

February, 2021



Bethesda Banner

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

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

**No in-person worship at
this time.**

Visit

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



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

“Here’s to the year that’s awa’.” That’s the first line of an old Scottish song for New Year’s: let’s drink to the year that has passed. No one wants to toast 2020 - some have even referred to it as a “trash year.” The pandemic, the job losses that came with it, the election that refused to be over, all made for a challenging year for the nation and for the world. The stress was cumulative. Mental health workers report a huge increase in the numbers of people seeking help. And all that is apart from the personal crises that don’t stop because there’s a pandemic. All in all, it’s not hard to be glad that 2020 is behind us.

But here at the end of January, I can feel the hope that is in the air. Vaccinations have begun and we are thankful that the vulnerable in our midst will begin to feel safe from the virus. Of course we look forward to the day when we don’t have to worry about being in a crowd or seeing loved ones.

But I don’t believe that we should just forget 2020 or the lessons it taught us. Hopefully the past months have made us more thankful in just being together. Through these times we have gained wisdom on how to avoid sickness and how to protect others. But on a deeper level our faith has always taught us that our Lord can always bring hope out of sadness and strength when we are weak. It is my hope and prayer that all of us have emerged stronger and more loving from these last months.

We still often refer to the numbering of our years in relation to the birth of Christ. This last year was “2020 A.D.” — anno domini, “in the year of the Lord..” Every year is a year of the Lord. Every year is a year of grace. That includes 2020. The fact that we are here to look back and reflect on the “year that’s awa” is a reason to give thanks to God. We may call years “good” or “bad”. But years are just a series of days that come one at a time. And every new day is a gift from God.

As we journey into this year may we remember that. May we hold fast to the faith that proclaims no matter what may come, 2021 will be another “year of the Lord”. Our God is always with us, in all circumstances, through every year of our lives. The birth of Jesus is the promise of Emmanuel - God is with us.

God bless you,

Doug

Socially Distanced ~ Spiritually Connected

One of the hardest disciplines of being “Socially Distanced” is remaining “Spiritually connected”. As disciples of Christ, we need to **be** together. We need to be together in worship, in scripture study and in communion and fellowship with each other. Take a moment this week and visit the Bethesda website. The Bethesda website is our church family’s spiritual connection point. As you open the connection portal you see updates on In-person worship, the weekly worship bulletin, a direct link to our YouTube Channel, a direct link to the weekly Bible study and a connection to family worship resources for strengthening our “at home” spiritual life. Perhaps you or someone you know is struggling to stay spiritually connected during this time. Invite them to Join us in fellowship and join us in Christ at bethesdapres.org

The screenshot shows the Bethesda Presbyterian Church website. At the top, it says "WELCOME TO BETHESDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH" with a logo on the right. Below that, it says "RE FORMED IN CHRIST" and provides the church's address: "4858 McConnells Hwy. York, S.C. 29745". It also mentions "EST. 1760" and "ORG. 1769". A central message states "JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP ~ JOIN US IN CHRIST" and "IN-PERSON WORSHIP SUSPENDED" with an update to "In Person" worship as of 01/01/21. There are links for "This Week's Message" (Sunday January 31, 2021) and "CONNECT WITH US ANY TIME ONLINE" (Worship, Bible Study, Sounds of Grace). A YouTube icon is also present. A link for "Weekly Bible Study" is provided. At the bottom, there are two sections: "CHILDREN'S CHURCH WITH MY FAMILY" and "ADULT BIBLE STUDY".

Children’s Church with My Family

This connection provides weekly scripture lessons and activities for family worship with our children and youth.

Adult Bible Study

This connection provides a path for adults to grow together in God’s Holy Word. On this site you will find a connection a monthly devotional, connection to weekly and past on-line Bible Studies led by pastor Doug.

On **January 17th** the Session met and approved the following actions:

1. **In-person worship and church activities would remain suspended at this time and would be re-evaluated again at the February Session meeting **February 21st**.**
2. **Due to the COVID -19 pandemic, The Annual congregational meeting which is normally held in February, is being delayed until the congregation can conduct in-person worship again.**

Bethesda will continue to post weekly on-line worship and Bible study on our YouTube channel. Please continue to monitor your email and the Bethesda website for the latest information and updates.

Let us continue in prayer for the church, the nation and our Bethesda family.

	<u>Morning Worship</u>		<u>Bible Study</u>	
	In-person	On-line	In-person	On-line
1/3/21	No In-Person Worship	159		
1/10/21	No In-Person Worship	52		15
1/17/21	No In-Person Worship	48		33
1/24/21	No In-Person Worship	166		6

Congratulations! Bethesda has collected 500 pounds of plastics over the past four months! Our first bench will be ordered soon. We will continue collecting “soft” plastic until we reach another 500 pounds for a second bench. Please remember to bring only “soft” plastic which means it can be balled up in your hands. No plastic bottles, jugs, food containers, etc. Again, it has to be soft enough to be balled up in your hands.



February Birthdays

- 5** Billie Burton, Samuel Dover, Debbie Simpson, Lisa Teska
- 7** Sarah Childers, Will Jenkins, Deloras Melton
- 8** Charlotte Faulkenberry , Colby Wallace
- 9** Carolyn Adkins
- 10** LaRayne Hall, Jim Rohr, Jackie Varnadore
- 13** Bill Dover, Danny Nettles
- 16** Mary Joe Gardner, Sarah Russell
- 17** Nettie Daves
- 23** Valerie Bull
- 24** Gail Jones
- 25** Gloria Anne Hope
- 26** Axel Sternagle

Thank you!

We are so thankful for the recent gift from the great folks at Bethesda. We are honored to partner with you in ministry. Please know that we pray daily for your health and safety. Please call me at any time to learn how your gift allows us to continue to serve.

Buddy Ferguson, Thornwell

Bethelwoods- News and Updates- Thank you so much for all of the love and support we have received throughout this difficult year. We are eagerly planning for 2021. Summer 2021 Staff Applications are now open. If you know of any college age students who have a love of Christ and a passion for working with children, send them over to our website to fill out an application. Interviews will begin in mid- January. Questions, email info@bethelwoods.org or call 803-366-3722.

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Billie Ann Burton
Margaret Moore
Lou Anne Hildebrand (back pain)
Ray Johnson (Westminster)
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Bill Dover
Michelle Melton
Steve Rawdon
PNC Committee

Homebound

Robert Jones

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

Deaths

Family and friends of
Sonny Moore, 1/27/21

"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. Any why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him."

John 3 16-18 (msg)

In the Community and Beyond

Brian Hughes (in North Dakota) - Covid/Pneumonia
Heath, cancer (3 yr. old friend of Tara Rogers)
Ella Kingston (Lou Anne's 2 yr. old friend (genetic disorder)
Karen Starkey, cancer
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)
Ellen Green
Scott McDaniel (Bill Dover's son-in-law)
Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus
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)
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)
Tommy Ligon (Carol Hope's cousin - cancer)
Karen Blaikie (Doug's sister-in-law - cancer)
Cheryl Hughes, spine surgery
Gayle Russell Zeola (in intensive care - critical condition)
Tyler Jackson (Cindy's grandson) COVID-19 complications and on medical leave Marine Corp
Merritt King (Rocky's brother-in-law) ICU - COVID 19
Jerry Knight
Jessie Mitchell (Childers' friend) cancer

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Website: www.bethesdapres.org

*"Such love has no fear, because perfect love
expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of
punishment, and this shows that we have not
fully experienced His perfect love."*

John 4:18

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 - Karen Percival

Sexton - Donna Hagler