

April, 2024



Bethesda Banner

Although the season of Lent has come to its end for this year, the work that Lent invites us into is truly not complete. It is true that Lent is a journey; a 40-day journey that we have undertaken as the Body of Christ gathered at Bethesda, but the journey is not over.

During Lent we are invited to examine our lives and make choices based upon what we observe. Perhaps adding, or subtracting, something from our lives in response to what God has shown us this season. Literature is rich with teachings about adopting a Lenten discipline or practice and how that choice might be accomplished.

But there is often a sad reality that comes at the end of Lent... an end to the practice.

For instance, I have a friend who gives up sweets every year for Lent. On the Tuesday before Lent begins Jim goes out and purchase a very large piece of candy—the largest that he can find. He places it on his dresser. It will be his reminder of what awaits him after Easter worship.

Then after church on Resurrection Sunday, Jim goes home, unwraps his extra-large piece of candy and with a great smile on his face, Jim eats the candy. Over the years Jim has told me that the candy tastes sweeter, better, richer (whatever) because he gave up sweets for Lent.

But every year, at the end of Lent, he puts away the practice, unwraps the candy, and goes back to the old way of living. And while you and I might chuckle about his practice, it is a demonstration about how many of us practice our faith after Lent—we put away much of what God has revealed to us and go back to the old ways living, serving, and believing.

Consider if you will the gospel of Mark. The shorter ending of Mark concludes with a preposition. The Church has long believed this was done by Mark as a direct choice—an invitation if you will. It is as if Mark is saying to us as we finish the gospel:

“Now that you have read the whole story, go back to the beginning, and read it again. You are not done yet”

The Christian faith is not something that we practice only in Lent or in short bursts or seasons, but we live with it. We take it with us everywhere. We practice it and let it change how we live, and move, and think, and act. Perhaps that is how you and I should end Lent this year. Maybe we need to go back to the beginning of the story, and start reading and considering it again. . . maybe God has more to teach us if we are willing to dwell with it and let it speak to our hearts and minds?

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:

Please help replenish our "Blessing Box" and Food Pantry. Suggested items are non-perishable food items - peanut butter, jelly, canned meat or pasta items, spaghetti sauce, pasta, small cereal boxes, etc. A basket is available weekly in the vestibule for donations. There is also a basket in the Fellowship Hall for those who wish to make contributions at the Wednesday Night Dinners. These items are used to fill the "Blessing Box", distributed to people who request help through the Bethesda Benevolence Fund, and delivered regularly to local food distribution organizations. Thank you for your contributions to this ministry.

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen: Our next dates to serve are May 26, August 11 and October 27.

Plastic Recycling- We have collected enough plastics for our third bench! We will continue to collect plastics for our fourth bench.

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report— March, 2024

Presbyterian Women's Circle:

Card Ministry

Donations to:

Thornwell

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

Tito Palacios and La Mission in Guatemala

The Matias Family in Brazil

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Three Lap Afghans Presented

One Baby Blanket Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Pastor's Bible Study

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Grief Share Weekly Support Group

Provided Transportation to Medical Appointments and Other Support for Community Member

Hosted a Reception for Family and Friends of Christina Hibbard Following Her Celebration of Life Service

Community Support/Outreach

Hosted a Blood Drive in February in Honor of Rachel Ann Taylor, Granddaughter of Pat Jones, Church Secretary/Bookkeeper; Collected 14 Units of Blood

Food Distribution—Distributed Easter Hams and Bags of Groceries to:

66 Households

180 Individuals

60 Easter Hams

103 Bags of Grocery Items

Easter Egg Hunt

Collected Food Items for Food Pantry and Blessing Box

Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen at Covenant Presbyterian Church—Prepared and Served 175 Meals

Benevolence Fund Child Development Center

Pastor Conducted Weekly Chapel Services for Three Year Olds through Pre-K Children and for the After School Children

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry celebrated ten years of service in March. Our first meeting was in March of 2014. During these years we have created over 450 gifts, including prayer shawls, lap afghans, and baby blankets. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve through the work of our hands, providing tangible evidence of God's love for those in need of comfort and support. We are thankful for the ladies who have served in this ministry, and for the continued support of members of the congregation through contributions of yarn or donations to buy yarn, and by keeping us informed of needs within the church and greater community. We look forward to continuing to serve in this ministry.

