



# The Echo

MARCH 2025 Edition

A Publication of Bethany United Methodist Church

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April Newsletter Deadline: March 17, 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 Bethany Family,

March! The month that has always reminded me of Spring and the hope of warmer weather on the horizon. This is the time of the year when college baseball and softball are heating up, and college hoops turn into madness! As we run into March (hopefully done with the frigid temps and snowfall), we kick off the Lenten Season on Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> with our Ash Wednesday meal, service, and mission project! This night is sure to be a powerful night of fellowship as well as an opportunity to use our hands for the good of our neighbors. The hard, yet beautiful thing about the season of Lent is it reminds us of our humanity and with our humanity comes our brokenness. During this season we are reminded that from dust we were created, and to dust we will return. But as I have learned along the way, with brokenness, comes the chance for something redemptive, powerful, and healing. My hope for all of us is that during this season of Lent, we are all looking inward and wrestling with things that take us away from God, adding things into our daily life that bring us closer to God, and preparing our hearts for what is to come at the end of this forty-day period. During this season of self-reflection, I hope that whether you are removing something from your daily life, or adding something to make this season more fruitful, that we remember that Lent provides a time for us to die to ourselves to be made whole again through Jesus.

One way that I hope you will commit to deepening your journey with God during this Lenten season, is by participating in the Lenten Book Study! What better way to cultivate some time, to dig deep and wrestle with the messes in our own life, than to do it with your church family! This might surprise you, but I love facilitating these studies, especially when people make time to come out and deepen their own faith. Even if you can't make the 10 am or 6 pm book study, I hope that you get the book "Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess by Tom Berlin" so that you can dig deeper, as we will be wrestling together with this book come Sunday mornings in Lent. Let this season of Lent challenge, strengthen, and push us to rely more on God, and less on our human abilities.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Blaine

## Prayer Lists.....

- Tom and Jan Gorden, Barbara Sommers, Kathy Frizzelle, Don Truslow, Barbara Long, Nadine Moore, Roger Hawkins
- Tommy Jackson a friend of Lori Mooney, Latrice Scott and children, Danny Perry Bethany's sexton
- We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to Don Truslow and family, as they grieve the loss of their beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend, Hazel Truslow.
- Pray for our community, country and world.

## Dates to Remember.....

- **Sunday Service: Every Sunday at 9:30am**
- **Food Pantry: Every Monday from 4-5:30pm**
- **Young at Hearts: March 4<sup>th</sup> at noon – Thomas House, Dayton**
- **Trustees: March 4<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm-8:00pm**
- **Ash Wednesday Event: March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**
- **Lenten Study: Monday's at 10am and 6pm, beginning March 10th**
- **Easter Choir Practice: Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, & 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30-7:45pm**
- **Coffee Hours with Pastor Blaine: March 13<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-12:00pm at Valley Pike**
- **Donuts & Devotions: March 15<sup>th</sup> at 8am**
- **April Echo Articles Deadline: March 17th**
- **Coffee Hours with Pastor Blaine: March 27<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm-5:00 pm at Valley Pike**

## Inspirational Quote.....

"You can't go back and change the beginning but you can start where you are and change the ending." - C.S. Lewis

## March Birthdays.....

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jan Gorden	15 <sup>th</sup>	Cathie Sue King
5 <sup>th</sup>	Earl King		Laura Hittie
	Ken Elkins	16 <sup>th</sup>	Rosa Campbell
7 <sup>th</sup>	Becky McCarty	17 <sup>th</sup>	Jared Kile
10 <sup>th</sup>	Bobbie Meek	18 <sup>th</sup>	Sidney Moyer
	Lindsay Williams	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Cheryl Richards
13 <sup>th</sup>	Kelli Huffer	26 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Long
14 <sup>th</sup>	Chuck McCarty		Libby Riddle

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)

### Ash Wednesday.....

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS COMING!** Please plan to be a part of our Ash Wednesday event on March 5<sup>th</sup>. On this special day that marks the beginning of the Lenten season we will have a soup and sandwich dinner at 6:00pm followed by a short mission project. Our project will be putting together water filters for a ministry in North Carolina called Wine to Water (*Rilo and Amy Michael's niece is a leader there*). These small filters which last for 10 YEARS are distributed around the world in areas where clean water is not available. This is a great opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of others. The filters are simple and for **ALL** ages to assist in making. Afterward, there will be a very brief service with the imposition of ashes in the sanctuary. **Ash Wednesday** is an opportunity to begin the preparation of our hearts and minds for Easter. Mark your calendars and join your church family for a fun and meaningful evening. For those who wish to support the cost of the water filters, there will be an empty pitcher on one of the front hall tables in which to place your donation.

