

November 2024



# Bethesda Banner

The 20<sup>th</sup> century author and philosopher Alfred Montapert's once wrote: *"A smile of encouragement at the right moment may act like sunlight on a closed-up flower; it may be the turning point for a struggling life"* and a struggling day.

I find these words to be quite poignant during this season in the life of our church. For as we remember the saints of this church on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and as we wonder about the direction of our world and country on November 5<sup>th</sup>, we might be tempted to wonder about 'the turning point of a struggling life.' We might be tempted to join the other voices of our community in suspecting that our situation is grim and that our hope is diminished.

For the struggles of our daily lives are numerous, and they are multifaceted. The more we look out into our community, the more frequently we can lose hope. As we face each of those challenges I wonder if we are willing to engage in a practice as simple as encouragement?

I believe that a simple choice to encourage someone can help to revitalize that person in ways that we do not often think of when we smile at them from across the room or when we speak a gentle word to them when we know that they are struggling just as we have been struggling recently. But in the choice to encourage another person the Holy Spirit can move in close and whisper a blessing to the wounded soul.

In those moments, the image of the 'close-up flower' coming to life is so appropriate and applicable for us. For each of us has been in these places of struggle—some have felt that sting recently as they gathered around the grave far too often.

This week, can you take the time to notice someone who needs a word of encouragement that you can offer? It does not have to be a neatly-polished word. In these moments authenticity matters more than polish... Can you go into the space of another person and offer them a word, a phrase, a look of encouragement that shows how deeply God's love lives in you? I hope so.

Remember it won't always be easy, sometimes you will feel like you do not have anything positive to offer. But this work is necessary for we are all enduring our own level of struggle and trial as the Body of Christ.

Because if we practice encouragement together, we will find that "closed-up flower" opening yet again to God's will and God's ways.

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](http://www.bethesdapres.org)  
for updates.**



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

Helping our neighbors:

**Plentiful Harvest Kitchen:** 153 folks were served on October 27 at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Dates for 2025 will be available soon.

**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:

November 8- Fishing Creek Baptist, 1220 Springlake Rd., York, SC

November 15- Faith Presbyterian, 7520 Charlotte Hwy, Indian Land, SC

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

### **Missions, Outreach, and Service Report— October, 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**

*Presented two Prayer Shawls/Lap Afghans*

#### **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**

*Trunk or Treat*—Hosted Trunk or Treat for Bethesda Children and Community Children

#### **Community Support/Outreach**

*Blessing Box*--Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked

*Bag Lunch Program*--Prepared and Distributed 476 Bag Lunches for York School Age Children on Break (Daves Road Neighborhood and York Housing Authority); Distributed 26 Bags of Groceries to Some of the Families

*Plentiful Harvest*—Prepared and Served 153 Meals at Plentiful Harvest Kitchen

#### **Child Development Center**

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

Rev. Derek will be on vacation this week starting on Monday, November 4. He will return to the office on Monday, November 11. If you are in need of assistance during this time, you may contact your Elder Shepherd or the Church Office 803-328-1360 email [bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net). Also, Rev. Nick Setzer of First Presbyterian Church in York will be available as a pastor on-call. His email is [nsetzer@fpcyorksc.org](mailto:nsetzer@fpcyorksc.org). His Office phone is (803) 684-2356 and his cell phone is (903) 315-7559.

Complete lists of **Shepherd Folds** are available in the sanctuary and by request from the church office.

### **Upcoming for November:**

Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, November 7, at 10:00 am in the Sunday School building.

On Sunday, November 10th at 4:00 pm, the Youth are going to see "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at Regal Manchester Cinemas. We have scored FREE tickets for this! For more information, please contact Laura Merritt.

On November 16, there will be a Fundraiser here at Bethesda for the family of a marine veteran who passed away this past July. All money raised will go to his wife and son, Courtney and Braydin Little. There will be a pancake breakfast from 7-10 am and a craft show, silent auction and bake sale from 10 am until 2 pm. We will have inflatables for the kids to play on and the Bethesda fire department will bring firetrucks. Beginning at 11 am, barbecue plates will be sold for \$10 per plate. There will be live music from 12 pm until 5 pm - JC Riley, Wayne Bolin and Wayfaring Strangers. We hope you will join us for this day of fun for a great cause. One way you can help is to donate items for the silent auction. If you have a donation, please let Sarah Childers know.

