



The Epistle

Volume 45, Issue 9

Leading people to experience God's love, know Jesus Christ, and grow in His image.

May 5, 2019



SPRING CONCERT Sunday, May 19 4 p.m.

Make your plans now to attend the 20th annual Spring Concert on Sunday, May 19, at 4 p.m. in the Worship Center. This program, presented by the music ministry of Bethany UMC, has become a springtime favorite and promises to be a wonderful hour of music in a variety of styles including spirituals, sacred, gospel, contemporary, and secular music. It is the perfect opportunity to invite someone to visit Bethany for the first time.

The concert will include instrumental music by our Bethany Orchestra, plus handbell music by our two adult bell choirs (Bethany Bells and Hallelujah Ringers). All God's People Chimes, always an audience favorite, will also be playing. A special trio will feature Joy Scott—vocalist, Mary Len Stanton—flute, and Jane Olson—harp.

The Spring Concert will also feature choral music presented by our youth choir (PURE SOUND), our women's ensemble (Grace Notes), and our men's ensemble (Journeymen). This is a program you won't want to miss. Come and invite your friends and family to this free concert.

From the Pastor

Living into the Resurrection

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life ... Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness."

- Romans 6:4,13

Two weeks ago, we did it. We woke up to a beautiful spring morning and went to the biggest worship service of the year. We celebrated that our Savior did not stay dead but rose from the grave on the third day. We sang songs about this truth, we heard a sermon on it, and we even proclaimed the resurrection for our loved ones who have died this year. Hearing about the resurrection is important, and celebrating it on Easter is a joyful experience, but for us the question remains: **Will we be a people who celebrate the resurrection once a year, or will we be a people who live into the resurrection every day?**

Paul explains in Romans 6:4 that the resurrection is important for how we live our day-to-day lives. It is because of the resurrection of Jesus that we as His followers can live new and transformed lives here and now. Our baptism marks the beginning of this journey: we are lowered into the water symbolizing our dying with Christ to the old ways and to our old nature, and we come out of the water symbolizing the resurrection of Christ and His new life being applied to us. Now we get to "walk in newness of life." This doesn't just mean we start acting like nice Christian people. What Paul has in mind is that we will be transformed from the inside out by tapping into the same life-changing resurrection power that brought Jesus back from the dead. So how do we tap into that resurrection power so that our lives can be made new?

Paul gives us the answer a few verses later—tapping into the resurrection power happens when we "present ourselves to God" (Rom 6:13). **When we offer ourselves to God, He is able to work on us and transform us in deeper ways than we can do on our own.** Richard Foster reminds us that our job is to "place ourselves before God so that He can transform us." (*Celebration of Discipline*, p. 7). When we do this regularly and over the long run, we allow the life-changing power of the resurrection to be at work in our lives. Our hearts get changed as well as our behavior. We grow in our love for both God and people. Our lives begin to resemble the life of Jesus more and more as the resurrection power is at work in our lives.

Consider how God might be calling you to live into the resurrection during this season in your life:

- Have you experienced God's transformation in your life in the past? What changed? What led up to that change?
- What parts of your own life still need to be made new? (We all have them ... be honest.)
- What is one tangible thing you can do to place yourself before God this week so that His resurrection power can begin making you new?

Thomas Johnson



Prayers



CELEBRATIONS:

BIRTH: Alexandria Kendall Stephanie Brown – 4/20 to Anastasia Carter & Nathaniel Brown (*grandparents are John Mark & Julie Carter*)

CONCERNS:

DEATHS: Dr. Homer S. Arnold (*Annie Lancaster's father*) - 4/19; Patsy Davies (*Ken Harrison's sister*) - 4/17; Don Langfeld – 4/13; Ed Streed (*Jan Williams' uncle*) - 4/24 CA

"A man was asked, 'What did you gain by regularly praying to God?' The man replied, 'Nothing ... but let me tell you what I lost: anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity and fear of death.' Sometimes the answer to our prayers is not gaining but losing; which ultimately is the gain."

