

June, 2020



Bethesda Banner

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

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

**In-person worship will
begin on June 14 at
10:00 am. No Sunday
School or Nursery.
Check**

**www.bethesdapres.org
for updates.**



Dear Friends,

Last night our Session met and made a prayerful decision to begin “in person” worship in the Sanctuary on Sunday, June 14. Please know that this is just an initial step as we begin our journey back to a worship service without any restrictions. Our service will begin at 10:00 am and will be 45 minutes in length. At this time, there will be no Sunday School. We will enter and exit through the side entrance of the church which will prevent any overcrowding in the narthex. Hand sanitizer will be provided at the entry door. If you feel that you would like to wear a mask, we would encourage you to do so. In fact, if for some reason you did not bring one of your own, we have a number available for you to use. Of course, family groups may sit together, but the Session asks you to maintain social distancing outside of your family for the duration of the service. Our elders on duty will usher you to your seat and only every other pew will be utilized. As you enter or leave the Sanctuary, there will be designated places where you can leave your offering. During the service we will enjoy instrumental music and refrain from singing. And, when the service is over, we will dismiss row by row. A more detailed plan of worship will be posted on the website www.bethesdapres.org

Certainly if you don’t feel safe in venturing out yet, we understand and encourage you to continue to stay home and be safe. The service will be recorded every Sunday and available for you to view within a day or two. In addition, I will continue to offer a weekly Bible study on YouTube and invite you to listen in. Again, this is only a first step toward normalcy in our worship together. The Session will continue to monitor the situation during the pandemic and together we will continue our journey towards a worship where these worries are behind us and just a memory.

We are grateful for your continued support of Bethesda and ask for your prayers as we make this journey together. Remember, as we go through these days in Christ, we have everything to hope for and nothing to fear.

God bless you!

Doug

Thoughts on “closing the church”

Have you given any thought to what **did** happen when the Session of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, York, voted to stop in-door worship services and other church-related activities? Well, I can tell you that the church did **not** close! Keep reading to learn what has been happening!

Great things have been going on for the last two months and will continue in many ways when we all return to “normal”. The congregation has continued to show Christian *love* and *service* by performing acts of kindness (calls, prayers, distant visits, notes, errands, etc.) The list is too long, but here are some ways that may not be obvious especially if you have not been reading the bulletin and visiting the church website or watching on YouTube. Of course, Rev. Blaikie has delivered his weekly sermons on-line in the same dynamic way we are familiar with. He has also added a weekly Bible study on the book of James. Thanks to John and Ricky for creatively providing video for each service. This includes our being able to see and hear our talented LaRayne, who has carried the dual load of soloist and music director. Her music is such a blessing. If you have not tuned in to the children’s time, then you have missed a real blessing under the leading of Karen, Elizabeth and Carolann with the help of their family. Karen and the girls have become script writers and performers, delivering creative lessons for us all.

But that is not all! Pat has worked full-time to complete all administrative services. You are reading this newsletter thanks to Steve and Sarah. Every detail related to finances has been overseen by Todd. Caretaker Mike, with several volunteers, has worked tirelessly to maintain the buildings and grounds. A special thanks to the Russell boys and others who have helped cut grass, etc. No one should be fearful of germs in the sanctuary and elsewhere thanks to the hours and effort Donna, sexton, has spent cleaning, cleaning, **and** cleaning again every pew, door, etc. Trudy, property chair, and her family along with other volunteers completely redid the two nurseries, including new paint, carpet and furnishing, all to welcome our little ones to a safe environment.

Of course, the Child Development Center has long been a wonderful outreach for the church. Under the direction of Cindy, Dawn and other faithful staff, the center is preparing to reopen the first week of June. Many improvements have been made such as painting classrooms, bathrooms, and replacing lights in the gym area. Parents can be assured that the greatest care has been given to welcome all back to a clean, safe place.

Clerk of Session, John, and Rev. Blaikie have kept the Session updated on all guidelines from the CDC and the Presbyterian Church during meeting and traveling restrictions. Please pray as the Session prayerfully deliberates how and when to safely resume regular worship.

