

Bethany News

April 2022



HAPPY EASTER!



EASTER LILIES

In celebration of the risen Lord, and "In Memory of" and "In Celebration of" BethanyUMC and Flowers by Gary are once again offering Easter lilies 'In Honor Of' or "In Memory Of" to be placed in the sanctuary for the Easter Sunday service on April 17th. Unfortunately due to availability issues from their wholesaler, they will only have 15 at \$18.00 @, to sell. First come first served, So please call early and place your order. Call Gary Corsi-OConnor at 919-471-1566 to place your order and let him know whom it will be in honor or in memory of. Payment will be made directly to Bethany UMC. Payment may be made in the form of a check, made out to Bethany UMC and placed in offering plate, mailed in or dropped off at the office. Thank you.

EASTER SUNDAY LUNCHEON

Once again Bethany UMC will be providing an Easter luncheon, for all, at the fellowship center, following the Easter Sunday service on April 17th. This will be our 5th Annual Easter Luncheon. The church will be providing the ham and we are asking for attendees to supply a side or dessert. Please call Gary Corsi-OConnor 919-471-1566 and let him know which you prefer to bring and what kind (side or dessert) you will bring. Gary and Michael will be at the fellowship hall from 9:45-10:30 on the 17th to accept your food. Please plan on attending as we all celebrate the season of Easter and enjoy the fellowship of Bethany UMC.

NEWS & EVENTS



In late August, 1619, 20-30 enslaved Africans landed at Point Comfort, today's Fort Monroe in Hampton, VA, aboard the English privateer ship White Lion. In Virginia, these Africans were traded in exchange for supplies. Several days later, a second ship (Treasurer) arrived in Virginia with additional enslaved Africans. Both groups had been captured by English privateers from the Spanish slave ship San Juan Bautista. They are the first recorded Africans to arrive in England's mainland American colonies.

Join us on **Tuesday, April 12** and **Thursday April 28** as **Vital Conversations - The Anti-Racist Team** continues to explore and discuss the legacy of slavery and its impact on the social, economic, and political history of the United States.



The 48th annual Crop Walk is APRIL 10!



There are still 32 quarts of stew left!

LENTEN STUDY

A Cooperative Lenten Bible study began on Sunday, March 6 at 5 PM using *Faithful Lent: Connecting the Practices of Lent and Anti-Racism*. The purpose of this study is to make explicit connections between the traditions of Lent and the work of anti-racism, without forcing either one to be what they are not.

The remaining dates and locations are:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Leader</u>
April 3	McMannen	Giving Alms	Rev. Julia Webb-Bowden
April 10	Glendale Hts	Right Relationships	Rev. Laurie Coffman

We are prepared to delay the start of the Bible study on April 10 so that participants may walk in the Crop Walk and then join the Bible study.

The Bible study we began at Bethany prior to Lent will resume after Easter.



Pastoral Ponderings

Happy April Fool's Day! (which, by the way, is my least favorite holiday)

Happy Spring! Easter is almost here!

We can feel the energy of newness surrounding us, even as we continue to grieve the losses of the past two years. Last week, Corridor clergy met in Sub-District meetings, in person and virtually. What would ordinarily have been an opportunity to see all of our colleagues serving in this area was instead a series of small groups. Our connection, so important to our identity as United Methodists, is still hiccupping along, but in fragments.

One thing discussed at our gathering was the idea of "getting back to normal." "When will we get back to normal, get back to worshipping the way we used to, get back to church the way we knew it?" Short answer:

we won't. In the UMC, and in churches everywhere, we will innovate, adapt, and change. Or we will die.

We're already at work on adapting: thanks to all of you who gave so generously, we have purchased the A/V equipment we need and Terry and Al are working to get them ready to go live.

Bethany has had strong attendance at all the Anti-Racism Bible studies. I'm encouraged that we have so many who are committed to learning more about our nation's history, wrestling with what we didn't know we didn't know. Yes, there are layers upon layers of our history that many of us, most of us, weren't taught.

My younger son has a habit of saying, "Well, I can't know my future self...." That's his way of saying that, with what he knows now, he would make certain decisions. But future knowledge may change those decisions. In the same spirit, I often say, "We can't know what we don't know, but we CAN know THAT we don't know. So, if we don't KNOW that we know, then clearly we DON'T know, so we should ask questions."

It takes courage to be open-minded and curious. It takes courage to be compassionate. It takes courage to trust that God goes before us to make a way. Be of good courage! Fear not!

