

December 2024



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.



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

Over the weekend Jennifer took me to one of our favorite shopping locations: Black Mountain, North Carolina. We wondered how the recovery was going following the devastation of Hurricane Helene. This was something that we longed to do for quite some time, and we looked forward to doing it--together. But as you know, life sometimes gets in the way of your plans.

But not this time!

We walked around the town together slowing and enjoying some early Christmas shopping. We ate lunch at the Veranda, and we tried to relax among the throngs of people sipping their coffee and hustling to their next stop on their list.

Finally making it home, worn down by the events of the shopping trip and all we experienced, I thought of a quotation from Katherine May's book *Wintering*. Her work speaks to my soul and invites me to see the events of my day differently and I hope that it invites you to see Advent and Christmas from a different perspective also.

She said: *"Doing those deeply unfashionable things—slowing down, letting your spare time expand, getting enough sleep, resting—is a radical act now, but it is essential."*

I wondered if Jennifer I just walking down the streets, shopping slowly, trying to relax together, talking slowly, quietly, were we doing that unfashionable thing in the beginning of the Christmas season that seemed strange to others? Were we practicing something so counter-cultural that, to take the next logical step, could extend into our Advent season? Could you rest in Advent?

Now the challenge of such a choice is obvious. You have family coming in less that 25 days to be with you (or maybe you are going to be with them). And there are many obligations and expectations that live in those places and moments (for me also).

But maybe for today you can find a moment, a space, to just slow down and rest with the Lord. . . Maybe find the Advent narrative and read it again slowly. Out loud. As you do, perhaps God will show you something new, something profound that is happening in the story for anyone who draws close and listens once again.

Blessings,

Rev. Derek

Katherine May, *Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times* (Riverhead Books: New York, 2020).

Helping our neighbors:

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen: Bethesda's next date to serve is January 19, 2025.

Please help replenish our "Blessing Box" and Food Pantry. Suggested items are non-perishable food items, inexpensive can openers, and small hygiene items. (powdered milk, evaporated milk, saltine crackers, coffee, sugar, canned fruit, 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.

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

Second Harvest Food Pantry Dates 9:00 am:

December 13- Green Pond UMC, 983 Bethel St., Clover, SC



Missions, Outreach, and Service Report— November, 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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Four Prayer Shawls/Lap Afghans and Three Baby Blankets Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services
Sounds of Grace
Pastor's Bible Study

Ministry of Care and Support

Grief Share/Weekly Meetings
Provided Transportation for Church Member and Community Member to Appointments

Christian Education/Youth

Bible Buddies
Friendsgiving for Youth
Group Trip to See *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*

Community Support/Outreach

Blessing Box--Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked
Fundraising Event to Benefit the Family of a Recently Deceased Marine
Turkey Dinner Giveaway—Distributed 50 Turkeys and 60 bags of groceries to 42 households, serving 119 people

Child Development Center

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



Upcoming in December:

GriefShare Seminar support group will meet on Wednesday, December 4, at 5:00 pm in the Session Room.

Wednesday Night Dinner will resume this Wednesday, December 4, at 6:30 pm.

Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, December 5, at 10:00 am in the Sunday School building.

The Child Development Center will have a fundraiser on Tuesday, December 3, from 4:00 until 6:45 pm. Gardner Barbeque and hotdog plates will be served. A bake sale will also be available. Take out or eat in. The CDC will have their Christmas Program at 7:00 pm.

A Packing Party will be held on December 8 from 4:30 until 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Everyone is invited. Contact Laura Merritt with any questions.

Christmas Caroling - December 15. If you know of someone who would like a visit, please let Steve or Sarah Childers know. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 3:15. After caroling, we will return to the Fellowship Hall for pizza.

December 22 - Love Came Down Music Program at 11:00 am

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services at 6:00 pm and 11:00 pm



Orders for Christmas Poinsettias are now being taken through December 8th. The cost is \$15.00 each. Poinsettias may be ordered in memory or in honor of someone. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex. Checks should be made out to Bethesda Presbyterian Church with "Poinsettias" in the comment line. The poinsettias may be taken home on Christmas Eve.