### Lenten Study.....

During the Season of Lent, Pastor Blaine will be leading a Lenten Study on **Monday's at 10am and 6pm, beginning on Monday March 10<sup>th</sup>**. This study will be based on the book, "Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess by Tom Berlin." Pastor Blaine's sermons during the Lenten season will follow along with the book. Books will be ready for pickup on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Three additional books were ordered in case you missed the sign up. If you would like, a \$10 donation would cover the cost of the book, but a donation is not required to get a book.

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### Flowers for Worship.....

We are blessed to have flowers up front for our worship services and offer our appreciation to Nancy Colvin and Elizabeth Williams for their artistic talent in creating beautiful arrangements. If you would like to provide flowers for a special occasion or just want to contribute at any time please contact the church office and they will direct you to the right folks.



### **Easter Flowers.....**

Please help adorn our sanctuary on Easter as you honor or remember a special someone in your life or in the life of our church. We are offering pots of tulips for \$10 and pots of geraniums for \$7. Both can be planted in your home gardens. Order forms will be on the Welcome Center starting Sunday, March 9th. Orders are due by Sunday, March 30th and can be placed in the secretary's mailbox or in the offering plate. Thank you!

### **Easter Egg Hunt.....**

BETHANY COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT - Saturday, April 12 - 10:00 a.m. Weyers Cave Community Center - We hope everyone will make themselves available for this out-reach event. This may be the ONLY moment in many families' Easter celebration where the true meaning is taught and celebrated and where they hear the name, JESUS. We need folks willing to assist with crafts, serve refreshments, hide eggs and just be there to meet and greet our neighbors. An organizational meeting is coming and then we will need everyone to help. Sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center.

We need LOTS of prewrapped candy to fill Easter Eggs for our community event and Easter Sunday here at Bethany. Please make sure the candy will fit inside a plastic egg. Bring donations at any time.

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

Happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone during the month of March. Let's all hope that the snow is over and done with and spring is coming right around the corner. Fingers crossed. But it is only March and I am sure there is a storm or two left to come. Stay safe and warm.

So sorry that Latrice has already left us, but we will keep her in our prayers for their move and starting over. Also, we want to keep Danny (our sexton) in our prayers, and he is still trying to get better.

On Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wednesday, we will be having a special mission project, so plan on attending this event. People of all ages can help. Soup and sandwiches will be served, so you don't have to worry about supper. We will also be asking for donations to help cover the cost of the kits. You must be there to see what we are talking about. Let's help make a difference.

Mark your calendar for the Christmas in July Yard Sale on Saturday, July 26th from 8am – 1pm. Amy Michael is still taking donations. Bring them in and leave them in the social hall. Rilo will be selling BBQ sandwiches that

day. We will also be having a bake sale at the yard sale. So, if you love to bake and want to make some items for the bake sale, then be sure to let Lori Mooney know what you plan on donating. If you can donate your time to volunteer to help that day, please be sure to let us know. All proceeds will be going to the Honduras Mission Trip in September.

Mission spotlight of the month: Valley Mission of Staunton. Their mission statement is the following: The Shenandoah Valley's longest operating private homeless shelter, Valley Mission had provided shelter, support, and hope to our local community's most vulnerable constituents since 1971. Our history is rooted in a love of Christ and a commitment to share that love with others, at a time when they need our love the most. They serve more than 700 individuals each year. If you would like to make an extra donation, please mark it for Valley Mission.

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)

## 2024 Financial Summary.....

Total Giving	\$201,942.01
Expenses:	
Total Salaries	\$100,961.72
District Ministries	
District	\$ 3,660.25
Apportionments	\$ 33,590.75
Conference Expenses	<u>\$ 1,400.00</u>
Total District Ministries	\$ 38,651.00
Other Ministries	
Church Office	\$ 7,198.14
Building & Maintenance	\$ 42,912.36
Ministry Programs	\$ 8,026.30
Mission Outreach	<u>\$ 6,217.14</u>
Total Other Ministries	\$ 64,353.94
Total Expenses	\$ 203,966.66