Remember to thank all these workers. Stay tuned, stay safe and look forward to the new normal as soon as possible.

God bless one and all,

Dorothy Williamson

The church is not a building

The church is the people





June Birthdays



- 2 Sonny Moore
- 3 Grayson Darby, III
- 6 Todd Hagler
- 7 Ralph Adams, Gail Boyd
- 8 Chuck Barton
- 12 Debbie Darby
- 14 Lewis Jordan
- 17 Linda Messer, Marlien Russell
- 21 Pam Jordan
- 23 Quinton Cole
- 24 Jim Carter, Jr.
- 25 Laura Smith
- 27 Tyson Medlin
- 28 Wes Hibbard, Tony McKinney
- 29 David Bailey, Beth Smith
- 30 Leah Rowland

Dear Bethesda congregation,

Bethesda's PNC has been working for over a year. The process of finding a pastor takes time and careful consideration. During this time, we have looked at 156 PIF's (Pastor Information Forms). We have listened to hundreds of sermons by perspective pastors. We have corresponded through email with numerous pastors to find out if they are interested in a call to Bethesda. We have had phone interviews with 3 people and 3 more upcoming interviews. Because of COVID-19, we are not able to personally visit the churches and meet with the pastors. Please know that we are prayerfully considering each pastor and trying to make sure we pick the best leader for Bethesda. We are continuing to look over more PIF's. We need your prayers. Please pray for us to be led by the Holy Spirit as we seek to find the person God has chosen for Bethesda.

We miss all of you and pray that you and your family are well. Thank you for your support in our task of finding our next pastor at Bethesda.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee,

Susan Hibbard, John Nettles, Valerie Bull, Donna Hagler, Cindy Davis, Stacy Russell, Jim Percival and Irvin Jones

Thank You

Dear Prayer Shawl Committee of Bethesda
(especially Peggy & Ernice),

Thank you so much for the beautiful baby blankets for Baby Duke. What a special and important ministry - to wrap people in God's love and a community's prayers! We will love using them and will think of you!

Grace & Peace,
Anna and Brian

Thank you so much to the kind folks of Bethesda for your continuing support of Thornwell. You inspire us with your dedication to ministry. Please know that we continue to pray for you and are honored to be an extension of your church.

Buddy

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Ed Williamson
 Phil Hughes (leukemia)
 Cheryl Hughes (acute back pain)
 Anita Ferguson Buffolino
 Bill Dover
 Michelle Melton
 Sonny Moore
 Mike Percival
 Steve Rawdon
 Carolyn Rockholt

Homebound

Amelia Simmers
 Robert Jones

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
 Tito Palacios (La Mision)

In the Community and Beyond

Wyatt McCoy (Jim & Lisa Percival's grandson)
 Bethany Childers (11 yrs. old, dravet epilepsy & surgery, Donna Hagler's friend)
 Carmine Scarpelli (soft tissue lymph gland testing)
 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
 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)



Bethesda's Food Pantry

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Food Pantry! The purpose of the pantry is to provide basic food or hygiene items for individuals or families that are experiencing a serious financial hardship due to unemployment or other dire situations. They are unable to provide adequate and nutritional meals for themselves or families at the time the request is made. The pantry is stocked by the donations of the congregation or other generous persons. Donations of non-perishable foods, paper products, personal hygiene items, cash or gift cards from a specific grocery store (other than Wal-Mart) are welcomed. They may be dropped off in the church office Monday through Friday from 9 am to 1 pm.

To request a box of items from the Pantry, you may contact Pat Jones in the church office (803-328-1360 or bethesda@comporium.net), the pastor or Edie Nettles (803-684-2759 or eagnettles@gmail.com)

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

4858 McConnells Highway

York, SC 29745

Phone: (803)328-1360

Email: bethesda@comporium.net

Website: www.bethesdapres.org

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

*"Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
Ephesians 2:20-22*

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