An Angel Tree will be in the Narthex starting this Sunday, December 8. It is for a local family with five children. Please take a tag or two and purchase items on the tags. Put items in a labeled gift bag (do not wrap) and return by Sunday, December 22.



Thank you:

Ernice and prayer shawl ministry,

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. I hope you know what a difference they make. The comfort they provide and the thought that the church and your ministry are making through this time of need. Once again thank you so much!!

Love,

Bobby Fulmer

Congratulations to Alberta Anthony who will be honored at the Legacy of Faith Luncheon on December 10 at Bethelwoods. This event honors individuals who have shown the love of God through their work within their respective churches and the presbytery.



December Birthdays



1	<i>Derek Marotta, Lewis Smith</i>
4	<i>Rocky Rhoads</i>
5	<i>Suzanne Griffin, Will Johnston</i>
7	<i>James Anthony, Jr.</i>
8	<i>Ernice Bookout</i>
9	<i>Jerry Dickson, Bobby Walker</i>
18	<i>Martina Russell, Darlene Dunlap</i>
21	<i>Ginger Dewey</i>
27	<i>Eddie Smith</i>
28	<i>Bobby Fulmer</i>
29	<i>Carson Smith</i>
31	<i>Liz Blackwell, Kim Johnson</i>

	Attendance for November			
	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u> Views	<u>Bible Study*</u>
11/3/24	51	25	32	
11/10/24	45	21	24	11
11/17/24	52	20		18
11/24/24	59	23	13	25

*Bible study includes in person and online participation.

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Jennifer Marotta
Margaret Moore
Jonathan Lauckner
Gene Cornwell
Ricky & Debbie Simpson & Family
Frank Allen
Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Bill Dover
Ruth Rawdon
Eddie Allan Smith
Stacy Meek (CDC)
Janice Meeks (CDC)
Hildegard Bell
Eddie Smith
Luke Johnson
Bobby Fulmer (back surgery)
Steve Dickson, Jr.
Benny Coxton

Deaths

Family & Friends of Rose Locklair, 11/10/24
Faye Rockholt's 1 month old great granddaughter,
11/11/24
Family & Friends of Kenneth Locklair, 11/17/24
Family & Friends of Norm Hibbard, 12/1/24 (Wes' dad)

At Bethesda Child Development Center

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

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

In the Community and Beyond

Cheryl Hughes
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Rachel Ann Taylor (Pat's granddaughter, leukemia)
Rick Stallard (Josh's father)
Penelope Lowder (Rocky's niece) surgery
Dennis Duncan (Debbie Fulmer's dad) his memory
Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus
Brittany, Wes & Whitley Teter (Linda's granddaughter)
Dolores Lynn (Tara's aunt in Iowa) heart problem
Dwight Little (cirrhosis of liver & stroke) Leslie Henson's co-
worker)
Tommy & Nell Harper (Sarah's parents)
James David (David Chamber's grandson)
Jackie Saboley
Peggy Neal (JoEllen's mom) disease narrowing blockages
Nikki Thompson (Alberta's daughter) colon cancer
Christina Dixon (Shannon's friend) breast cancer
Janet Osborne (breast cancer)
Debi Dubard - treatment for cancer
Helen Steele - hip surgery
Fionna Thomas (Debbie D.'s friend's granddaughter)
Karyson Cook
Jeff Thompson
Becky Shillington (Jim & Ernice's daughter) surgery
Belinda Chambers - wrist surgery
Rev Jerry Devinney (Lakewood Baptist Church pastor)
Terri Brown (Darlene Dunlap's cousin)
Kathy Miller (Todd Hagler's mother)

In the Military:

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

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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

*"For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given;
and the government shall be
upon his shoulder: and his
name shall be called
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace."*

Isaiah 9:6

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