Prayer Usher Training

Ever felt God calling you to pray for others? Ever wanted to know what and how to pray with others? Are you asking, "How do I lead a group in prayer? Can God use me?"

We will have a prayer usher informational session on May 19th to answer any questions you might have. It will be followed by a prayer usher training session.

Come explore how you might help usher others into a deeper prayer life and enhance your own prayer life.

Call or email Rita Thompson, rf7415@att.com or 512-670-6222, to express interest and get additional details.



Bethany Pastors invite members to join in conversation with one another about the impact of General Conference 2019. Come to learn, listen, process, and pray about the United Methodist Church. Childcare is provided.

Wednesday, May 22, Cornerstone, 7-8 pm

*This is a repeat of our April 29 meeting.
It is not necessary to attend both.*

God's Enough:

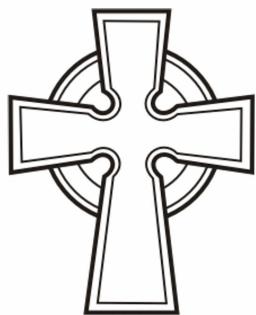
Cultivating Generosity



Your Estimate of Giving card is one way to express your gratitude and faith. We build our budget primarily upon these financial commitments, so each and every one is important! We look toward the future with excitement, trusting God will use these gifts to share the love, joy, and contentment that only comes from a relationship with Christ.

Estimate of Giving commitments: \$2,388,929 from 542 cards.

We are grateful for this response! We are behind in responses compared to last year, so if you haven't turned in your cards yet, please prayerfully consider your financial gift for 2019, and turn in your card soon. Make your commitment by email, by mail, or place them in the offering plate at worship. Cards can be found in the office or on the Welcome Desk. For questions contact Jane Herbst, Finance Manager, at jane.herbst@bethany-umc.org or call the church office.



Healing Connections Prayer Service

Saturday, May 4 at 7 p.m.
Cornerstone

Join us for a time of music, prayer, Scripture reading, and Holy Communion. Come to pray for yourself, loved ones, the community, the nation, the world.



Vacation Bible School 2019 Donations

Please help keep our ministry costs down by donating items to serve kids during VBS. All items, unless otherwise noted, must be brought to Bethany by **Sunday, May 19**.

Please put all items in the marked bin outside the office at the main entrance to the Disciple Building.

Please sign up for items - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B45AFA62FAAF49-vacation>

Upcoming Sermon Topics:

For the full series list and for audio recordings of past sermons, please visit the website at www.bethany-umc.org.

Citizens of Hope

5/4 & 5/5

Fed By Hope

Sat: Sheri Clifton

Sun: Tom Deviney

5/11 & 5/12

Hope in Tough Times

Sat: Sheri Clifton

Sun: Tom Deviney

5/18 & 5/19

A Vision of Hope

Sat: Wynn Stenftenagel

Sun: Tom Deviney

5/25 & 5/26

Second Line Living

Sat: Thomas Johnson

Sun: Tom Deviney

Support our Grads!

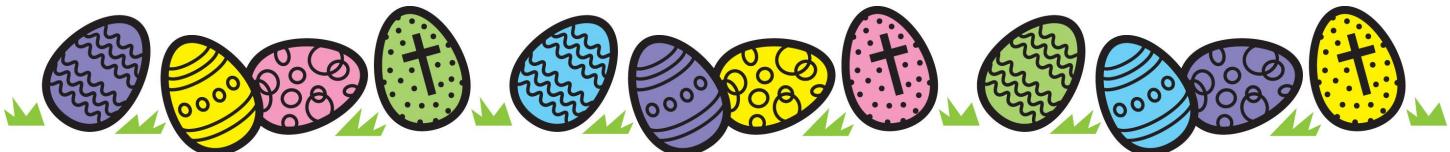
Student Ministries needs donations to help with the costs of the gift cards we include with the cards we send to our college students during finals. Cash donations or \$10 gift cards to fast food or coffee shops are needed.

