

April, 2020



Bethesda Banner

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

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

No in-person worship at this time. Services will be posted on YouTube each Sunday. Check www.bethesdapres.org for updates.

I hope this finds all of you safe and well. The past few weeks have been a whirlwind of change for us all. I was reading in the book of Acts this week, chapter 8, where the church was being persecuted and scattered. Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. So there was great joy in that city (verse 8). I hope that you are finding and experiencing great joy, too. Easter is quickly approaching and Lent is almost over. I would have never thought that I would be giving up church for Lent this year. Lent has taken on a new meaning for me. I usually just pick something to give up or something new to take on. But this year, because of COVID19, we've all had to give up church. No Sunday church worship, no Wednesday night gatherings, no Sunday School, no Thursday Bible study, no choir practice...the list goes on of the things that are dear to us. During Lent, we long for the "thing" that we've given up and that's supposed to turn our thoughts to the Lord and what He's done for us. Having to give up "church" has really changed my thinking and has me longing more than ever before for God's presence in my life. But not being able to go to church is not all bad. When was the last time that you were really looking for ways to stay connected with your church family? What kinds of activities have you been able to come up with while we social distance ourselves? COVID19 has put these thoughts at the top of my list. With today's technology we can still interact with each other without having to be together. We can still help those in our community and church family that need help. When the church was scattered in Acts, they witnessed and loved the ones they were around. Doing that, they found great joy! Have you found your joy yet! It's out there!

Still in His service,

Steve Childers

The church is not a building, the church is the PEOPLE!



From our pastor:

The early church was no stranger to plagues, epidemics, and mass hysteria. In fact, according to both Christian and also non-Christian accounts, one of the main catalysts for the church's explosive growth in its early years was how Christians navigated disease, suffering, and death.

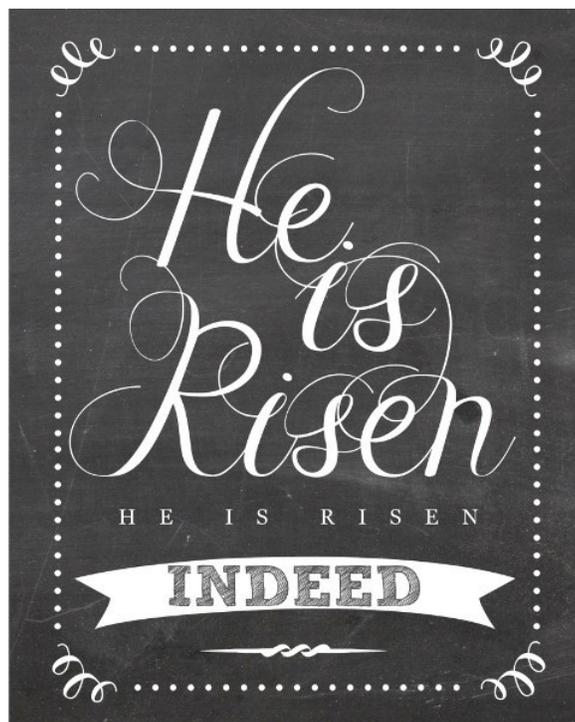
In AD 249 to 262, Western civilization was devastated by one of the deadliest pandemics in its history. Though the exact cause of the plague is uncertain the city of Rome was said to have lost an estimated 5,000 people a day at the height of the outbreak. According to historical records of that terrible time Christians responded by ministering to the sick, attending to their needs, and even sheltering them. Conversely many others avoided the sick at all costs even to the point of throwing them into the street and ignoring their cries.

Now centuries later we are facing a new plague, a pandemic circling the globe. And the question comes, how can we, Christ's disciples, respond in a different time but with the same grace and love. Perhaps we can begin by not giving into the fear and panic that often drives others over the edge into a place that causes harm. Instead we can model peace and understanding and hope in the midst of this troubling time. We might also seek to sacrificially serve our neighbors by prudently abiding by the advice of medical professionals to help slow the spread of the disease. Instead of just our own health we should prioritize the health of the wider community, especially the most vulnerable citizens, by exercising an abundance of caution without perpetuating fear, hysteria, or misinformation.

As Easter comes may we, like those disciples so many centuries ago, come to symbolize to others that with the risen Christ we have nothing to fear. Because our Savior defeated death let us proclaim by our actions and words that we are never alone or forsaken. The stone has been rolled away and Christ is risen and so in every street corner of our journey of life, Jesus is already there!

Happy Easter! God bless you!

Doug



Bethesda has suspended "in-person" worship services until April 19th. Bethesda will provide a weekly Sunday worship service on YouTube.

All regular church programs and activities will be suspended until further notice.

