

# Worship on the Lord's Day

May 5, 2024

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter/Homecoming

Eleven O'clock

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY OF FRIENDSHIP -

PREPARE TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Rejoice the Lord is King

John Darwall

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** We have gathered in the presence of the God in whom every family in heaven and on earth receives its name.

**People:** We come, in the prayer that the peace of Christ might dwell in our family relationships.

**Leader:** We come, in the prayer that the peace of God might permeate the life of the human family.

**People:** May the love of Christ fill our hearts, our lives, and our world, to the glory of God. Amen.

\*INVOCATION

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

Crown Him with Many Crowns

151

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The radiance of your grace is poured out in every moment, Shaper of mountaintops, but we dull its luster by living in the shadows. We indulge in this life in things which claim to be 'real,' but we have trouble simply sitting in your presence, in your healing silence. We can become so infatuated with your love for us, we overlook those who hunger for acceptance and hope.

Revealer of mystery, forgive us. In silence, may we hear your whispers of grace. In mercy, may we feel your forgiveness lifting the burden of guilt from us. In trust, may we go forth to serve your world, filling it with the light and love of the One who is the Light of the world, Jesus Christ. Amen.

-SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION-

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON/GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;*

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. A-men A-men.*

\*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you!**

FIRST READING

Daniel 7:9–14

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. Derek S. Marotta

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Congregational Response

PRAYER RESPONSE

*He is Lord, He is Lord! He has risen from the dead and He is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.*

ANTHEM

We are So Blessed

Gaither/Mauldin

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 1:1-11

SERMON

“Witnesses”

Rev. Dr. Derek S. Marotta

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

GIVING OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S WORK

Offertory

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Rowland Hugh Prichard

\*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Prayer of Dedication

\*CLOSING HYMN

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

150

POSTLUDE

Jesus Shall Reign

John Hatton

**“The ascension empowers us to share God's message, so who does God invite you to witness to?”**

\*BENEDICTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*God be with you till we meet again;  
By His counsels, guide, uphold you.  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you till we meet again.*

*\*Please stand, if able*

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**Remember in Prayer**

**At Bethesda**

Ruth Rawdon  
Anita Ferguson Buffolino- cancer surgery  
Frank Allen  
Jonathan Lauckner- surgery 10/26/23  
Margaret Moore  
Hildegard Bell  
Cecelia Alexander- knee replacement surgery  
Dorothy Williamson

Bill Dover  
Eddie Allan Smith  
Ricky & Debbie Simpson and family  
Gene Cornwell (Mack)  
Stacy Meek  
Janice Meeks (CDC) health issues  
Eddie Smith  
John Nettles

**At Bethesda Child Development Center**

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

**In the Military**

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

**In the Community and Beyond**

Hildegard and Jim Bell’s granddaughter, lupus  
Johnny Rockholt (Faye’s son)  
Rick Stallard (Josh’s father)  
Rachel Ann Taylor (Pat’s granddaughter) leukemia  
Brittany, Wes & Whitley Teter (Linda’s granddaughter)  
Dolores Lynn (Tara’s aunt- Iowa) new heart problem  
Dennis Duncan (Debbie Fulmer’s dad) memory issues  
Dwight Little (cirrhosis liver, stroke)Leslie’s coworker br.  
Tommy Harper (Sarah Childers’ dad)  
Peggy Neal (JoEllen’s mom) narrowing/blockages  
Rose Locklair (Peggy, Faye, Ruth & Mack’s sister) Hospice  
Jackie Johnson Saboley (hip surgery)  
Christina Dixon (Shannon’s friend) breast cancer

