

March, 2024



Bethesda Banner

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

4858 McConnells Hwy.
York, SC 29745
(803)328-1360

Sunday School 9:45 am

Worship 11 am

Visit

www.bethesdapres.org
for updates.



This is a publication of
the people of
Bethesda Presbyterian Church

I believe that God meets us where we are—both in our faith journey and in our faith practice. As God meets us, the Lord is able to continue the process of making and growing disciples who will spread the gospel and help others become faithful to the mission and message that Jesus brought.

Certainly, the Lord asks each of us to stretch our understanding of God as we also stretch our faith in practice—and there are many examples in scripture of this practice and this calling being lived out. Yet we are not called to do this on our own. We are not called to figure out how this is done without God present to assist us.

God partners with us in ministry and in discipleship. Time and again, God meets us exactly where we are and uses each of those encounters to refine and shape us into the vessels that the Lord will use to spread the gospel and change the community.

To that end, I want to share a story that I read this month as a way to demonstrate this idea of God meeting us where we are and calling us onward into partnership and ministry. In her book, *Wearing God*, Lauren Winner writes these words for us:

“The rabbis say that manna tastes like whatever the Israelites wanted it to taste like. If you were craving chocolate that day, your manna tasted like *pain au chocolat*; if your palate was set for savory; the manna tasted like broccoli quiche or mushroom crepes. (There were a few exceptions: as Rashi, the eleventh-century interpreter of scripture, noted, manna could not taste like, leeks, onions, cucumbers, watermelons, or garlic, because those five foods might hurt nursing mothers).”

While I am not arguing about the exact taste of manna this month, for that is something that we cannot understand, Lauren’s words make me pause to wonder about how God meets us?

As we continue in Lent, perhaps that is something that you can reflect upon and consider in your faith journey. For God is closer to us than we realize and is willing to help us grow in our faith.

Blessings
Rev. Derek

Lauren Winner, *Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God*, 97.

Helping our neighbors:

Please help replenish our "Blessing Box" and Food Pantry. Suggested items are non-perishable food items - peanut butter, jelly, canned meat or pasta items, spaghetti sauce, pasta, small cereal boxes, etc. A basket is available weekly in the vestibule for donations. There is also a basket in the Fellowship Hall for those who wish to make contributions at the Wednesday Night Dinners. These items are used to fill the "Blessing Box", distributed to people who request help through the Bethesda Benevolence Fund, and delivered regularly to local food distribution organizations. Thank you for your contributions to this ministry.

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen: Bethesda will serve on Sunday, March 10 from 2 pm until 6 pm. You can come for a couple of hours or stay the whole time. Our next date to serve is May 26.

Plastic Recycling- We have collected enough plastics for our third bench! We will continue to collect plastics for our fourth bench.

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report— February, 2024

Presbyterian Women's Circle:

Card Ministry

Donations to:

Thornwell

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

Tito Palacios and La Mission in Guatemala

The Matias Family in Brazil

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Two Prayer Shawls Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Ash Wednesday Service

Pastor's Bible Study

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Provided Transportation to Medical Appointments and Other Support for Community Member

Community Support/Outreach

Lunches for School Age Children

Prepared and Distributed 427 Bag Lunches for York School Age Children on Break (Daves Road Neighborhood and York Housing Authority)

Collected Food Items for Food Pantry and Blessing Box

Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked

Benevolence Fund

Child Development Center

Pastor Conducted Weekly Chapel Services for Three Year Olds through Pre-K Children and for the After School Children

We are excited to announce that our GriefShare seminar support group began on [March 3](#). Our group meets in the ladies' parlor each week. We will meet on **Sundays from 4:00-5:30 p.m.** GriefShare is a 13 week video seminar series that features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. The video seminars are combined with support group discussion of the materials presented during the video. After watching the video, we spend time talking to each other and supporting each other through our grief journey. Please feel free to share this information with anyone you know who might benefit from this seminar. For more information, feel free to contact Karen Percival at [\(803\)517-2268](tel:(803)517-2268), or call the church office at [\(803\)328-1360](tel:(803)328-1360).

Thank You

Thank you so much for your recent gift to Thornwell. Because of churches like yours we are able to provide resources and care to so many children and families. We just reopened one of our cottages, allowing the ability to serve more teenage girls. In the upcoming weeks we will be opening our third Foster Care home on campus. Your support means so much to us. Thank you for your heart for Thornwell.

Many Blessings,
Rachel

Our Bethesda family and friends have been a blessing to Edward and me during my recent surgery and rehab. I am home and doing much better. Your many cards, calls, offers of food and transportation, and loving support are helping to speed the healing. We are thankful and hope to be back worshipping with you very soon.
Dorothy Williamson

Bethesda Presbyterian Church,
Thank you for your continued prayers for Rachel Ann. Thank you to the Congregational Life Committee and volunteers for hosting the blood drive on [February 13, 2024](#) in her honor. The Blood Connection donates towards her medical bills for every donation. Rachel Ann has needed and received many blood products throughout her treatment for leukemia.