We also need cash donations to help with the gifts we give our High School graduates during the Graduation Banquet on May 19. The gifts cost around \$40.

Please drop off donations in the Student Ministries Office.



We plan to start Wednesday Night Dinners again soon, so watch for more information in the Epistle and bulletin! The kitchen will undergo a deep cleaning and some needed repairs in May; we'll start the meals again sometime this summer. We hope to have new menu options -- plan to join us!





Adventure with Bethany Primetimers over Land and Lake

Join the Primetimers for the Austin Duck Adventures tour on Monday, May 20, to tour the sites of Austin on land – including the Capitol, the Governor's Mansion, the Driskell Hotel and more. Then splash into Lady Bird Lake in one of their modern, all-weather amphibious boats, for a tour by water of the Hill Country lakeside views.

We'll leave the Bethany café at 11 am by bus and enjoy lunch at one of Austin's favorites – Stubbs BBQ Café. We'll arrive at Austin Duck Adventures at 1:30 pm for a 90 minute cruise beginning at 2 p.m. Boats have windows and heat and air conditioning. Cost per person is \$28. Lunch is not included. Contact Shirley @ 512-219-5842 for reservations by Wednesday May 15. All adults are welcome.

Dining Divas

Ready to hit the refresh button, ladies? Then *Dining Divas* is for you! This fellowship group meets the 2nd **Tuesday** of each month to dine, dish, or just delight in fellowship and fun! Join us **Tuesday, May 14**, at 6:00 at **Texas Roadhouse** on 183.



Come casual, and connect through fabulous conversations with charismatic ladies. *Dining Divas* is open to all women; remember *age is only a number*. Childcare is available, \$7 per child, by contacting Christin Smith at christin.smith@bethany-umc.org. Want to RSVP or have other questions? Contact Julie Carter at carterjuliea@gmail.com. Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bumcdiningdivas/> or on the website www.bethany-umc.org/dining-divas.



PRIMETIMERS UPCOMING EVENTS

5/1—Chit, Chat & Chew: Men's Breakfast, Wednesday, 8am at Jim's on Spicewood Springs/183

5/3—Game Night: Friday, 6:30-9:30pm in the Ministry Center. No reservations needed.

5/20—Day Trip: Monday. We will take a tour of Austin via the Austin Duck Adventures Boat and have lunch at Stubb's BBQ. Reservations must be made to Shirley by Wednesday, May 20. 512-219-5842, \$28 per person.

Please make sure your day is free before making your reservation to join us.



Graduation Sunday May 19, 2019

We will recognize our *Summer 2018*, *Fall 2018*, and *Spring 2019* post-High School Graduates in the Bulletin and Epistle on May 19th.

Please submit your information online:
www.bethany-umc.org/graduation



BETHANY UMC CHILDREN'S CHOIRS PRESENT.....



A program of singing and skits exploring...

"THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT"

Sunday, May 5, *5:00 pm

Featuring:
Kids Praise Choir – PreK4s & K
Joy Singers – 1st & 2nd grades
KidzFantastik – 3rd – 5th grades



All this year, our young singers have been growing in musicianship and friendship while focusing on Galatians 5:22: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love joy, peace....." Can you name all nine? And, are these gifts of God you seek? Come support our young singers and let the Spirit of Christ grow these fruits in you!

* Note the later time!!

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH!



Any Sunday in May, stop by the Connection Corner for information about resources, or come to the Café to find Community in Christ at Bethany!

Celebration of Moms

Sunday, May 12, 9:15-12:15
In the Gathering Area of the Worship Center
Stop by for a flower to honor you!
Sponsored by Bethany Moms On Mission



The Heritage Project - "Because We Care"

Sooner or later, each of us will reach the end of our life here on this earth. When that time comes, our loved ones left behind face a set of intimidating tasks and decisions. They must deal with difficult questions while grieving and adjusting to the loss. The Heritage Project was devised by members of our church family to help each individual prepare the necessary decisions and facts to assist grieving family members to immediately know what you want done after your death. A Heritage Packet has been created containing advice and forms that will allow you to answer in advance the questions that arise at such a time.

