

Camp Bethel News, Fall 2020, Fincastle, VA



"SCHOOL'S OUT, CAMP'S IN" FALL SEMESTER DAY CAMPS NOW THROUGH DECEMBER

We combine the best activities of an Outdoor Learning Center, a Forest School, and our own Small Group Camping model into an excellent new program now through December for students in 3rd-8th grades to attend on days they are not in school. Individualized attendance is available. \$55 per day for immersive, active, safe, and engaging outdoor learning experiences on our 470-acre campus with dedicated and trained adult Counselors. www.CampBethelVirginia.org/soci



CAMP BETHEL IS OPEN FOR FAMILIES AND GROUPS

In accordance with Virginia's Phase 3 guidelines, facilities and RV/Tent campsites are available to reserve. Cyclists, hikers, walkers, creek explorers, and day-visitors are always welcome; hiking/biking trail maps and Self-Guided Adventure packets are on our office porch. Visit www.CampBethelVirginia.org/groups for prices.

SELF-GUIDED ADVENTURES FOR YOUR FAMILY

Here's an opportunity for you and your family to get outside and explore God's creation. Compass Trails (or Letterboxing) use clues and a compass and GPS Trails (or Geocaching) use a GPS device (Google Maps) and GPS Coordinates to find each destination. Each adventure has a theme, a color code, an estimated time to complete, and a brief description of activity level. Compass Trails include Camp Bethel Fun Facts; Exercise Circuit; and Photo Challenge. GPS Trails include Photo Challenge; Nature Facts; and Coyote Survival. Self-Guided Adventure Trails are open to the public now through October 1. Self-Guided Adventure packets are on our office porch or at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/self-guided-adventures.



FREE "ONWARD WE GO!" SUMMER BIBLE STUDY ON LINE VIDEOS

We're bringing Camp to you with interactive Bible Study videos produced by and featuring our 2020 Summer Staff. Day 1 = Blessed as We Go. Day 2 = Led as We Go. Day 3 = Walking Together as We Go. Day 4 = Challenged as We Go. Day 5 = Rejoicing as We Go. Day 6 = Sent: Onward We Go! www.CampBethelVirginia.org/CampAtHome

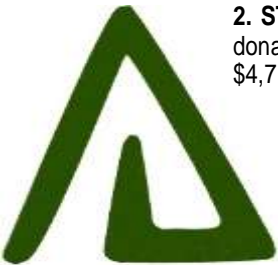
COVID-19 CANCELLATIONS CREATE FUNDING VOID

Nearly everything we do at Camp Bethel involves being TOGETHER with others: summer camps, retreats, festivals, meals, and family weekends. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged all aspects of our mission and our day-to-day operations. Like all other overnight camps in Virginia, we cancelled summer camps *for the first time in our 94-year history*. All summer Guest Camps and Band Camps cancelled, and we lost all group rentals from March 14 through August 31. We re-opened on July 1 for rentals and campsites, but many groups are cancelling their fall and winter retreats. **We now face a significant financial challenge for the remainder of 2020**, even as we work to pivot our programming, adapt our food services, and safely open for facility rentals. *Now, more than ever, we need your help, your gifts, and your advocacy to help Camp Bethel remain viable through 2020.* Please give and encourage others to give at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate. Thank you!



SIX WAYS TO HELP CAMP BETHEL:

1. **FAMILY VACATION... AT CAMP BETHEL!** Visit CampBethelVirginia.org/groups for to submit an availability inquiry.
2. **STAFF ALUMNI CHALLENGE!** Tina Lowe Brockman initiated the "Staff Alumni Challenge" via Facebook in which staff are donating the amount of your last summer, (ex: Summer 2003 would be \$20.03, or \$200.30, or \$2,003.00). 42 staff have given \$4,714.81 thus far! www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate
3. **PLEASE DONATE 2020 BUDGETED "GOOD-AS-GOLD" FUNDS OR ANNUAL CONFERENCE FUNDS.** We ask and encourage your Congregation to consider giving your 2020 budgeted "Good-As-Gold" to Camp Bethel and/or your AC funds to the Virginia District to help us BOTH bridge this difficult year.
4. **CAMP BETHEL 93RD BIRTHDAY CHALLENGE.** Ever-supportive and uber-creative Linda and Buddy Crumpacker encourage others to match their \$93.00 gift in honor of Camp Bethel's July 4, 2020, 93rd "birthday."
5. **SPONSOR** our 5K or our Golf Tournament.
6. **DONATE!** Every gift helps! Thank you! www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate



LABOR DAY FAMILY WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 4-7

The weekend will be different (no pool, no pot-luck, music-at-a-distance), but we'll be together... *sort of!* Pack your facemasks and check www.CampBethelVirginia.org/LaborDay for updates, to RSVP meals by August 28, AND to confirm your attendance and reservation.