We are so appreciative.
The Taylor Family



March Birthday



3	<i>Alan Smith, Sr., Lisa Percival</i>
4	<i>Edie Nettles</i>
6	<i>Lane Russell, Jennifer Marotta</i>
7	<i>Joni Walker</i>
9	Mills Sharpe
18	Charles Williamson, IV
19	Conor Goodband, Anne Caveny
22	Irvin Jones
25	Katie Burns, Ainsley Darby, III
27	Dorothy Williamson
28	Steven Dickson, Jr.
29	Chad Russell
31	Karen Boyd, Easton Pennington

	Attendance			
	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u> Views	<u>Bible Study*</u>
2/4/24	50	21	25	72
2/11/24	41	15	31	8
2/14/24 Ash Wednesday	32		3	14
2/18/24	50	22	0	0
2/25/24	58	24	18	N/A

*Bible Study includes in person and on-line participation

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Dorothy Williamson
Peggy Adkins
Cecilia Alexander
Margaret Moore
Jonathan Lauckner
Gene Cornwell
Ricky & Debbie Simpson & Family
Frank Allen
Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Bill Dover
Ruth Rawdon
Eddie Allan Smith (back)
Stacy Meek (CDC)
Janice Meeks (CDC)
Hildegard Bell
Eddie Smith

Deaths

Family and friends of Christina Hibbard, 2/27/24
(celebration of life on 3/5/24 at 11:00 am)

At Bethesda Child Development Center

Cynthia Jackson, Dawn Westmoreland, Esther Bailey,
Jamie Baker, Catherine Goodband, Janice Meeks,
Elizabeth Martin, Natalie Ashe, Emily Hopkins, Shelby
Ashe, Madison Hartis.

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

In the Military:

Chase Davis, Zoe De Anda,
Pierce Dewey, Sully Foy,
Nicholas McAteer, Gage Orr,
Michael Wilkerson, Sabrina Dollar

In the Community and Beyond

David (Bobby Fulmer's friend) awaiting liver transplant
Jackie Johnson Saboley (hip surgery)
Trey Privette (Walker family) glioblastoma
Sue Hopkins
Griffin (Marotta's nephew Axton's 11 year old friend)
Cheryl Hughes
Dorothy Hazard (LaRayne's sister-in-law)
Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Rick Stallard (Josh's father)
Noah Smith, Sr. (Pacia's dad)
Penelope Lowder (Rocky's niece) surgery
Dennis Duncan (Debbie Fulmer's dad) his memory
Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus
Cherish Clark Walker (Krystal's friend) cancer
Dale Wray & mother, Peggy (Krystal's friend)
Rachel Ann Taylor (Pat's granddaughter) leukemia
Brittany, Wes & Whitley Teter (Linda's granddaughter)
Dolores Lynn (Tara's aunt in Iowa) heart problem
Joanne Cox (Debbie Fulmer's aunt) cancer
Dwight Little (cirrhosis of liver & stroke) Leslie Henson's co-worker)
Tommy Harper (Sarah's dad)
James David (David Chamber's grandson)
Ron Saboley (Jackie's husband) unable to have surgery
Peggy Neal (JoEllen's mom) disease narrowing blockages
Rose Locklair (Peggy, Faye, Ruth & Mack's sister) hospice
Nikki Thompson (Alberta's daughter) colon cancer
Christina Dixon (Shannon's friend) breast cancer



During these 40 days, let me put away all my pride. Let me change my heart and give up all that is not good in me. Let me love God with all that I am and all that I have.

- Genesis Grain

(Lenten Journal by Yvon Prehn)

Ministry Support Online!



A QR code and link have been added to the Bethesda Website and the weekly bulletin for those who would like the flexibility of making ministry contributions online. Contributions may be made from the QR code to your annual pledge, special offerings, and other areas of support.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Fish Banks were distributed during worship in February. If you did not get one, contact the church office. These fish banks are intended to be used for members to collect their offerings for One Great Hour of Sharing, one of four Special Offerings PCUSA receives during the year. Gifts to this offering, received during the season of Lent, make a difference in the world through three impactful programs. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance works within communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human caused disasters. The Presbyterian Hunger Program, takes action to alleviate hunger and its systemic causes, and help create access to healthy food for entire communities. The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People partners with people and communities with tools for development and education to alleviate poverty, oppression, and injustice in projects they themselves present, control, own, and are the direct beneficiaries of, fostering fostering economic growth and independence.

This offering will be collected on Easter Sunday at Bethesda. We will join together on that date, collecting this offering and tangibly witnessing to the repairing love of God in Jesus Christ through One Great Hour of Sharing.



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York, SC 29745

Phone: (803)328-1360

Email: bethesda@comporium.net

Website: www.bethesdapres.org

Our Pastor:

Rev. Derek Marotta

Our Elders:

Alberta Anthony

Mark Boyd

Steve Childers

Cheryl Forlines

Debbie Fulmer

Laura Merritt

Linda Messer

Jim Percival

Stacy Russell

Johnny Walker

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41: 10

Our Mission

We celebrate the sharing of the Good News of Jesus Christ who is the head of the Church. Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, we are God's servants dedicated to the nurturing of all people in faith, service and fellowship; providing service to those in need; comforting the bereaved; ministering to the sick; offering solace to the troubled; and always seeking the lost.

We invite all believers in the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to share the communion loaf and cup of communion as symbols of our unity and service to the Risen Lord.



Established 1760

Bethesda Presbyterian Church Staff:

Pastor - Derek Marotta

Secretary/Bookkeeper - Pat Jones

Director of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall

Sexton - Donna Hagler