If you would like to join this group, the next meeting is April 16 at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center located on Mount Gallant Road in York is hosting a Pancake Brunch fundraiser at **Unity Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill** on **May 11 from 9 to 11 AM**. All you can eat for whatever you can pay! **All proceeds from this event will benefit the ministry of Bethelwoods.** Walk-ins welcome but pre-registration is preferred. Register at the Bethelwoods website (bethelwoods.org). **To be a sponsor at this event at either \$100, \$200 or \$300 level please contact Rev. Mia Levetan at mlevetan@gmail.com.**

Registration for Bethelwoods Summer Camp is open at Summer Camp - BETHELWOODS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER. Please visit our website to see the options for your child(ren) this summer! Contact us at info@bethelwoods.org or [803-366-3722](tel:803-366-3722) for scholarships or with questions.



Mark your calendars!! Bethesda will host a blood drive on May 14 from 2 pm until 7 pm. Once again this will be in honor of Rachel Ann Taylor (Pat's granddaughter).

Coming up at Bethesda:

Choir will meet this week at 5:30 pm on Wednesday. Wednesday Dinner at 6:30 pm.

Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, April 4 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Thursday Bible Study will not meet this week, April 4.



April Birthday



1	<i>Emily Darby</i>
6	<i>Allen Frank</i>
8	<i>Margaret Moore</i>
10	<i>Sean Goodband</i>
13	<i>Eden Shannon, Don Faris</i>
15	<i>Adley Costner</i>
17	<i>Janice Meeks</i>
22	<i>Preston Sharpe</i>
24	<i>Joe Forlines</i>
25	<i>Billy Johnston, Jr.</i>
26	<i>Pat Jones</i>
28	<i>Todd Russell</i>
29	<i>David Ballard</i>

	Attendance			
	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u> Views	<u>Bible Study*</u>
3/03/24	54	22	N/A	6
3/10/24	53	24	17	8
3/17/24	51	20	24	12
3/24/24	67	24	19	31
3/28/24 (Maundy Thursday)	49		17	0
3/31/24 (Sunrise)	63			
3/31/24	105		17	0

*Bible Study includes in person and on-line participation

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Dorothy Williamson (surgery 5/6/24)
Peggy Adkins
Cecilia Alexander
Margaret Moore
Jonathan Lauckner
Gene Cornwell
Ricky & Debbie Simpson & Family
Frank Allen
Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Bill Dover
Ruth Rawdon
Eddie Allan Smith (back)
Stacy Meek (CDC)
Janice Meeks (CDC)
Hildegard Bell
Eddie Smith

Deaths

Family and friends of Trey Privette, 3/24/24

At Bethesda Child Development Center

Cynthia Jackson, Dawn Westmoreland, Esther Bailey,
Jamie Baker, Catherine Goodband, Janice Meeks,
Elizabeth Martin, Natalie Ashe, Emily Hopkins, Shelby
Ashe, Madison Hartis.

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

In the Military:

Chase Davis, Zoe De Anda,
Pierce Dewey, Sully Foy,
Nicholas McAteer, Gage Orr,
Michael Wilkerson, Sabrina Dollar

In the Community and Beyond

David (Bobby Fulmer's friend) awaiting liver transplant
Jackie Johnson Saboley (hip surgery)
Sue Hopkins
Griffin (Marotta's nephew Axton's 11 year old friend)
Cheryl Hughes
Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Rick Stallard (Josh's father)
Noah Smith, Sr. (Pacia's dad)
Penelope Lowder (Rocky's niece) surgery
Dennis Duncan (Debbie Fulmer's dad) his memory
Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus
Cherish Clark Walker (Krystal's friend) cancer
Dale Wray & mother, Peggy (Krystal's friend
Rachel Ann Taylor (Pat's granddaughter) leukemia
Brittany, Wes & Whitley Teter (Linda's granddaughter)
Dolores Lynn (Tara's aunt in Iowa) heart problem
Joanne Cox (Debbie Fulmer's aunt) cancer
Dwight Little (cirrhosis of liver & stroke) Leslie Henson's co-
worker)
Tommy Harper (Sarah's dad)
James David (David Chamber's grandson)
Ron Saboley (Jackie's husband) unable to have surgery
Peggy Neal (JoEllen's mom) disease narrowing blockages
Rose Locklair (Peggy, Faye, Ruth & Mack's sister) hospice
Nikki Thompson (Alberta's daughter) colon cancer
Christina Dixon (Shannon's friend) breast cancer
Janet Osborne (breast cancer)
Marie Moore