GriefShare seminar support group has begun and will meet in the Session Room each week. We will meet on Wednesdays, from 5:00-6:30 pm. GriefShare is a 13 week video seminar series that features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. The video seminars are combined with support group discussion of the materials presented during the video. After watching the video, we spend time talking to each other and supporting each other through our grief journey. Please feel free to share this information with anyone you know who might benefit from this seminar. For more information, feel free to contact Karen Percival at (803)517-2268, Darlene Dunlap at (803)981-2468, or call the church office at (803)328-1360

*Thank you!*

Dear Ladies,  
Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. I love the vibrant colors!  
When I wrap up and enjoy this shawl, it will warm not only my body but my heart as well. I will feel the love that you incorporated into each stitch. Your beautiful handwork is greatly appreciated.  
Thank you for thinking of me, and thank you for your prayers.

Lovingly,  
Kathy Jagger

Thank you so much for the thoughts, prayers, cards, and lap afghan. We appreciate the love we have felt as Jeff had his triple bypass surgery. He is well on his way to complete recovery and should be released from everything (except his new diet) within the month!

Thank you,  
Jeff Thompson and Ginger Dewey

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.  
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.”



Bethesda has 12 spots to volunteer at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center on Thursday, December 12, from 5 pm until 10 pm. Contact Sarah Childers if you would like to sign up (803)417-0693.



*Hanging of the Green*  
*Saturday Nov. 30 9 am*

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.

Benefit for the family of  
Corey Little (a Marine veteran)

Corey passed away in July leaving behind his wife, Courtney, and son, Braydin.

November 16

Bethesda Presbyterian Church  
4858 McConnells Highway, York

- \* Pancake Breakfast - 7 am-10 am
- \* Craft Fair and Silent Auction - 10 am - 2 pm
- \* Barbecue Plates - \$10 - 11 am - 5 pm
- \* Inflatables for kids - 10 am - 5 pm
- \* Bake Sale - 10 am - 5 pm

DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Live Music from 12 pm until 5 pm

JC Riley

Wayne Bolin

Wayfaring Strangers



**Ways you can help with this benefit:**

1. If you have an item or items to donate to the Silent Auction, let Sarah Childers know (803)417-0693
2. We need items for the Bake Sale.



## November Birthdays



<b>2</b>	<b><i>Linda Adkins</i></b>
<b>3</b>	<b><i>Lou Anne Hildebrand</i></b>
<b>4</b>	<b><i>Joe Medlin</i></b>
<b>6</b>	<b><i>Sidney Russell</i></b>
<b>8</b>	<b><i>Carol Hope</i></b>
<b>11</b>	<b><i>Tracey McAteer</i></b>
<b>12</b>	<b><i>Ruth Rawdon</i></b>
<b>15</b>	<b><i>Tara Roger</i></b>
<b>19</b>	<b><i>Faye Rockholt</i></b>
<b>20</b>	<b><i>Karen Percival</i></b>
<b>22</b>	<b><i>Benny Coxtton, Jimmy Darby</i></b>
<b>23</b>	<b><i>Becky Adams</i></b>
<b>25</b>	<b><i>Susan Hibbard</i></b>
<b>27</b>	<b><i>Mack Cornwell, Abigail Lehne</i></b>
<b>30</b>	<b><i>Jim Beaty, III; Levon Love</i></b>

	Attendance			
	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u> Views	<u>Bible Study*</u>
10/6/24	55	25	14	9
10/13/24	46	24	16	8
10/20/24	41	22	13	8
10/27/24	43	21	7	-

\*Bible study includes in person and online participation.

## Remember in Prayer

### At Bethesda

Jennifer Marotta  
Edward & Dorothy Williamson  
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  
Steve Dickson, Jr.  
Donna Hagler (cataract surgery on 10/29/24)  
Benny Coxtton

### Deaths

Family and friends of Larry Rockholt 10/18/24 (Carolyn Rockholt's son)  
Family and friends of William "Nicky" Crawford 10/21/24 (Graveside & burial Bethesda Cemetery 10/25/24 Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta officiated)  
Family and friends of Joanne Cox 10/24/24 (Debbie Fulmer's aunt)  
Family and friends of Noah Smith, Sr. 10/26/24 (Pacia's father)  
Family and friends of Bobby Dickson 10/29/24 (Jerry's brother)

### Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and  
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

### At Bethesda Child Development Center

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

### 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  
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)  
Debi Dubard - treatment for cancer  
Helen Steele - hip surgery  
Fionna Thomas (Debbie D.'s friend's granddaughter)  
Karyson Cook  
Jeff Thompson

### In the Military:

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

# Bethesda Presbyterian Church

4858 McConnells Highway

York, SC 29745

Phone: (803)328-1360

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

Mark Boyd

Steve Childers

Cheryl Forlines

Debbie Fulmer

Laura Merritt

Linda Messer

Jim Percival

Stacy Russell

Johnny Walker

Happy Thanksgiving!



## **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