STORYTELLING FESTIVAL VIDEOS FOR YOU TO ENJOY

Running out of shows to binge-watch? Annoyed by the lack of live sports television? Are you quaran-tired of quarantine? Cure your entertainment blues with our five Sounds of the Mountains "At-Home" Storytelling Festival videos featuring storytellers Regi Carpenter, Tim Lowry, Andy Offutt Irwin, and Kim Weitkamp at www.SoundsoftheMountains.org/watch.

"CAMP BETHEL PEP! 5K" SEPTEMBER 5: SAFE and IN-PERSON

In-person safety adaptations include "wave-starts," room to physically distance, pre-wrapped food, and more at our annual 5K fundraiser for "the PEPPIEST gang around!" Plans, sponsors, and registration at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/5K.



BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT SEPTEMBER 23: SAFE and IN-PERSON

Golfers and sponsors needed on Wednesday, September 23 for our adapted 2020 Golf Tournament at Ashley Plantation Golf Course. Tee off is at 12:30pm. \$75 per person includes green fees, cart, and a yummy boxed lunch. Updated plans and safety adaptations, plus registration and sponsor information is at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf.

CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS REPLACE ON-SITE HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL

Due to the continuing health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic, *we will not be able to hold an "in-person" Heritage Day Festival at Camp*. Many congregations have already adapted and plan to hold individual fund-raisers, meals, or food/craft sales in honor of Camp Bethel's Heritage Day. **Please participate** with an event in 2020 in support of this Camp Bethel. Updated information is at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/Heritage-Day, or available by contacting CampBethelOffice@gmail.com or 540-992-2940.



"**Seed, Scattered and Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation**" is the mission resourcing campaign of our Virlina District and Camp Bethel now through November 2020. As of July 26, 2020, 284 donors have given \$496,608 toward our Victory Goal of \$750,000, and our Challenge Goal of \$1,000,000. Camp's half of the campaign is to be used for previously designated projects (not in our budget), so reaching our goal means: the **RV Village** will provide long-overdue "real" campsites AND provide extra off-season income; **road improvement** will solve ingress/egress issues AND protect the spring area of campus; **two new cottages** will increase summer camp capacity AND provide year-round rental income; **Ark entrance enclosure** will provide extra space AND improve our camper/guest experience; **new trails** benefit everyone! *Learn more or DONATE at www.VirlinaFuture.org.*

CAMP BETHEL WISH LIST: Road-worthy mini-van or 15-passenger van (2010 or newer); clothes dryer; kitchen refrigerator; chest coolers w/ handles; digital cameras; GoPro video camera; portable LCD projector; gas grill; laptop computer (Windows 10); LED light bulbs; new (in-the-box) first-aid kits; new (in-the-box) bike helmets & horse helmets; working vacuum cleaners; brooms & dustpans; 3'x8' plyboards for under bunk mattresses (any thickness or quality); "Tree Cookies;" picnic tables, disconnected smart phones (with their charging cables) for use as a cameras and video cameras. CampBethelOffice@gmail.com or www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate. *Tax-deductible!*

TREE COOKIES NEEDED: Please help supply THOUSANDS of Tree Cookies for our year-round programs. Ideal "cookie" is hard wood, cross-cut showing tree rings, 2.5"+ diameter and less-than 0.5" thick. 540-992-2940 or CampBethelOffice@gmail.com. **THANK YOU!**

FALL VOLUNTEER WORKDAY IS NOVEMBER 7: 7:30am free breakfast; 1:00pm free lunch; We need your help with projects (rain or shine; indoor & outdoor) for all ages. RSVP meals by October 31 at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/workday.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MONTHLY E-NEWS at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe.

Facebook, Instagram, YouTube = [CampBethelVirginia](https://www.facebook.com/CampBethelVirginia) Tag/Pin #[CampBethelVirginia](https://www.instagram.com/CampBethelVirginia) "Camp Bethel Summer Camp and Event Center"

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CAMP BETHEL, www.CampBethelVirginia.org/events

August 24, 2020: "School's Out, Camp's In" Fall Day Camps begin.
September 4-7, 2020: Labor Day Family Weekend.
September 5, 2020 (Sat): Camp Bethel PEP! 5K Run/Walk, *in-person*.
September 23, 2020 (Wed): 26th Benefit Golf Tournament, *in-person*.
October 2020: Congregational events in honor of Heritage Day.
November 7, 2020 (Sat), 7:30am: Fall Volunteer Workday, TBD.
November 13-14, 2020: Virlina District Conference, ON LINE.
December 3, 2020 (Thu): Christmas TOGETHER Banquet, TBD.
January 2-3, 2021: Winter Camp, TBD. Day program instead?
January 5, 2021: Summer Camp Registration OPENS.
February 6, 2021 (Sat), 12:00noon: Camp Supporter Lunch, RSVP.

Together
with God
with each other
with creation