New every morning are God's blessings and gifts. New, different, fresh. Let us rejoice and give thanks that the One who created is still creating and inviting us into the ever-changing, ever-new dance of Creating Love.



Bethany Music Notes

As we enter spring, a season of rebirth and new life, I think about how our love and faith go through similar periods and cycles. It is a time for reflection and contemplation of who we are as the body of Christ. Are we going through the motions of life doing the same things expecting different results (aka insanity) or are we opening our minds to explore new ways of being disciples of Christ? As humans, we learn every moment that we are alive, and learning to truly love God means that we have to learn HOW to love God. This means that we must learn to grow in our love and faith through listening and following what God has put before us.

It has been a busy season for the music program as we navigated through reopening the church to in-person services and exploring new, safe ways to elevate the worship experience through song. In addition to presenting special music and anthems during Worship, the choir presented *Bethlehem's Child* in December in the fellowship center, and has been hard at work learning *Wondrous Love* as a multi-part choral presentation throughout the Lenten and Easter Season. We are exploring different musical styles and dynamics, while focusing on uniformity, structure, listening, and communication. The choir has shown incredible grace and love as we learn how to be effective music leaders as a group, together. I am thankful for the continued support of this vital ministry.

The handbell choir continues to work hard and serve as a mainstay of our music ministry. You will continue to see and hear bells play throughout the season and we continue to be grateful for Pat's leadership and support of the handbell program.

In closing, as we continue our journey into spring, let us remember to listen and follow God through discipleship and reflect on the words from Psalm 150: 1-6:

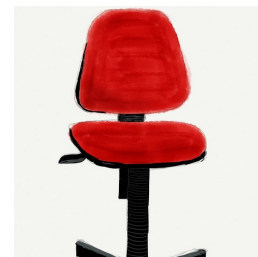
- 1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.
- 2 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.
- 3 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.
- 4 Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with the stringed instruments and organs.
- 5 Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.
- 6 Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

With grace and love, Jeff



From the Church Treasurer's Chair

Happy Spring! Happy, yes because our apportionments are up to date and we have sufficient monies to cover our loan payments for several months. Last month's article was long so this month it is short. Thank you to several generous donors for the funds to update our sound system and for keeping our General Fund and Building Fund viable. Enjoy the yellow season and continue to share your resources generously with your church so we can continue to be of service to others.



Your Church Treasurer,
Cathy Portaro

On March 20, we gathered to celebrate Connie Kirby as she retires from the church secretary position after 18 years! We love you, Connie!



THANK YOU

We sincerely appreciate the outpouring of love shown to us during the loss of our beloved Mother and "Muv."

For Pastor Lisa's beautiful homily and service, we are grateful. For all who participated in the service, we thank you.

The altar and sanctuary were beautiful.

For those who organized, prepared and served the delicious luncheon, we are grateful.

How blessed my mother was to have such a loving church family!

Although we mourn our loss, we rejoice in knowing Heaven welcomed a beautiful angel.

With sincere thanks,

The Family of Juanita Jones

THANK YOU

Dear Bethany Family,

It was just a normal Sunday morning, or so I thought until after the benediction, when Lisa said, "Connie, there is a surprise over at the Fellowship Center for you."

What a surprise...all of my family was there, so many of you were there, with lovely decorations, lots of scrumptious food, loads of cards, gracious words, memories, gifts, etc. A wonderful retirement celebration! Gifts were abundant including a large gift basket from you. It was packed full of goodies: an Angus Barn gift card, Angus Barn crackers and cheese, a book, bookmark, a journal, the "queen socks", flip flop napkins, chocolate, a lovely garden flag. Other gifts included, candles, an Easter wreath, lotions, many gift cards to local restaurants, and a very meaningful prayer shawl, lovingly knitted by Kim. All present gathered around for Lisa to share a special blessing of it. It was a very special day and you are all very special to me. I thank you each for your part in the day, your part in these eighteen years. I have enjoyed all of it and will miss coming in to the office each day, but I will still be around (unless I am off traveling somewhere), and I will continue to keep up with all of you.

Love you all!

Connie

UMW & UMM NEWS

Tuesday Morning Circle

Tuesday morning circle will meet on **April 8** at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Center

Tuesday Evening Circle

Tuesday evening circle will meet **April 12** at 6pm in the Fellowship Center to clean the kitchen.

Wednesday Morning Circle

The Wednesday morning circle will meet on **April 13** at 11am. Looking forward to spending time together!! Peace, Lisa

United Methodist Men

The UMM are now accepting applications for scholarships. Applications are available at the church office. All applications must be received by April 30th to be considered. Any received after that will not be considered. Questions can be addressed to any member of the UMM.

