

March, 2022



Bethesda Banner

With the arrival of spring comes the arrival of a new season in the church's life; a season that we do not speak about much. Lent. Even though the two seasons speak about the same Lord, they are quite different from each other. Let's notice the difference here for just a moment.

Advent is four glory-filled weeks. In Advent, with Christmas Trees lit, and candles distributed, and ugly sweaters on, we sing of the incarnation of Jesus Christ. In Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace we prepare our homes (and our church) for the arrival of the baby whose life and work will reconcile us to His Father in heaven. . .

Lent though is different.

For starters Lent is six weeks in length, and beginning on March 2nd, the tenor of our worship will be different. Lent asks us to live differently. Normally joyful hymns will be replaced by ones whose words are stark and poignant and speak strongly about what is to come on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Instead of "*Glory to the Newborn King!*" we will sing, "*Ride on, Ride on in Majesty, Ride on to die.*"

We don't decorate the church in Lent. While we may hang banners that reference the suffering savior, that mood is balanced by an understanding that the grave could not hold Him. The stone will be rolled away.

While Advent culminates in the joy of Christmas, Easter feels so far away, so untouchable, as Lent begins. Our services will be serious and our hearts should feel different in Lent.

In Lent, we are asked by God to be introspective, still, contrite, honest, and reflective. Tradition tells us in Lent to consider why Jesus had to suffer? We are asked in Lent to silently wonder about the role we, and our sin, play in His death? And while we would say today that we would never deny Christ as Peter did, our behaviors in Lent, and our considerations and reflections, make us wonder at that statements validity.

And so in Lent this year I wonder if you might find some time for a Lenten discipline? In more traditional language will you give something up for Lent?

Often I have joked with the youth of the church that I am giving up sinning for Lent. This makes them laugh because as soon as I say that idea, I am lying, and so I am sinning. But more seriously, what would it look like if God asked you to give something up for Lent? And how might you be called to make that choice and live into it?

I have a friend who gives up chocolate every year for Lent. Then he goes out and buys the biggest candy bar that he can find. It comes with him to church on Easter morning, and after worship, as we greet one another, he eats the candy bar in celebration. It makes people laugh, but he is fasting for Lent so that he might have time to be more spiritual introspective and prayerful before God. As he fasts, he spends time in prayer and reflection.

But there is another choice that God might ask you to make. . . What about giving up, NOT doing something. (Read that again). In this case I know another person who in Lent adds something to her life in order to become more service oriented in Christ. She reflectively, prayerfully, considers how might God be asking her to live differently in Lent and then she lives that out for those 6 weeks. One year she gave up, not going to visit members of the church who were sick—she visited the sick which was something that she didn't do enough. She and I spoke about this and decided that this was the best way forward for her.

Lent is not just the time to stop drinking coffee, or eating chocolate, or trying eat more healthy. As we spend time with God, Lent can also be a time where we lean into practices of faithfulness because we realize how much God has done for us by sending Jesus to the cross.

I hope that you will find some time this Lenten season to engage in a holy Lent of disciplines. . . and as you do. . . I hope that you and God come closer together.

Blessings,
Rev. Derek

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

4858 McConnells Hwy.

York, SC 29745

(803)328-1360

Sunday School 9:45 am

Worship 11 am

Visit

www.bethesdapres.org
for updates.



This is a publication of
the people of
Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Helping our neighbors:

Food Pantry - a basket will be available weekly in the vestibule for donations to the Food Pantry. There will also be a basket in the Fellowship Hall for those who wish to make contributions at the [Wednesday Night Dinners](#). Please bring non perishable food items to help us provide for the hungry. These items are distributed to people who request help through the Bethesda Benevolence Fund and also delivered regularly to local food distribution organizations. Thank you for your contributions to this ministry.

