



Bethany United Methodist Church

17 September 2023
16th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME!

***We are glad you have chosen to join us
in worship and fellowship!***

Our ushers are here to help you.

Children's activity bags are located at the rear of the sanctuary.

Please complete the visitor's card found in the Visitor's Bag or on the back of the pew. Place in the collection plate.

***Visitors are cordially invited to our New Fellowship Hall
after worship today. Let's get to know each other
over coffee and refreshments.***

FIND BETHANY ONLINE

- ♦ **Facebook (FB):** Bethany United Methodist Church, Reedville, VA. Our weekly worship service is streamed live on FB each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. • **FB Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/BethanyUMCReedvileVA>
- ♦ **Wi-Fi:** User Name: Bethany • Password: nomorewires

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God.

PRAYER LIST

Bereavement • Recovery from Illness/Injury

Edna Revere • Rita Johnson • Della Embrey • Judy Knick • Anne Littlefield • Sonny Hayman • Karen Rogers • Linda Hulvey (Nancy Rice's sister) • Family & friends of Larry Tomek, Sidney Armsworthy, and Christopher Kuykendall (Janice Barrett's grandson)

Continuing Care

Commonwealth: Clara Bray • *Lancashire:* Don Robey

2023 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2023 Budget: \$159,238

Offering 09.10: \$2,370 **Needed Weekly:** \$3,062

Offering YTD: \$99,307 **Needed YTD:** \$109,692

In-Church Attendance: 09.10.2023: 30

WORSHIP TEAM

Worship Committee: September/October: Cathy Ortiz

HEADS UP!

- ♦ The **Adult Mission Team** will sell **Christmas wreaths** on Sundays from **October 1 to October 22**.
- ♦ Bethany will be supporting Northumberland High School by grilling hamburgers and hot dogs for the **football game on September 23**. We need volunteers to help cook, prepare, and wrap the hamburgers and hot dogs for the game. If you would like help, please reach out to Jay Lightfoot (Jaylightfoot65@gmail.com) or Leigh Westfall (westfall3@sprintmail.com).
- ♦ **If you're a high school senior**, Bethany invites you to apply for a \$500 graduation gift at the end of the school year. *Interested?* Contact Kathy Deihl at kdshearin@gmail.com or 804-436-5809.

CALENDAR

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
September 23		Bethany cooks at NHS
October 5	10 a.m.	Rebekah Circle
October 29	9:30 a.m.	All Saints Sunday
November 8	5 p.m.	Worship Committee
November 12	9:30 a.m.	Veterans Day Sunday

CHOIR • BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS AS OF 09.26.23

Choir: Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. • **Bell Choir:** Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

SCRIPTURES & THEMES FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Exodus 16:2-15 • Philippians 1:21-30 • Matthew 20: 1-16

The Burden of the Day: God provides. It seems clear that this is one of the messages from our texts this week. But it would also be clear that God provides for our needs in unusual and sometimes confusing

GIVE THE GIFT OF ALTAR FLOWERS

Please consider giving altar flowers for the worship service to honor or to remember a loved one. Gift forms are in the narthex. If you have questions, contact Debbie Gwaltney at 1-703-932-5185.



WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Children of God, when we face strife, upset, and harm in our midst, we so often turn to God and ask:

How many times should I forgive?

When Jesus answers that we should forgive again and again and again, we are tempted to repeat the question:

How many times should I forgive?

Until God turns the question around: “How many times have I forgiven you?”

Seventy times seven.

“How many times have I loved you?”

Seventy times seven.

“How many times has my grace been sufficient for you?”

Seventy times seven.

Let us learn, then, how to forgive not out of our own power, but out of God’s, who forgives us that we might be free to learn to live with one another well.

Amen.

Opening Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, we call on your name. We will make known your deeds among the people.

We’ll sing to you, we’ll sing praises to you; we’ll tell of all your wonderful works. We glory in your holy name; let the hearts of those who seek you rejoice.

We seek you, Lord, and your strength; and your presence continually. We remember the wonderful works you have done, your miracles and the judgments you uttered.

You are the Lord our God; your judgments are in all the earth.

Amen and Amen.