UMM will meet April 12 at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall

UPCOMING WORSHIP HELPERS

Liturgists

April 3	Elaine Truckner
April 10	Connie Kirby
April 17	Gary Crispell
April 24	Kate Hankin
May 1	Lynne Sprague

Acolytes

April 3	Michael Corsi-OConnor
April 10	Connie Kirby
April 17	Gary Corsi-OConnor
April 24	Michael Corsi-OConnor
May 1	Michael Corsi-OConnor

**Council Members Opening and Closing Church
on Sunday Mornings**

April 3	John Long
April 10	Kim Wiles
April 17	Gary Crispell
April 24	John Roberts
May 1	Jimmy Truckner



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH•HOPE•LOVE IN ACTION



* Plastic total recycled in March: **99.5 lbs**

* Total plastic recycled for 2021: **2,313 lbs**



Becky House delivered a vehicle load of diapers to the Diaper Bank, donated by the UMW.



Sharon Stone delivered a vehicle load of styrofoam to the recycling center in Greensboro.

Thanks for your faithfulness in recycling plastic and Styrofoam!

PLEASE COLLECT TO RECYCLE WITH US:

- **Garnier (Fructis)** skincare packaging: Flexible and rigid plastic, pumps, sprays, packets, pouches, tubes, jars, and complex closures
- **Garnier (Fructis)** hair care packaging: shampoo caps, conditioner caps, hair gel tubes and caps, hairspray triggers, and hair paste caps
- **Burt's Bees** personal care, lip care, beauty care, and any other Burt's Bees packaging with a TerraCycle Logo can be recycled through this program
- **Any brand** mouthwash bottles and caps, toothbrushes, deodorant containers and caps, soap packaging, floss containers, and toothpaste tubes and caps
- **Bread** bags from bagels, English muffins, bread, buns, etc: Thomas's, Arnold, Sara Lee, Ball Park, Maiers, Boboli, Nature's Harvest, Orowheat
- **Disposable razors and razor packaging**



We are still collecting flexible plastic grocery bags, cereal bags, bread bags, dry cleaning bags, overwrap from bulk food and drinks, zip-lock bags, mail-order outer shipping plastic

Please remove ALL paper labels and metal fasteners

ITEMS MUST BE CLEAN AND DRY

Bethany UMC Council Meeting March 17, 2022

Present: Pastor Lisa Reynolds, Sharon Stone, Ann Shonkwiler, Gary Crispell, Pat Crispell, Becky House, Donald House, Joshua Stone, Connie Kirby, John Roberts, Terry Skinner, Lynne Sprague, Jeff Hood, George Folmsbee, Jimmy Truckner, Kim Wiles

Not Present: John Long, Barbara Long, Cathy Portaro

Guest: Tommy Wells

Minutes Taker: Joshua Stone

Welcome

Sharon opened meeting and led short devotional

Quote: When it rains, look for rainbows. When it's dark, look for stars.

2 Corinthians: 4:18/Perspective/Brief Thoughts/Prayer

Meeting Minutes

Gary Crispell made motion to approve minutes as emailed and Becky House seconded. *All approved*

Pastor's Report

Pastor Lisa provided update on Lenten study, indicating it has been going well. There were 31 who attended live and believe 36 on Zoom at Bethany. Lower attendance at St. Paul. Good feedback overall with an invitation to all to join/attend.

Collaboration amongst churches to continue for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Question raised whether to join or to offer Bethany only service.

Discussion held on whether planning has already started, potential Covid Omicron variant.

Will move ahead with planning for joint services and also having a Bethany only service at noon on Good Friday.

Stewardship Finance

Lynne provided Stewardship and Treasurer's report together.

Treasurer's Report

Lynne provide treasurer's report on behalf of Cathy.

Checking Acct Balance: \$129,155.66

Money Market Account Balance: \$25,880.11

General Fund Balance: \$5,579.47

Building Fund Balance: \$32,126.42 (enough to cover loan payments through Sept.)

Large principal payment of \$20k on Fellowship Center loan reduced interest by ~\$300 month. Current loan balance as of 2/15/22 is \$525,853.69 with a loan maturity date of 2/2/25.

Apportionments are current through February.

Lynne has enrolled for additional webinars on giving and resources for online giving. Options associated with Servant Keeper and offer more seamless integration. Joshua to look at the options as well to help understand costs/benefits. With Liz updating/refining the church website it offers an opportunity to update this capability as well.