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen 2022 date: April 24, 2022

Feed the Hungry: Mobile Food Pantry Sites March 2022

March 4, 9:00 am - St. Matthew AME Zion Church, 539 Lige Street, Rock Hill

March 30, 9:00 am - Jerusalem Baptist Church, 435 Farris Road, Clover

Missions and Outreach Report - February 2022

Presbyterian Women's Circles:

Card Ministry

Purchased a New Dishwasher for the Manse

Donations to:

Thornwell

Presbyterian Home

Tito Palacios and La Mission in Guatemala

The Matias Family in Brazil

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Lap Afghan Presented

Baby Blanket Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Meals Prepared and Delivered to Individuals

Opened Fellowship Hall for Burial of Jule Rogers

Food Items Collected for Food Pantry

Benevolence Fund

Installation of Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta as Pastor of Bethesda Presbyterian Church



Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta will be formally installed as Pastor of Bethesda Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary of Bethesda Presbyterian Church. Providence Presbytery will organize and conduct this service of installation. Installation is an act of the presbytery establishing the pastoral relationship and is conducted in the context of worship. Members of Bethesda are invited to attend this installation service.

The installation service will be followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall hosted by Bethesda. We plan to serve finger foods and beverages. A sign up sheet will be placed in the vestibule beginning Sunday, March 13 so that church members may sign up to help provide refreshments for the reception. Please sign up to let us know what you would like to bring. Thank you in advance for your help with this celebration.

Session Highlights for February, 2022

The Session met on Sunday February 27, 2022. Ten of twelve members were present. Reverend Marotta provide a working session for Elders to reflect on John 11:55-12:8. The monthly financial report and committee reports were received as information.

It was reported by the Christian Education committee that a Communicants class is being organized by pastor Marotta. Communicants will be paired with an Elder to mentor and walk through the process with the communicants.

The following motions were brought before the Session for action and approved.

Property Committee:

A request to grant permission for the DAR to place a marker at the entrance of Church near the cemetery.

A request to have section 6 of the cemetery surveyed.

A request to accept a proposal from Doug Far to have an annual contract to perform monthly grounds work.

A request to remove the grounds keeper line item out of budget.

Receive a gift of decking to be placed off of the side door of the fellowship hall.

A motion to table a request to rehang the portraits of the former Bethesda pastors in the refurbished Session room allowing the Property Committee additional time to develop a proposal for additional options for placing these portraits elsewhere on the church property.

Worship Committee:

A request to hold communion on May on 1st as a part of Homecoming Celebration.

A motion was made to remain seated during the morning worship postlude followed by the benediction.

Motion to remove the COVID Restrictions from the Sanctuary with the exception of the passing of the peace.

The following new joys came before the Session

The Session approved a request to accept the membership transfer of Jennifer and Emma Marotta from Plains Presbyterian to Bethesda Presbyterian

We have had several requests for individuals to join the fellowship of Bethesda these include baptism, reaffirmation of faith, and transfer from the "Other Participant" role to the "active" membership role.

*John Nettles
Clerk of Session*



Confirmation/Communicants' Classes will begin on March 20. For more information, contact the church office or Rev. Marotta.

Bethesda will host a blood drive on March 29 from 2-7 pm. Mark your calendars. More information to come.

The Worship Committee is looking to build a list of persons in the military so we can do a better job of outreach and contact. These persons do not have to be members or directly related to anyone in the church, but if you have connections to such persons, please provide names, addresses, and a brief blurb about the person and where and how he/ she is serving our country. Questions? Contact Alberta Anthony or Dorothy Williamson.



Have you thought of honoring someone by putting flowers in the church for Worship Service? It is as easy as signing up on the flower chart in the church vestibule or by calling the church office to see if a specific date is available. Flowers are a great way to say that you care, and they beautify the sanctuary on Sunday morning. Let the office know what you want put in the bulletin.

Dimes for Hunger Update

We have received a letter of thanks in appreciation of our donation of \$600 in 2021 for Dimes for Hunger. The total offering collected by Providence Presbytery in 2021 was \$51,819.21. Half of this amount, \$25,909.61, will be used by our partners in Chester, Kershaw, Lancaster, Union, and York Counties to provide food for the hungry. The other half, 25,901.60, will help provide food assistance through our partners in Guatemala, Honduras, and Malawi. Since Dimes for Humber began in 1977, Providence Presbytery has shared \$1892.571.61 to offer hope and love to our hungry neighbors here at home and in other parts of God's world.