Adults can pick up a personal copy of the packet in the church office. After it has been completed, it should be stored in a secure place such as a bank deposit box, with your attorney or with a trusted family member or friend. The church will provide a locked and secure location should you wish to store it here. For more information contact Sandy Kilgore at sgkilgore@att.net.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

America's Alarm: May, the Month of Mental Health Awareness

This year marks MHA's 70th year celebrating Mental Health Month!

Mental health awareness week starts every year on the second Monday in May. In this year of 2019, awareness is from May 13-19.

Since 1949, the month of May has been observed as Mental Health Month in the United States and many national organizations such as NAMI, Mental Health America, and other affiliates spotlight Mental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and to stop the stigma associated with mental health.

Last year's theme was **#4Mind4Body**, meaning that health is an all-encompassing matter and we must take care of our minds just as much as we take care of our bodies. Mental health is important for our physical health and vice versa. A well-balanced diet, a healthy sleep schedule, exercise, gut health, and hydration all affect our mental health and our physical health equally.

In 2019 Mental Health America is expanding upon last year's theme and taking it to the next level, exploring the topics of animal companionship (including pets and support animals), spirituality, humor, work-life balance, and recreation and social connections as ways to boost mental health and general wellness.

National Mental Health Month raises awareness about mental illness and related issues in the United States. In recent times, attitudes towards mental health issues appear to be changing. Negative attitudes and stigma associated with mental health have reduced and there has been growing acceptance towards mental health issues and support for people with them. To make your outreach during May easier, the National Council developed some materials for use as your own in whatever way you'd like — on social media, on your blog, facebook, etc.

#MentalHealthMonth vow to learn more ...

www.thenationalcouncil.org/mental-health-month/

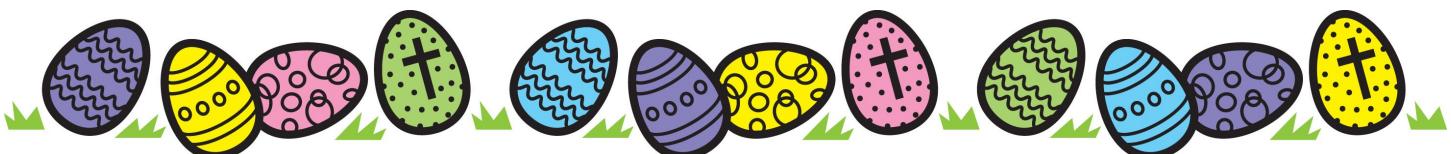
www.mentalhealthamerica.net/may

www.mentalhealthamerica.net

www.crisistextline.org

www.samhsa.gov

Lisa Blackwood MS MA LPC-S #19803
LCDC#4065 EMDR Certified





Batteries (all types)
Oil (all types)
Paint (oil, latex, no spray)
Antifreeze

BOPA is Back!

Saturday, May 11
8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Bethany East Parking Lot

BOPA items will be collected and recycled for free. Just drive in and drop them off! **Liquids must be in sealed containers.**

Can NOT accept herbicides, pesticides, cleaners, light bulbs, or other items.

Reg Mills, reggerm@gmail.com, (281) 989-3305
 Bethany Church & Society Environmental Stewardship Ministry



Let's Talk!

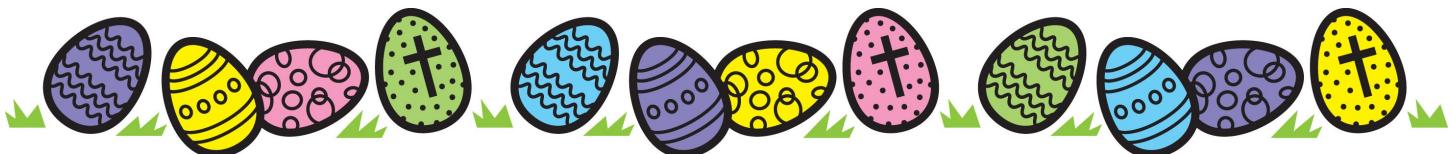
One Human Race Workshop

Saturday, May 18, 2019
9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. at Bethany

A safe, open, and productive place to learn and share about race.