The Congregational Life Committee will host the “Bethesda’s Got Talent” show on April 13th at 5:30 pm in the Family Life Center. We will kick it off with a spaghetti dinner and the talent show to follow. Everyone is asked to bring a dessert. The meal will be provided. If you’re interested in participating in the talent show, please contact the church office or Steve Childers(803-417-3571 and leave a message if there’s no answer) by April 7 so the lineup can be made. There will also be a sign up sheet in the rear of the sanctuary. If we don’t get at least 6 sign ups, the Talent Show will be rescheduled. Make your plans to come and enjoy the fun!



From the Session:

The Session was excited to hear five of our youth present their statements of faith on Sunday, March 31st. Daisy Hinline, Cadence Lackey, Mariah Russell, Seth Williamson and Chay Williamson completed six weeks of study learning the foundations of our reformed faith. Upon completion of their study each youth wrote what they believed about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They shared their beliefs in the importance of God’s Word and the mission of the church in their lives and the world. Congratulations to each of these young people for their commitment and desire to draw closer in relationship to God and to His church.

On Easter Sunday Abigail Lehne, Daisy Hinline and Jeff Nivens received the Sacrament of Baptism, joining the fellowship of our congregation. Logan Johnston, Cadence Lackey, Mariah Russell, and Lane Russell became members of our congregation through their affirmation of faith. The Session and the congregation extend a warm welcome to each of our new members. We pray that the Lord will make Himself known to each of them in their daily lives.

John Nettles
Clerk of Session

Ministry Support Online!



A QR code and link have been added to the Bethesda Website and the weekly bulletin for those who would like the flexibility of making ministry contributions online. Contributions may be made from the QR code to your annual pledge, special offerings, and other areas of support.

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

Mark Boyd

Steve Childers

Cheryl Forlines

Debbie Fulmer

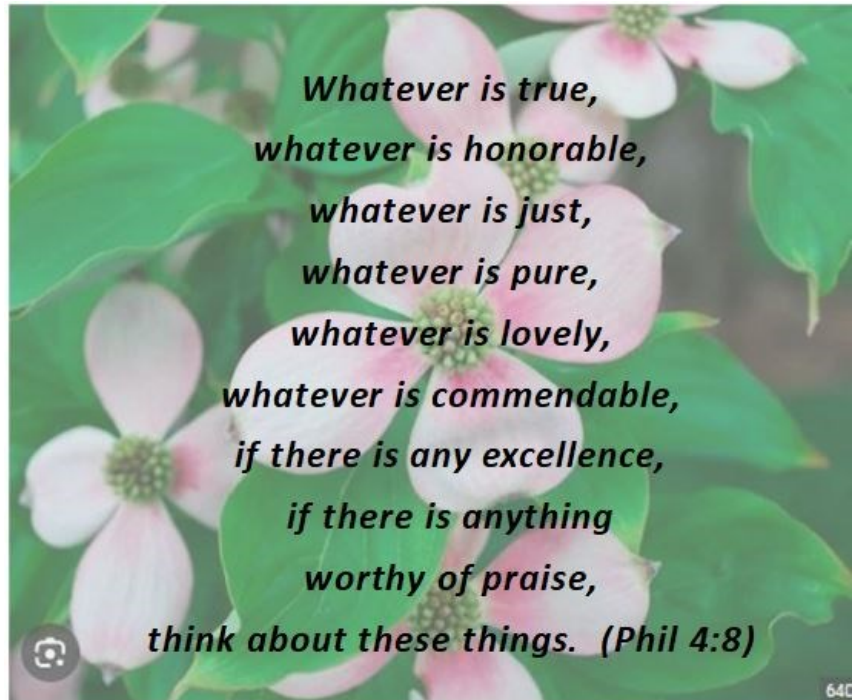
Laura Merritt

Linda Messer

Jim Percival

Stacy Russell

Johnny Walker



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