

April, 2022



# Bethesda Banner

**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.**

Stop and think with me for a minute. . . Put down whatever you are doing. Take a deep breath and consider this question: What is your chief purpose today? What are you attempting to complete or do today?

Now there are a lot of diverse and unique answers that we could offer to this question. Around this time of the year, our days fill easily.

As April begins, the church celebrates and recognizes Palm Sunday. We have Holy Thursday coming up with the Living Last Supper and some new symbolic pieces of worship to attend to that help us reflect on what Jesus did that night. Easter morning is going to be quite busy at Bethesda as we have a 7am service, breakfast, Sunday school, and morning worship. It is quite easy to just rush around on Easter and neglect my beginning question: What are you attempting to complete or do today? But let's not do that.

As the Lenten season concludes, I offer you the words of Thomas Merton as he thought about what his purpose as a Christian was. Perhaps in these words you will find something reflective for your hearts. He wrote:

*“My chief care should not be to find pleasure or success, or health or life or money or rest or even things like virtue and wisdom—still less their opposite, pain, failure, sickness, death. But in all that happens, my one desire and my one joy should be to know: . . . “In this His love is found, and in accepting this I can give back His love to Him and give myself with it to Him. For in giving myself I shall find Him and He is life everlasting.””*

Notice how that idea, that we are called to just live in and embrace the love of God in our lives, changes the orientation of our day and the order of our tasks. Notice how your list of tasks on the calendar and appointments to attend to, and considerations of who we need to call and talk with, is reshaped by God's love.

We are supported and built so that we can love God and feel His love in our lives. Certainly a response is called forth. The implication of His divine love will send Jesus to the cross soon, and in response to that act, we must live faithfully and consistently as the Bible teaches.

God asks each of us to come to him and to live in His everlasting love and life. But I wonder if we will come alone? Or will we share what that loves means for, and how it changed us, with another person? Will we hold the miracle of Lent in our hearts alone or will we tell someone else about how we have learned what the chief concern of our lives is supposed to be?

Blessings  
Rev. Derek



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

## Maundy Thursday - A Remembrance of the Last Supper

Maundy Thursday, also known as "Holy Thursday," commemorates the Last Supper, when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. The word *Maundy* is derived from the Latin *mandatum* which means *commandment*. It refers to the command Jesus gave to the disciples while washing their feet, as recorded in John 13. This act sets the example that we should love and serve one another in humility.

Jesus knew his earthly ministry was drawing to a close. The events of the week were no surprise to him. The setting was an Upper Room in Jerusalem. He directed Peter and John to prepare the meal and secure the

location where he would share a meal and fellowship alone with his disciples for the last time. It would be "a meal to remember, not only because this event forms the basis of the Lord's Supper, but also because Jesus predicts betrayal, defines true leadership, promises authority to the eleven, predicts Peter's failure, and warns of coming rejection. Even as he faces death, Jesus serves by preparing others for their task." (Biblegateway.com).

**Bethesda invites you to our Maundy Thursday Service on April 14 at 7 pm. Holy Communion will be served.**



The Sanctuary will be open on Good Friday, April 15, from 10 am until 2 pm. Everyone is invited to come during that time to pray and meditate.



*Join Us  
Easter Sunrise Service  
April 17 7:00 am*

**Breakfast immediately following in the Fellowship Hall**

## 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

April 11: 9:00 am- Green Pond UMC, 983 Bethel St., Clover

*Congratulations* to Bethesda Presbyterian Boy Scout Troop 161 who donated 87.5 pounds of food to PATH on March 29,2022! Thank you for helping those in need.

## Missions and Outreach Report - March 2022

### Presbyterian Women's Circles:

Card Ministry

### Donations to:

Thornwell

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

Tito Palacios and La Mission in Guatemala

The Matias Family in Brazil

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Ukraine/Donations from Individuals and from the Fellowship Sunday School Class

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

*5 Lap Afghans and Prayer Shawls Presented*

*2 Baby Blankets Presented*

Evan William Bright, Son of Nick & Megan Bright, Great Grandson of Jerry and Gayle Dickson

Betsy Margaret Childers, daughter of Trey & Channing Childers, and granddaughter of Steve & Sarah Childers

### Online Ministry

Worship Services

Sounds of Grace

### Ministry of Care and Support

### Food Items Collected for Food Pantry

### Benevolence Fund

### Scouting Ministry

### Child Development Center

### ***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 **this** 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. If you have not signed up to bring a finger food for the reception and would like to help, please contact Ernice. Thank you in advance for your help with this celebration.

### **Session Highlights for March, 2022**

The Session met on Sunday, March 20, 2022. All members were present. Reverend Marotta provided a working session for Elders to reflect on Romans 8:1-10 and an excerpt from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's work "Life Together". The monthly financial report and committee reports were received as information.

The following committee highlights are noted:

#### **Christian Education Committee:**

It was reported by the Christian Education committee that there would not be an Easter Egg Hunt this year due to an anticipated lack of participation.