FREE! Lunch and snacks provided. Info & registration at bethany-umc.org/OneHumanRace or in the Connection Corner.

Learn the history of racism in the U.S., share feelings and experiences, and build common ground. Q?: KerryLStevens@gmail.com, 512-296-0766.



Bethany Gifts & Memorials

(through 12/31/18)

Special Gifts:

Beth Belmarez (*Foundation*)

Loyce & Greg Dettman (*House of Friends*)

Deanna & Cliff Wells (*Foundation*)



In Honor of:

Ben, Jordan & Owen Beaty by Mary Kay Beaty (*Youth Ministries*)

Rev. Sheri Clifton by Charity Circle (*Provident Place*)

Wendy & Bill Detamore by Stephanie & Michael McCollum
(*Youth Ministries*)

Rev. David Lutz by His Monday Night Spiritwalk Class (*House of Friends*)

Sharon McIntyre by Linda Tenpas (*House of Friends*)

Jon Wukasch by Kellye & Barry Noret (*Music Ministry*)

In Memory of:

Margaret Ann Beardsley by Ramona Nance (*Foundation*; **Joe R. & Ramona Hastings Nance Benevolence Fund**)

Brian Blades by Susan Martin (*Benevolence Fund*)

Jean Bowdoin by Charity Circle (*St. Jude Children's Research Hospital*); JoAnn & Bruce Elliott (*Prayer Ministry*); Terry & Bill Sewell (*Prayer Ministry*)

John Bradbury by Maurie Hazlewood (*Youth Mission Trip Scholarship*)

Art Brannan by JoAnn & Bruce Elliott (*Memorial Fund*)

Hanford Ferguson by Tish & Jeff Darye (*Memorial Fund*); Estate of Hanford Ferguson (*Foundation*); Betty Milburn (*Adult Retreat*); Connie & Ron Ruple (*Foundation*); Tom Schneider (*Memorial Fund*); (*all House of Friends*) by Gail & Tim Buckley, Jane & Charles Chupco, Janice Griego, Mrs. Howard Hansen, Pauline & Royce Lacey, Patricia Lovett, Linda & Mack McLeod, Kathy & Henry Mayes, Mossy & T.V. Minner, JoNell & Joe Dale Morris, Pat & Howard Roach, LaRue & Nick Sisak, Gwen Sodoma, Barbara Weiss; (*all Care Ministries*) JoAnn & Bruce Elliott, Carol & Walter Hoke, Christie Laughland, Sherry Moore, Liz Nielsen, JoAnn Ramsey, Susie Turner

David Greenman by Nora & Dean Francis and Donna Francis (*Memorial Fund*); Juliette Ndri (*Kairos Prison Ministry*)

Beverly Peterson by Mossy & T.V. Minner (*Music Ministry*)

Bill Reader (*all House of Friends*) by JoAnn & Bruce Elliott, Patricia Fiero, Janice Griego, Nancy & Bob Kier, Sharon Owens

Sherman Stone by Connie & Ron Ruple (*Foundation*)

Lou Taylor by Linda & Mack McLeod (*House of Friends*); Ramona Nance (*Foundation*; **Joe N. & Ramona Hastings Nance Benevolence Fund**); Judy Schulze (*House of Friends*)

Joni Varshal by Connie & Ron Ruple (*House of Friends*); Gwen Sodoma (*House of Friends*)

