

May, 2020



Bethesda Banner

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

4858 McConnells Hwy.

York, SC 29745

(803)328-1360

Sunday School 9:45 am

Worship Service 11:00 am

(No in-person worship)



*This is a publication of
the people of
Bethesda Presbyterian*

Dear Lord,

We're still hoping we'll wake up. We're still hoping we'll open a sleepy eye and think, "What a horrible dream. How could this have happened?"

Just a moment ago moms were packing school lunches. Just a moment ago chefs were planning the day's menu. Just a moment ago arenas were noisy, brides were walking down the aisle and neighbors were discussing the weather.

In just a moment, everything changed. A phantom disease invaded our peace, our plans, and our security. In a heartbeat, our language and behaviors were upended. Even young children understand the term "social distancing", "quarantine", and "Covid-19". Grandma isn't allowed visitors in her nursing home. Workers are telecommuting, Zooming, and Skyping in their baseball caps and slippers. Handshakes and hugs have been put on indefinite hold.

The strange season has introduced a level of fear we haven't seen since 9/11. Fear of what might come. Fear of touching. Fear of exposure. Fear of what we can't see.

We are anxious, Father. And so we come to you. We don't ask you for help; we beg you for it. We don't request, we implore. We know what you do. We've read the accounts. We've pondered the stories and now we plead, "Do it again, Lord. Do it again".

Remember Joseph? You rescued him from the pit. You can do the same for us. Do it again, Lord.

Remember the Hebrews in Egypt? You protected their children from the angel of death. We have children, too, Lord. Do it again.

And Sarah? Remember her prayers? You heard them. Joshua? Remember his fears? You inspired him. The women at the tomb? You resurrected their hope. The doubts of Thomas? You took them away. Do it again, Lord. Do it again.

You changed Daniel from a captive into a king's counselor. You took Peter the fisherman and made him Peter an apostle. Because of you, David went from leading sheep to leading armies. Do it again, Lord, for we need counselors today. We need apostles. We need leaders. Do it again, dear Lord.

What we're seeing on the news, you saw on that Friday so long ago. Innocence interrupted. Goodness suffering, Mothers weeping. Just as the darkness fell on your Son, we fear the darkness falling on our friends, our family, our world. Just as our world has been shaken by a disease, our world was shaken the day the very child of Eternity was pierced.

You saw it. But you did not waver, O Lord. You did not waver. After your Son's three days in a dark hole, you rolled the rock and rumbled the earth and turned the darkest Friday into the brightest Sunday. Do it again, Lord. Grant us another Easter.

We thank you, dear Father, for these hours of unity. Selfless acts of service and kindness warm our hearts. Strangers see opportunities to share with others. Our medical warriors are working together, at personal risk, to care for the rest of us. We thank you for their remarkable commitment.

And we see the world turning to you, Father. People encouraging people with scriptures and reminders of your sovereignty. We read posts urging us to respect each other, care for each other, and look up. We confess we have been anxious, but because of you, we have hope.

We ask, Father: let your mercy be upon all who suffer. Grant to those who lead us wisdom beyond their years and experience. Have mercy upon the souls who have been hurt by this disease. Give us grace to help each other and faith that we might believe.

And look kindly upon your church. For two thousand years, you've used her to heal a hurting world.

Do it again, Lord, Do it again.

Through Christ,

Amen.

Max Lucado: A coronavirus prayer - "Do it again, Lord"

March 22, 2020

At this time, we continue to have no in-person worship.
The session will keep monitoring the situation.
Services will be posted on bethesdapres.org each
Sunday along with any updates.



CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Praise and thanksgiving for the safe delivery of twins born to **Katie & Matt McCoy** on Thursday, April 16, 2020. Proud grand-parents are **Jim & Lisa Percival**. Wyatt weighed 5 lb. 5 oz. and Madelyn weighed 5 lb. 12 oz. They were born 5 1/2 weeks early. Wyatt is being monitored for his heart issue. Pray he will not need surgery. Madelyn is on oxygen part of the time. Pray for her breathing and that the twins will continue to grow and will be released soon.