Larry Rockholt (Carolyn’s son)  
Cherish Clark Walker (Krystal’s friend) cancer  
Dale Wray & mother, Peggy (Krystal’s friends)  
Noah Smith, Sr. (Pacia’s dad) Hospice  
Ron Saboley(Jackie’s husband) unable to have surgery  
Penelope Lowder (Rocky’s niece) surgery  
Joanne Cox (Debbie Fulmer’s aunt) cancer  
Cheryl Hughes- health issues  
James David (David Chambers’ grandson)  
Nikki Thompson (Alberta’s daughter) colon cancer  
David (Bobby Fulmer’s friend) awaiting liver transplant  
Janet Osborne- breast cancer

**Bethesda Global Mission Partners:** The Matias Family in Brazil and Tito Palacios in Guatemala

The **Bethesda CDC is looking for Teacher Assistants for our program**—Applicants must be 18 years old with a high school diploma. Applicants must be available **Monday-Friday** until 5:45. Experience driving a 15 passenger bus for school pickup would be a plus! For more information please contact the daycare at **803–328–0149 and ask for Cindy or Dawn.**

**How Do I Contact My Pastor?**

**Rev. Dr. Derek S. Marotta** is available in the church office Monday – Thursday between 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. His telephone number for the **Manse is 803-328-9338. His cell phone number is 724-221-4491.** His email address is **[jdmarotta75@gmail.com](mailto:jdmarotta75@gmail.com) and his blog is [revmarotta.blogspot](http://revmarotta.blogspot).**

**MAY USHERS**  
Cheryl Forlines, Jim Percival, Laura Merritt

The BPC Calendar

Sunday	<b>9:45 am</b> <b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Sunday School</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>Covered Dish Lunch- Family Life Center</b>
	<b>4:00 – 5:30 pm</b> <b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>GriefShare- Ladies' Parlor</b> <b>Pickleball- Family Life Center</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>CDC Teacher Appreciation Week (M-F)</b> <b>Bible Study- Fellowship Hall</b>
Wednesday	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Wednesday Dinner- Fellowship Hall</b> <b>Sounds of Grace rehearsal</b>
Thursday	<b>3:00 pm</b> <b>3:30 pm</b>	<b>CDC Chapel- Rev. Marotta- Sanctuary</b> <b>CDC Chapel- Rev. Marotta- CDC</b>
Friday		<b>Office Closed- Secretary on Vacation</b>
Saturday	<b>9:00 – 11:00 am</b>	<b>Pancake Brunch Fundraiser- Unity Presbyterian</b>

**May 5, 2024**

Every day, as followers of Christ, we stand in the dock as witnesses to the work of the Holy Spirit in us and in others around us. We are called to speak up for Truth, speak out against evil, to share with others our journey of faith. We are all witnesses. The question is do we witness like John or like Judas?

Life of the Church

**WELCOME TO BETHESDA PRESBYTERIAN!** We are glad you're here. We hope all here will feel at home, strengthened in your faith, and that the Lord will be honored as we worship Him and respond in discipleship. If you have special needs, questions about Bethesda, need assistance, or need nursery services, please see one of our Ushers. If you are a guest who has been attending who is interested in becoming a member, we would love for you to see an Usher to discuss what it means to be a Presbyterian and a member of our church. Bethesda is a congregation of the PCUSA.

**2024 FLOWER CHART** is in the Narthex- sign up to place flowers in Sanctuary for Sunday morning worship and, if you wish info in the bulletin on that Sunday, notify Pat at **803-328-1360** or email [bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net) by the previous Tuesday. There will be a plate upfront for people to donate for the **Flower Fund**.

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today in **honor of Michael Wilkerson. To God be the Glory.**

**The 264<sup>th</sup> Homecoming** is today. There will be a covered dish lunch following worship in the Family Life Center.

**GriefShare** will meet today at 4:00 pm in the Ladies' Parlor.

**Bible Study** will meet on Monday at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**Wednesday Dinner** at 6:30 pm.

The **Church Secretary** will be on vacation on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Please leave a message **803-328-1360** or email [bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net).