Ollie Washington by JoAnn & Bruce Elliott (*Memorial Fund*); Connie Larson (*Hope Circle*); Sherry Moore (*Care Ministries*); Linda & Gene Tenpas (*House of Friends*; *Music Therapist*); (*all House of Friends*) by Mie Arntson & Richard Baumgartner, Dr. & Mrs. Fleming Childs & Family, Charity Circle, Janice Griego, Susan & Scott & Hannah Hector, Linda & Mack McLeod, Ellen & Jim Matthews, LaRue & Nick Sisak, Gwen Sodoma, Cheryl Stallworth, Deanna & Cliff Wells

Missions

Mission NOT Impossible



Join God's transformation of Matete, Kenya through
Child Sponsorship

May 18 & 19
in the Connection Corner
after services



Kerry L Stevens, KerryLStevens@gmail.com, 512-296-0766

Spirit Night

Wednesday, May 8, 5-8pm

Join us for food and fun! Come support Mobility Worldwide and a percentage of tonight's sales will be donated accordingly.

Chick-fil-A
13229 North FM 620 Rd



Support Student Ministries for World Vision's Global 6K for Water.

You can still donate directly:

- Text UMC6K to 484848 and then follow the link
- Check written to Bethany UMC with *Global 6K - youth* on the memo
- Cash given directly to Student Ministries
- Or online through the Bethany website: www.bethany-umc.org/giving

Our Goal is to raise \$5,100 for World Vision.



Serving Under-Privileged Families in our Community

We will be preparing and delivering meals using the MLF food truck on these dates:

Mondays, May 6 & 20

Friday, May 31

Needed: Bar Soap

Drop-off bins are located around the church for donations.

For information about volunteer opportunities, please visit:

www.bethany-umc.org/mobile-loaves-fishes
or to volunteer, contact Gayle Kneupper, kneupper@yahoo.com

Feed My People

**Tuesday, May 14
5:00 AM**

First UMC, 13th & Lavaca

Sponsored by Jason & Michelle Kelley family



Bethany sponsors a breakfast each month to feed 200-300 downtown homeless. We purchase, prepare and serve a hot breakfast.

*If your group would like to sponsor a month or
for information about volunteer opportunities, please visit:*

www.bethany-umc.org/feed-my-people or
contact Debbie Childers bdschilders@juno.com

Do You Shop on Amazon?

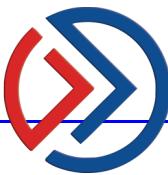
Amazon allows you to give to your charity of choice by donating .5% of your purchase. Go to smile.amazon.com and login as usual. You can toggle between different charities each time you shop. Below are some options related to Bethany UMC:

- **Bethany United Methodist Church (general fund)**
- **Christian Resource Center**
- **CYMT (Center for Youth Ministry Training)**
- **Faith in Action Northwest**
- **Harvesting in Spanish (Shalom Home, El Salvador)**
- **House of Friends**
- **Libraries of Love**
- **Mobility Worldwide (formerly PET)**
- **Reveal Resource Center**
- **River City Hope Street (Life Bridge)**
- **Samaritan Health Ministries**
- **World Vision**

Christian Foster Homes Needed

Here is a Christian Mission Ministry that you can participate in at home! There is an extreme shortage of foster homes. Many children are sleeping in Child Protective Services offices and in hotels because there is no place for them. For more information, call Michele Bredahl at 512-293-3803.





Celebration!

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE MINISTRY OF JOSE SUAREZ AND RYAN NORDON, AS THEY GRADUATE FROM CYMT AND MOVE ON TO NEW ADVENTURES.



Sunday, May 5th
during MYF 5:45-8:00pm
Cinco de Mayo supper (cost \$3)
Worship
Recognition/Roasting of Jose and Ryan



We encourage you to bring cards expressing your appreciation of their ministry here at Bethany.



