and talent when you get a chance.

And if anyone is interested in joining the PW team or helping with worship service slides or sound, please tell Blaine, Dale or Jackie Dunsmore.

You will be a blessing too!!



Southern Hospitality

will be playing during the worship service on November 17. Be sure to mark your calendars as we always love having Dale's band play for our Bethany family!

Hanging of the Greens

Come embrace the Christmas season as we join together in fun and fellowship on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 5 pm for our Annual Hanging of the Greens. We will eat dinner, sing some carols and decorate our Chrismon tree. And then eat dessert. Dinner will be provided. It will be a for folks of all ages!



Poinsettia Orders



You can help decorate the church this Christmas by purchasing a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. The cost is \$9 each. Forms will be available on Sunday, Nov. 3 and are due back by Nov. 17!

BUM Christmas Post Office

Want to spread some old fashioned Christmas cheer? Send Christmas greetings through the BUM Post Office. Baskets will be set up in the fellowship hall. Postage is a donation of .25 cents per card or whatever donation you want to make which goes to the BUM Mission Fund. Bring your cards to church members, and "mail" place them in the appropriate baskets, make a donation and remember to check the baskets for cards sent to you! The BUM Post Office will open on Sunday, Dec. 1 and should be to the church on or before Sunday, Dec. 24. What a wonderful way to share the Christmas spirit with others!



Christmas Season Singers

Christmas Season singers needed! Stay tuned for opportunities to join in a group to offer special music during the Christmas season. It will be a short commitment. We promise fun and



November Calendar

- Sunday, Nov. 3 - All Saint's Day
- Tuesday, Nov. 5 - Young at Hearts at Wood Grill @ 12 pm
- Thursday, Nov. 7 - Coffee with the Pastor @ 9:30 am
- Tuesday, Nov. 12 - Caring Cards @ 10 am
- Saturday, Nov. 16 - Donuts & Devotions @ 8 am
- Saturday, Nov. 16 - Camp Overlook Cleanup Day @ 9 am
- Wednesday, Nov. 20 - Coffee with the Pastor @ 3 pm
- Sunday, Nov. 24 - Fellowship Hall Reserved @ 11:30 am
- Sunday, Nov. 24 - Comm. Thanksgiving Service @ 6:30 pm

December Calendar

- Sunday, Dec. 1 - Hanging of the Greens & Dinner @ 5 pm
- Tuesday, Dec. 3 - Young at Hearts Christmas Party @ 12 pm
- Friday, Dec. 6 - Blood Drive @ 10 am
- Sunday, Dec. 8 - Christmas Mission Sunday
- Tuesday, Dec. 10 - Caring Cards
- Sunday, Dec. 15 - Bethany Family Christmas Program during the worship hour followed by a festive food celebration
- Saturday, Dec. 21 - Donuts & Devotions @ 8 am
- Tuesday, Dec. 24 - Informal Christmas Eve Service @ 4 pm
- Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service @ 8 pm

November Birthdays

3rd Addyson Mooney

4th Jean Moyer

9th Barry Shifflett

11th Donald Michael

12th Sarah Huffer

13th Rosemary Wagoner

14th Kelly Shifflett

17th Lorna Frizzelle

21st Carla Whitecotton

24th Mike Huffer &

Madelyn Shifflett

25th Cindy Kite

27th Kathleen Stump

December Birthdays

1st Gerald Fulton

3rd Kristen Kile

5th Annie Roller

9th Hudson Dunsmore

19th Layne Shifflett

20th Elizabeth Williams

23rd Jane Elkins

25th Alexander Carter

26th Garrett Roller

29th Jake Frizzelle

If your birthday is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please email the office at office.bethany@gmail.com.



Thank You **Thank You** from **Cindy Kite**



I want to say thank you to all who have loved on me and my family over the years. Thank you for making my job as your Secretary/Treasurer a true blessing. Thank you for helping me grow in my faith as I've traveled the road of life as a Christian. I'm so thankful to my Bethany family for so many things. I would not be the person I am today if it were not for you.

It is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye. However, I'm leaving with a grateful heart because I've been so blessed to be part of the Bethany family for over 60 years. Never forget that I love you and will miss you terribly!

Prayer List

Members

Don & Hazel Truslow

Tom & Jan Gorden

Ramona Garrison

Kathleen Stump & Family

Dolly Wilfong

Extended Family

Bill Simmons - father of

Cheryl Richards

Amy Moore - niece of Bobbie Meek

Shut-Ins

Audrey Bradshaw

Judy Faby

Charlene Michael

Carolyn Roller



Bethany United Methodist Church

3700 Lee Highway
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

www.mybethanyumc.org



Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, Nov. 24
6:30 pm



"The Echo"

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church
3700 Lee Highway, Weyers Cave, VA 24486
(540) 234-8880
www.mybethanyumc.org

Blaine Oliver-Thomas, Pastor
850-508-7245
blaineoliver-thomas@vaumc.org

Dale Roller, Music Director
Bridgett Crawford, Youth Director
Danny Perry, Sextons

December Newsletter Deadline: Nov. 20, 2024

Please submit articles to the office at
office.bethany@gmail.com



connect. grow. serve.

At Bethany we ...

Connect with God in community
Grow in our likeness to Jesus Christ
Serve our neighbors