Bethesda Presbyterian Women will meet for a Salad Supper and brief program on Sunday, March 20th at 4 p.m. All ladies are invited. Please bring your favorite salad and join us.

March Verse to Remember

**" Many are the plans in the mind of a man,
but it is the purpose of the Lord
that will stand."**

Proverbs 19:21



March Birthdays



3	Lisa Percival, Alan Smith, Sr.
4	Edie Nettles
5	Christina Joniaux-Villacreses
6	Jennifer Marotta, Lane Russell
7	Joni Walker
9	Mills Sharpe
18	Charles Williamson, IV
19	Conor Goodband
22	Irvin Jones
25	Katie Burns, Ainsley Darby, III
27	Dorothy Williamson
28	Steven Dickson
29	Chad Russell
31	Karen Boyd

February Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School	Online Worship
2/6/22	51	24	34
2/13/22	47	26	24
2/20/22	41	24	35
2/27/22	56	28	N/A

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Donna Hagler
Eddie Smith
Steve Childers (surgery on March 17)
Ricky & Debbie Simpson & Family
Ina Oates - under Hospice care at home
Krystal Jordan - testing & eye surgery at Duke
Frank Allen
Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Bill Dover
Steve & Ruth Rawdon
Eddie Allan Smith (back)

Births:

2/6/22 - Kathleen Elizabeth Hider, daughter of Caroline & Chris Hider, great granddaughter of Mary Jo Gardner.
2/11/22 - Stella Grace Bailey, daughter of Zack & Jessica Bailey, great granddaughter of David & Esther Bailey.
2/4/22 - Evan William Bright, son of Nick & Megan Bright, , great grandson of Jerry & Gayle Dickson.

Deaths:

Jule Rogers, 2/1/22 (burial at Bethesda Cemetery)
Mary Simpson, 2/7/22 (Ricky's mother)

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

At Bethesda Child Development Center

Cynthia Jackson, Dawn Westmoreland, Gracie Arnold, Esther Bailey, Jamie Baker, Ginger Cannon, Algeria Ervin, Catherine Goodband, Stacy Meek, Janice Meeks, Tracy Modispaugh, Elizabeth Martin.

In the Military

Foy, Sullivan T.
BLDG. 1360 Rd. BEQ108B
BOX 788250
Twentynine Palms CA 92278-8250

In the Community and Beyond

Jennifer & Jacob Winstend
David Miller
George Stabler
Shelly Palmer
Willie Wilson (Bert's brother)
Mary Baird (friend of Susan Hibbard)
Rowdy Jordan (Crystal's father)
Sharon Gable
Jim Hodnett
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
John Rogers (Tara's dad)
Cherish Clark Walker (Krystal's friend) cancer
Dale Wray & mother, Peggy (Krystal's friend)
Rick Stallard (Josh's father)
Sawyer Long (Jeff & Kim Parrish's grandson) cancer
Ottis Wagner
Heath, cancer (3 yr. old friend of Tara Rogers)
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)
Edna Rhinehart (Carolyn Rockholt's sister)
Vivian Fulmer (Bobby's mother)
Bryan Good (Debbie Darby's brother)
Eddie Gregory (cancer)
Karen Blaikie (Doug's sister-in-law - cancer)
Linda Strauss (Eddie & Nancy Smith's friend, stage 4 cancer)

Nicholas & Abbie McAteer
4546 B South 11th Street
Bank 134, Box 8
JBLM, WA 98433

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

4858 McConnells Highway

York, SC 29745

Phone: (803)328-1360

Email: bethesda@comporium.net

Website: www.bethesdapres.org

Our Pastor:

Rev. Derek Marotta

Our Elders:

Alberta Anthony

Ernice Bookout

Mark Boyd

Sarah Childers

Jimmy Darby

Cheryl Forlines

Susan Hibbard

Irvin Jones

Linda Messer

Todd Russell

Johnny Walker

Dorothy Williamson

*"In peace I will lie down and
sleep, for you alone, LORD,
make me dwell in safety."*

Psalm 4:8

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:

Pastor - Derek Marotta

Secretary/Bookkeeper - Pat Jones

Director of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall

Sexton - Donna Hagler