*** *Gloria Patri*** UMH 70

*** *Opening Hymn: “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”*** UMH 402

Scriptures: Exodus 14:19-31 (p. 61 OT) • ***Romans 14:1-12*** (p. 163 NT)

Sermon Pastor Dinah

“How Many Times?” • ***Matthew 18:21-35*** (p. 20 NT)

*** *Hymn of Praise: “Freely, Freely”*** UMH 389

*** *Prayers of the People***

Worship through Giving

Anthem

*** *Doxology: “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*** UMH 95

*** *Offertory Prayer***

Generous God, you have given so much to us in love and joy – every good thing in our life reflects your caring. Even in the giving of our offerings, we have tried to give our best but know we could do more. In a world where forgiveness has become a rare commodity, it is often an asset we hold back to maintain power over one another. Help us to hear the teaching of Jesus in the generosity of forgiveness. May we learn to give that to others with wild extravagance! We pray in Christ’s name, who gave all. Amen. [*Matthew 18:21-35*]

*** *Closing Hymn: “O, How I Love Jesus”*** UMH 170

*** *Benediction***

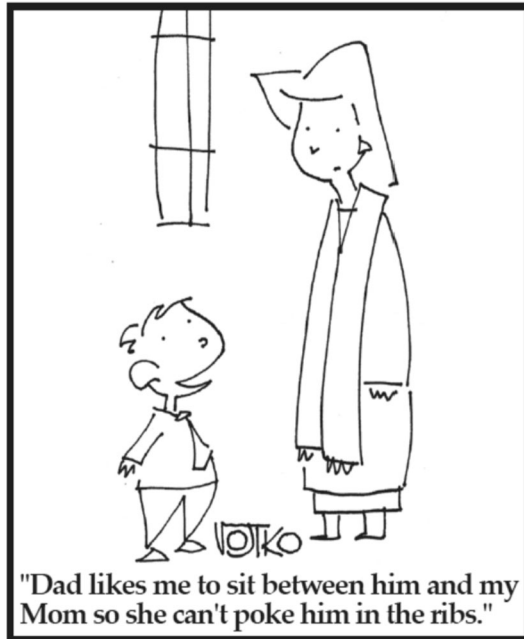
May you go from this place with a posture of forgiveness, leading, and being led by the grace that saves us into right relationship with God, neighbor, self, and creation. **Amen.**

Postlude

** Please stand, as you are able*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **The Bay Center** will present **Grief Support Groups** in two locations this fall: **Kilmarnock** • 9/19 - 12/5 (12 weeks) 1 p.m. • 12/12 - 1/2/24 (4 weeks) 1 p.m. • Tuesdays at the Kilmarnock United Methodist Church (89 E. Church St., Kilmarnock, VA) • **Warsaw** • 9/18 - 12/4 (12 weeks) 5:30 p.m. • Mondays at Rappahannock Church of Christ (4324 Richmond Road, Warsaw, VA). *For more information and to register, call 804-436-6362.*
- ◆ Rain or shine, **Oktoberfest at St. Mary's Fleeton** will be held **Saturday, October 7, 2023**, at 3020 Fleeton Road in Reedville. Enjoy a traditional Bavarian festival with German food *und* beer.
- ◆ **The 34th Annual Reedville Fishermen's Museum Oyster Roast** will take place **Saturday, November 11, 2023**, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets will go on sale September 18 to 22 (4 to 7 p.m.); they can be purchased on the front porch of the Butler house.
- ◆ **The U.S. Government has suspended distribution of free at-home COVID-19 tests to preserve supply.** If you currently have tests on hand, you can check to see if their expiration dates have been extended. *For more information, visit covid.gov/tests.*



"Dad likes me to sit between him and my Mom so she can't poke him in the ribs."

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BETHANY UMC • ESTABLISHED 1806

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(804) 453-3282

- ◆ **Dinah Bondzie, Pastor** • (703) 589-5317 • bethanyumcreedvilleva@gmail.com
- ◆ **Carina Bly, Choir Director & Organist**
- ◆ **Susan Holland, Admin** • (804) 453-3282 • bumcsecretary@gmail.com
- ◆ **Office Hours** • Tuesday & Thursday • 9 a.m. to noon
- ◆ **Sunday Worship Service** • 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ **Link to District Newsletter** • <https://conta.cc/3YWfVCG>
- ◆ **Deadline for Sunday Bulletin Copy** • Thursday at 10 a.m.

HAVE YOU HUGGED A BLESSING BEAR TODAY?



Take One. Please hug the Blessing Bear nearest to you. And take a bear with you to give to someone who needs a lift!

Give One. We are delighted to accept new or gently used bears. Place them in the box in the narthex to be tagged for this special ministry.

BETHANY'S MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES

Mission Statement: Lead all to experience the love and grace of God through Jesus Christ; demonstrate and teach discipleship; nurture and serve our community . . . all to worship and glorify God.

Core Values

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| ◆ Genuine hospitality | ◆ Mission & service |
| ◆ Inclusive community church | ◆ Nurture & care for one another |
| ◆ Spiritual growth / discipleship / Bible study | ◆ Vibrant worship led by the Holy Spirit |