Katie and Matt have been able to visit the twins daily at the hospital.

Congratulations to **Hannah & Daniel Taylor** on the birth of their daughter, Rachel Ann Taylor. Rachel was born on March 30, 2020. Proud grandparents are **Pat & Jimmy Jones**.





May Birthdays



- 1 Kitty Sharpe
- 2 Pat Lauckner, Kevin Walker
- 3 Christy Johnston
- 6 Lane Russell
- 8 Christopher Blaikie
- 10 Cheryl Forlines, Nell Glover,
Cadence Lackey
- 11 Jean Blaikie
- 15 Josh Faulkenberry, Robert Feller, Sr.,
Cayden McDaniel
- 16 Chase Hope
- 17 Hailey Carter
- 19 Josiah Walker
- 20 Lily Hull, Logan Johnston
- 21 Sully Foy
- 22 Charlie Jenkins
- 23 Donavon Burns
- 26 Ray Johnson
- 28 Josh Teno
- 29 Lauren Hibbard

Congratulations to our Graduates!!!

Sidney Russell
York Preparatory Academy

Alan Smith
Furman University

Micah Hancock
Coker University

Laura Smith
Winthrop University



Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Bill Dover
Michelle Melton
Sonny Moore
Mike Percival
Ruth Rawdon-back surgery
Steve Rawdon
Carolyn Rockholt
Madelyn & Wyatt McCoy

Homebound

Robert Jones
Billie Ann Burton

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

In the Community and Beyond

Mary Parkman (friend of Walkers) stomach cancer
Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)
Dorothy Hazard (LaRayne's sister-in-law)
Ed Beam (Cecelia Alexander's brother-in-law)
Randy Ransom
Heidi Benton
Ellen and Kenny Green
Scott McDaniel (Bill Dover's son-in-law)
Christine Roberts
Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus
Chris Brackett - cancer
Karen Rescigno (Donna Hagler's cousin - breast cancer)
Barbara Good (Debbie Darby's mother)
Kathy Gale (Debbie Simpson's friend)
Edna Rhinehart (Carolyn Rockholt's sister)
Vivian Fulmer (Bobby's mother)
Amanda Hall (LaRayne's daughter)
Russ Branch (Dorothy Williamson's great-nephew)
Doris Duncan (Christine McCraven's mother) ALS
Mattie Thomas (granddaughter of Jim Percival's cousin)
Bryan Good (Debbie Darby's brother)
Casey Lane (Nancy Smith's nephew, dialysis)
Eddie Gregory (cancer)
Dugan Meredith (t-cell lymphoma)
Tommy Ligon (Carol Hope's cousin - cancer)
Karen Blaikie (Doug's sister-in-law - cancer)

Thank you!

Dear Prayer Shawl Ladies,

The shawl you gave me is beautiful. Thank you so much. I stay cold all the time now so it sure comes in handy. You ladies do a beautiful shawl and have blessed many people with one. What a blessed ministry. Thanks again so much. Take care and stay safe.

Love,
Patsy

Thank you for the visits, cards, and prayers during my mother's (Amelia Boyd Simmers) recent declining health and death. It was greatly appreciated.

The Mark Boyd Family

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Email: bethesda@comporium.net

Website: www.bethesdapres.org

*"I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from? My
help comes from the Lord, the Maker
of heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121: 1-2

Our Pastor:

Rev. Doug Blaikie

Our Elders:

Ralph Adams

Trudy Amick

Ernice Bookout

Mark Boyd

Steve Childers

Bobby Fulmer

Irvin Jones

Linda Messer

Jim Percival

Stacy Russell

Debbie Simpson

Dorothy Williamson

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:

Secretary/Bookkeeper - Pat Jones Director of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall

Interim Director of Children/Youth Ministries

Caretaker - Mike Percival

Sexton - Donna Hagler