Please access the Bethesda website www.bethesdapres.org for all updates, information and family worship resources during this time.

Who is my Elder Shepherd?

Each member of the congregation has an Elder Shepherd. The Elder Shepherd's job is to stay in contact and pray for the members who have been placed in their fold. If you have any concerns, prayer requests or needs, don't hesitate to reach out to your Shepherd or the church office. If you don't know who your Elder Shepherd is, a list is located on the church website, www.bethesdapres.org or you may contact the church office.



With Deepest Sympathy

Please keep the following families in your prayers as they have lost loved ones:

The family of Edith Gordon who passed away on 3/17/20

The family of Larry Burton who passed away on 3/29/20. Larry is the husband of Billie Ann Burton and the father of Beth Smith.

The family of Amelia Harris Simmers who passed away on 3/31/20. Amelia is the mother of Mark Boyd.

From the Matias Family:

Hello dear friends,

Many people have reached out to us asking how we are in the midst of this crazy COVID19 pandemic. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Thankfully we are well. We are savoring the extra time together as a family while quarantined at home and diligently helping our girls adjust to doing schoolwork online. Jessie is in 1st grade and Sophia is in 3rd grade at an American school here, and they have lots of assignments to do in order to keep up-to-speed with their studies. Josiah is 3 years old and Annabelle is 9 months old.

Please pray for protection over our family (especially Josiah as he has asthma) and Felipe's mother who is 64 and has other health issues.

Please also pray for the lower income population in Brazil. Our ministry here is to the poor, specifically to children and families living in the slums.

Please pray for God to use this moment in history. May this global crisis cause people to seek to know the Lord, hear the good news of Christ and come to faith in Him - here in Brazil and all over the world. Pray for God to use us to share the gospel message here, and it is our prayer that God will use you to share about Christ and bring hope in your corner of the world.

May we all find comfort, peace and hope in Christ and His Word, now and always.

With lots of love from Brazil: Laura, Felipe, Sophia, Jessie, Josiah and Annabelle

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

James Anthony Jr. (kidney surgery, 3/4/20)
 Anita Ferguson Buffolino
 Bill Dover
 Michelle Melton
 Sonny Moore
 Mike Percival
 Ruth Rawdon-back surgery
 Steve Rawdon
 Carolyn Rockholt
 Eddie Allan Smith
 Nancy M. Smith (foot ulcer)

Homebound

Robert Jones

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
 Tito Palacios (La Mision)

Deaths

Eddie Gregory - 3/3/20
 Tina Myrick - 3/7/20
 Edith Gordon - 3/17/20
 Larry Burton - 3/29/20
 Amelia Simmers - 3/30/20

In the Community and Beyond

Mary Parkman (friend of Walkers) stomach cancer
 Katie & Matt McCoy (expecting twins) Jim & Lisa Percival's daughter
 Mike Bender (David Bender's father)
 Joe Ligon (Carol Hope's uncle) 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)
 Casey Lane (Nancy Smith's nephew, dialysis)
 Dugan Meredith (t-cell lymphoma)
 Karen Blaikie (Doug's sister-in-law - cancer)

March Attendance

	Morning Worship	Sunday School
3/1/20	48	41
3/8/20	50	33
3/15/20	37	10
3/22/20	32	No SS
3/29/20	No 'in-person", online only	

Thank you!

Just a quick note of thanks for the recent gift to Thornwell from the great folks at Bethesda. We continue to pray for you all at this time.

Please remember the young people and families we serve.

Blessings,

Buddy Ferguson

Thank you so much for the beautiful blanket you made for our little Charlotte! She loves being wrapped in it. It is so warm! We appreciate you thinking of our little family!

Love,

Josh, Ashley and Charlotte

The family of Walter "Doc" Jonas acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. Thank you for the food and all of the continued prayers!

Jonas Family



April Birthdays



- 1 Emily Darby
- 2 Elizabeth Ann Walker
- 6 Frank Allen
- 7 Immanuel Rowland
- 8 Margaret Moore
- 9 Alissa Sternagle
- 10 Sean Goodband
- 11 Bill Johnson
- 13 Don Faris
- 14 Asa Sternagle
- 17 Keith Dover
- 18 Justin Rowland
- 21 Pierce Dewey
- 23 Daniel Blaikie
- 24 Doug Blaikie, Joe Forlines
- 25 Billy Johnston, Jr.
- 28 Todd Russell

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Phone: (803)328-1360

Email: bethesda@comporium.net

Website: www.bethesdapres.org

*"For God so loved the world
That he gave his only son
That whosoever believes in Him
Shall not perish
But have everlasting life."*

John 3:16

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

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