The **Congregation Life Committee** is sponsoring a **Blood Connection Blood Drive** at Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 4858 McConnells Hwy. York SC 29745 on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 from 2:00 pm until 7:00 pm. It will be in honor of Rachel Ann Taylor, 4-year-old daughter of Daniel and Hannah Jones Taylor and granddaughter of Pat Jones. The Blood Connection will make a donation per donor to go towards Rachel Ann's bills as she continues her treatment for leukemia. Each donor will receive \$40.00 in rewards redeemable for eGift card(s). The goal for the blood drive is 36 signups. 32 signups need to be made a week before the drive. Appointments may be made on-line at [thebloodconnection.org](http://thebloodconnection.org). Sponsor code is 6791. If you have questions, call **803-328-1360** or email [bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net)

The **CE Committee** met and one of our topics on our agenda was the Children's Nursery during church. Our babies/toddlers/young children numbers are growing and this is such a WONDERFUL thing! Due to this need, we now need weekly volunteers to serve in the nursery. Nursery will be provided for those 4 years of age and younger. Volunteers will need to be in the nursery from 10:50 until the end of the service. Please let a CE Committee Member know if you would like to sign up. Thanks!

**Family Fun Day!** May 18 4:00 – 6:00 pm. This event is open to the community. There will be lots of activities for the kids. Free hotdogs will be served. And our very own Sounds of Grace will perform in the picnic shelter. Mark your calendar and plan to attend and bring your neighbors!

**Camp Firelight Vacation Bible School** will be held June 17-20. More information to come.

**Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center** located on Mount Gallant Road in York is hosting a **Pancake Brunch fundraiser** at Unity Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill on May 11 from 9 to 11 AM. All you can eat for whatever you can pay! All proceeds from this event will benefit the ministry of Bethelwoods. Walk-ins welcome but pre-registration is preferred. Register at the Bethelwoods website ([bethelwoods.org](http://bethelwoods.org)). To be a sponsor at this event at either \$100, \$200 or \$300 level please contact Rev. Mia Levetan at [mlevetan@gmail.com](mailto:mlevetan@gmail.com).

Registration for **Bethelwoods Summer Camp** is open at Summer Camp - BETHELWOODS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER. Please visit our website to see the options for your child(ren) this summer! Contact us at [info@bethelwoods.org](mailto:info@bethelwoods.org) or 803-366-3722 for scholarships or with questions.

The Session requests that worshipers refrain from bringing beverages into the sanctuary. Bottled water and cough drops are available in the narthex for an emergent need.

**Plentiful Harvest Kitchen** – Covenant Presbyterian Church –Future dates are May 26, August 11, and October 27

**Plastic Recycling-** We will continue to collect "soft" plastics for our 4<sup>th</sup> bench.

**Sunday Worship is available on the YouTube channel on our website. [www.bethesdapres.org](http://www.bethesdapres.org) Check the Bethesda website for updates, information, and family resources.**

**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.

## SESSION

### Class of 2024

Alberta Anthony  
Mark Boyd  
Cheryl Forlines  
Johnny Walker

### Class of 2025

Debbie Fulmer  
Jim Percival  
Stacy Russell

### Class of 2026

Steve Childers  
Laura Merritt  
Linda Messer

*John Nettles, Clerk of Session*

*Todd Russell, Treasurer*  
*[bethesdatreasurer@comporium.net](mailto:bethesdatreasurer@comporium.net)*



*On-line*  
*Ministry support*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent..... Esther Bailey  
Assistant ..... Adam Cole

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE

Morning (First Thursday of the month 10:00 am – Fellowship Hall)..... Carol Hope

## STAFF

Pastor..... Rev. Dr. Derek S. Marotta

Director of Christian Education..... Laura Merritt  
*[lmerritt22@gmail.com](mailto:lmerritt22@gmail.com)*

Director of Music..... LaRayne Hall  
*[larayneha@gmail.com](mailto:larayneha@gmail.com)*

Secretary/Bookkeeper..... Pat Jones  
*[bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net)*

Sexton..... Donna Hagler