“Surviving & Thriving in Middle School”

Day Camp for incoming 6th graders

Monday, June 17th – Thursday, June 20th
 8:30am – Noon;
 Wednesday until 6:00pm

Cost \$30

Topics include:

You Need Friends • Your Mutating Body •
 Everybody's Looking at Me • The Campus Zoo •
 Make Up Your Own Mind • Boundaries

Practical activities:

Learn how to unlock a combination lock.
 How long is it between classes
 And much more!!

Wednesday afternoon, we'll go tubing in San Marcos.

More information and how to register here:
bethany-umc.org/ministries/student/events/



Youth
Led
Worship

April
27 & 28



GOING AGAINST THE TIDE
 ROM 12:1-2
 EPH 5:15-20

Divergent
 MISSION BY THE SEA
 2019
 OF CONTEMPORARY CULTURE



Find Event and Fundraising info online: www.bethany-umc.org/ministries/student

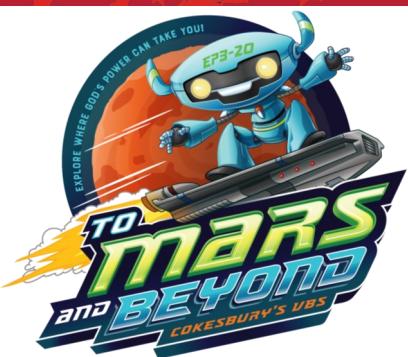
Children's Ministries



Summer Sunday School will begin on June 2
All children will meet in their regular Sunday School classrooms.

We need volunteers to fill in while our regular teachers and assistants are on vacation or spending time with their families.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Questions? contact Lori Pierce, Children's Ministry Volunteer Coordinator, at lori.pierce@bethany-umc.org or call (512)258-6017x413.



Vacation Bible School Adult Crew Leaders Needed! June 17-20 8:30 to 12:00

VBS is for children going into Kindergarten (will turn 5 by Sept 1, 2019) through completing 4th grade

A Crew Leader:

- Participates in fun and interactive activities
- Gets to see how God is working in children
- Does not have to prep anything
- Enjoys children
- Shepherds young hearts
- Loves to laugh



Volunteers receive a free t-shirt and a discount on their child's registration. With a 4-day adult volunteer present on campus during VBS, the cost is \$20 for children Kinder-4th grade and younger children may attend at no cost. Scholarships are available.



Registration for volunteers and children online at www.bethany-umc.org/vbs.

Register by June 1 to guarantee that you'll receive a VBS T-Shirt (applies to BOTH volunteers and children)!



Contact Information - Church phone number 512-258-6017

Registration & general questions - Jen Seibel at ext 233 or jen.seibel@bethany-umc.org



Questions about volunteering - Lori Pierce at ext 413 or lori.pierce@bethany-umc.org

The Epistle

Weekly Church Newsletter

The Epistle is published bi-weekly by Bethany United Methodist Church, 10010 Anderson Mill Rd., Austin, TX 78750



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Return Service Requested

Join Us For Worship

Saturday Worship 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Chapel Communion Service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Youth Worship 5:30 p.m.
Mid-Week Worship Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

More worship details inside on p.3



Next Epistle deadline: May 7 for the
May 19 publication.

If you would like to subscribe to receive this bi-weekly newsletter by mail or email, contact the church office at 512-258-6017.



Summer 2019

Sunday School starting June 2nd

9:30 & 11:00



Sunday Fundays - 4-6pm

Bring your friends and join the fun!



June 2nd - Funday - Sundae	July 7th - Tropical Day
June 9th - Water Day	July 14th - Xmas in July
June 16th - Father's Day (no activities)	July 21st - Mission Impossible
June 23rd - Chaos	July 28th - MYF Worship
June 30th - MYF Worship	August 5th - College Day

Events:

Schlitterbahn* - June 12
(5th-12th grade) \$45

**Surviving & Thriving in
Middle School*** - June 17-20
(5th grade only) \$30**

Tubing* - June 19 (All youth) \$20
Stockholder Reception -
August 11

Fall Kick-Off - August 18

*Online registration and medical release

www.bethany-umc.org/student

All students in 5th-12th grade are welcome