Becky inquired whether we've received anything off of Amazon Smile. Lynne advised that it is paid quarterly and should be coming soon.

Trustees Report

Sharon gave thanks for the painting of the lines in the church parking lot.

John R. gave update:

John Long painted lines in the parking lot

Methodist Men power washed the stew hut

Planter repair has been done with cost ending up less than insurance payment

Roofers finished their work including roof, inside work, and painting of aluminum siding

Furnace in stew hut has been found to be defective with the part no longer available

Estimate to be provided to replace. With Vets to Vets using it currently they will use space heater as needed.

Daycare was unable to get a license to work in education build so they will not be operating here.

Question was asked about credenza and discussion held on placement.

Becky House made motion to remove it and seconded by Gary Crispell.

Motion carried by majority with nay registered from Kim Wiles

Lynne noted other equipment such as ice maker that should be considered for removal. Other items such as extra pianos and broken chairs mentioned with TROSA to come and evaluate what they can take/remove themselves.

Terry Skinner advised that new Ethernet cable was run to the sound table area in the sanctuary

SPRC Report

Pat provided SPRC report which is filed separately

Lynne advised that in talking with Liz with folks being around and volume of mail it does not seem like there is a need currently for locked mailbox. Connie noted that previous concern about lost check it was discovered it went to the wrong place and was not misplaced/lost. Discussion held on what type of packages are received with general consensus to keep things as is.

Tommy commented on Sunday school and advised Terry was not going to be teaching after Easter. Dan provided a list of 5 names that will volunteer to teach on a rotating basis thereafter. Lynne noted good readings in Wesley.

Lay Leader

Connie inquired whether we needed to renew Zoom with consensus to keep it.

Connie noted that a current directory is needed. There are options of using servant keeper with folks providing their own pictures or hiring a company such as Olan Mills to take the pictures - which can then be sent/provided for servant keeper or to handle all of it. Lynne asked for further clarity on servant keeper and Connie and Pastor Lisa provided additional details.

Options to be online directory or printed

Option for family unit to access information or update information

Option for family unit to determine level of information sharing

Information is protected and access is controlled to system via password entry

Poll suggested in connections in bulletin and newsletter with congregation on how they would like to approach with completing directory

Other Items

Sharon clarified regarding phone messages and Pastor Lisa expanded on potential scenarios where quick contact needed such as facility issue or death.

Discussion held on other options to address and capability to access remotely

More thought to be had with investigation on Spectrum service and option for answering service or church cellphone

Connie provided update on stew – down to only 95 quarts left

Terry provided recommendation on what video system technology would be needed to bring system up to date.

PTZ Controller, RM32TS - \$259

YOLOLIV PRO All in one - \$1,298

SCI Camera, BA 30S HD30 - \$799

Mounting Bracket - \$20

Misc wires and trim - \$300

YOLO Box Stand - \$80

Total expense of \$2,756

Terry advised on lessons learned from the pandemic and ability to reduce barriers to access with Zoom/online capabilities.

Terry and Pastor Lisa reviewed specific components and benefits.

Motion made by Gary Crispell with second by Ann Shonkwiler to proceed with securing equipment.

All approved

Sharon inquired on mask policy and Pastor Lisa advised that choir would continue to sing with mask on and optional for congregation.

Question asked about whether non-masked congregation and singing. With discussion held on whether to mask.

Recommendation for policy to be to only sing while masked.

Discussion on upcoming meetings being in person, Zoom, or hybrid and the next meeting date.

Meeting to be held in person on May 19th in the Fellowship Center

Closing

Sharon closed meeting by reading Irish Blessing

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Email: bethanyumc1@gmail.com
Calendar: <https://tinyurl.com/54jvdxv4>



BethanyUMCDurham.org



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|----|-----------------|----|-----------------------|
| 4 | Bea Elliott | 15 | Susan Huggett |
| 5 | Joyce Bumpass | 16 | Becky House |
| 6 | Eli Walter | 20 | Steve Bowman |
| 7 | Tanielu Apisai | 25 | April Stone-Mills |
| 7 | Elaine Truckner | 26 | Michael Corsi-OConnor |
| 8 | Jessica Steeley | 26 | Maureen Bateman |
| 14 | Cory Sharpe | 30 | Mark Crispell |



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|----|-----------------------|
| 11 | Gary & Pat Crispell |
| 12 | James & Lynne Sprague |