#### **Congregational Nominating Committee:**

The Congregational Nominating Committee provided an update report. A request was made to the Session from the committee to allow the CNC to consider lowering the number of Elders to be elected for the class of 2025 from 4 to 3. It was stated that if it was determined later that 3 elders were detrimental to the church leadership and operations, the number could be increased to 5 next year to balance the class or a special election called later this year to fill the class to 4. The basis for this request was due to the reduction of active participation by members in church activities and participation. This reduction has made it difficult to identify potential nominees willing, able or qualified to nominate. A motion to allow this consideration in their discernment was approved by the Session.

#### **Property Committee:**

The committee is still obtaining bids for a sidewalk to the activity shelter.

A new deck has been installed outside the Fellowship Hall kitchen door.

Pastoral pictures have been rehung in the Session room.

The Committee is seeking bids for painting of the old Session room and door.

Cemetery records software is being installed on a computer in the church office.

Actions:

The Session approved a request to remove a tree in front of church that has been struck lighting.

The Session approved a request to remove and replace the light pole on the sidewalk with the Sunday School sign.

#### **Worship Committee:**

A request was approved by the Session to take up a special offering during the Maundy Thursday service to go to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund for the victims of the Ukraine war.

Additional Actions: The moderator requested that an AED be purchased for installation in the Family Life Center. A motion was made and seconded and without further discussion the motion was approved.

*John Nettles*

*Clerk of Session*



Bethesda held a blood drive on March 29. 11 units were collected. Thank you to everyone who helped.

The church will be holding its annual clean up day on April 9th at 9:00 am. All are welcome to attend. We will be cleaning up the cemetery, working flowerbeds and mulch. Please bring any tools you have that could assist with grounds keeping-- rakes, clippers, pruners. Thanks, The Property Committee

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.

*Congratulations to Trudy Amick!*

On Sunday, March 20, the Presbyterian Women of Bethesda Church (Y) honored Trudy C. Amick with an Honorary Life Membership. The award is recognized by the Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and comes with a silver pin and a certificate. It is given to one lady who has served her church and the community faithfully beyond the call of duty. This award is typically given every two years; making her the 32th lady to receive this award over Bethesda's long history.

Trudy is a life-long resident of the Bethesda Community and knows most of the families here. She is ready to help with food, care, transportation and service projects of all kinds. As a life-long member of Bethesda Church, she has served in many areas of Presbyterian Women and on the Session where she most recently chaired the Property Committee. Several years ago she began a project of remodeling (and beautifying) the bathrooms in the Education Building. For the past three years, Trudy has led the effort to improve the grounds and oversee the upkeep of the buildings. She works well with people and volunteers to help with other committees and projects in the church.. One major project for more than the past year has been extensive updating of the manse for the transition of a new minister.

A look around the campus buildings and grounds show her love for God, her church and God's people. We are

April Verse to Remember

**"Greater love has no man than this,  
that he lay down his life for his friends."**

**John 15:13**



## April Birthdays



- 1 Emily Darby
- 6 Frank Allen
- 8 Margaret Moore
- 10 Sean Goodband
- 13 Don Faris, Eden Shannon
- 15 Adley Costner
- 22 Preston Sharpe
- 23 Daniel Blaikie
- 24 Doug Blaikie, Joe Forlines
- 25 Billy Johnston, Jr.
- 28 Todd Russell

### March Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School	Online Worship
3/6/22	62	35	13
3/13/22	74	27	20
3/20/22	60	32	18
3/27/22	52	30	N/A

*Congratulations*

*thank you!*

Congratulations to Cindy Jackson! She has been with the Bethesda Child Development Center for 28 years as of March 10.

To the Presbyterian Women of Bethesda Church, I am grateful and appreciative to have received the Honorary Life Membership this year. Your kindness, support and love means more to me than you will ever know. It is an even greater honor to be placed in such distinguished ranks as those of the past honorees.

Dear Church Family,

With heartfelt thanks to all,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, text messages and get well wishes. We are finally on the mend. Thanks to our wonderful church family for remembering us.

Trudy Amick

Bill & Cindy Davis

# Remember in Prayer

## At Bethesda

Melanie Walker  
Doris Jonas  
David Hibbard  
Donna Hagler  
Eddie Smith  
Steve Childers (surgery on March 24)  
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:

Betsy Margaret Childers, daughter of Trey & Channing Childers, and granddaughter of Steve & Sarah, 3/9/22

## Deaths:

David Miller, 3/7/22 (Charles & Kelly's friend)

## Marriages:

Micah Lesley Hancock & Austin Patrick Red Horse Blue, 3/19/22

## Baptisms:

Jacob David Cooper, 3/13/22

## Reaffirmation of Faith:

Tara Rogers, 3/13/22

## 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,

## In the Military:

Chase Davis, Zoe Davis, Morgan Drayton, Sully Foy, Nathan Glover, Nicholas McAteer, Alyarda Thompson, Michael Wilkerson

## In the Community and Beyond

Blakely Percival  
Peggy Wells (Sarah's aunt, leukemia)  
Memory Jordan  
Jason & Connie Waldrop  
David Miller  
George Stabler  
Shelly Palmer  
Willie Wilson (Bert's brother)  
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)

# Bethesda Presbyterian Church

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York, SC 29745

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Email: [bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net)

Website: [www.bethesdapres.org](http://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

*"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.'"*  
*John 11:25-26*

## **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