

October 2024



Bethesda Banner

How do you know what matters in your life?

What helps you in your discernment process as you make decisions between what is important and what is not? There are a lot of demands in life, all of them shouting for your time, talents, and your attention. What makes hearing God difficult is that God generally does not shout at us to help get our attention. Rather God normally uses a still small voice to speak into our hearts calling us to respond.

Many of us can testify to hearing God's whisper, but that is only at certain times and in certain moments. It is not as automatic as we might hope or like. And so, when God whispers to us, it can be easier than we might want to admit to miss the sound of God's voice.

One place where God has always whispered, and where we have learned to "Be still" long enough to hear God's whisper is, at Bethesda. You have heard God gently whisper to you through worship, Sunday School, in our food ministry, at grief share, in Wednesday Suppers, and in many other places. Wherever we gather as the Body of Christ we gather believing that God is whispering to us and guiding us to support each other and to be with the community.

Throughout the fall, the Session has been asking the committees to listen to those same whispers as we prepare to set the budget for 2025. This is never an easy process, and it requires discernment and faith. It requires us to put aside 'shoulds' and 'what-ifs' in order to discern and listen for what God is saying to each of our hearts as we follow the leading of God's will.

Over the next few weeks, I ask you to spend some time yourself, and as a family, considering the voice of God in prayer. Listen to the Lord and trust that God will speak to your heart as you consider your pledge for this next year and how you will support the ongoing ministry and mission at Bethesda.

We deeply believe as a Session that God is with us and that we are following God's will in what we do and how we serve the Lord. Each decision that we make, and every time we discern the will of the Lord, we do so holding God's word in our heart and the love for the community where God has placed us.

Please join me in prayer as we ask God to speak to us and guide us as we discern and listen to the whispers of God.

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:

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen: Our next date to serve will be October 27.

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:

October 11- Jerusalem Baptist, 1003 Steele St., Fort Mill, SC

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— September, 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

Six Lap Afghans 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 Medical Appointments

Christian Education

Bible Buddies—For Children

Cornhole Fundraiser for Youth Fund

Community Support/Outreach

Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked

Food Distribution—Distributed 152 bags of groceries, serving 242 people in 63 families

Child Development Center

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

Upcoming events:



1. Trunk or Treat is taking place **October 30th** from 5:00-6:00. We need volunteers to decorate their cars and we also need candy donations. If you plan on decorating a car please let me know so that I can have somewhat of a headcount on what to expect. When donating candy, you can place it in the vestibule or in the church office. If you place it in the church office please make sure that it is labeled "Trunk or Treat" so that it gets to the right location. Our youth will be needed during this time to help out as well!

2. You asked and I booked!! Our next Ladies Night Out at Mud will be November 7th at 6:00! Go on and mark your calendars and let me know if you can make it!

Have a great week,
Laura Merritt



MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Our Christmas Worship Service will be December 22. We need your help in getting ready for this service. We need more voices for our adult choir. We will start the Christmas songs on Wednesday, October 2nd at 5:30 in the choir room. Please come if you can help our choir.

The Hand Chimes will begin rehearsals on Monday, October 28th at 6:30 in the ladies parlor. We need 12 ringers. If you are interested, please come on October 28.

If you have any questions or concerns about either of these opportunities, please contact me at larayneha@gmail.com or call me at 803-554-4705 or talk to me in person. We need the people that have been involved with either of these groups, but we also need some new people to join us. If you can do either or both, please come.

The Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, October 3, at 10:00 am in the Sunday School Building.

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.

Thank you

Bethesda Presbyterian Church Shawl Ministry,
Thank you so very much for your prayers and the nice shawl. It is most appreciated and I am thankful for the work you do to help others!

Sincerely,
Wayne Herndon

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.
3. If you would like to have a table in the Craft Fair, contact Michelle Plott at (803)207-0164



October Lunch Program



The lunch program is next week 10/7-10/11 from 11:30-1pm. There will be a planning meeting today, Wednesday 10/2, at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be handouts and information to share with you about how you can help. Although the program is next week, we still have plenty of time to get things ready and gather our supplies. We will need folks to come to the church next week to prep and pack bags.

Please plan to come to the meeting as we get ready to serve the children on Daves Rd and don't forget to spread the word!



Dimes for Hunger - 47 years

This Sunday will be the first Sunday we will collect our dimes for Dimes for Hunger which helps feed our neighbors here and abroad. Donate a dime or more per meal for each person in your family.

Hurricane Helene Prayer

God of grace and compassion,

In these overwhelming moments of loss and devastation, we come to you with weary hearts that are both heavy and hopeful. We hold in our prayers and hearts all those impacted by the hurricanes, conflicts, and other disasters, and we implore for your mercy, peace, and healing to embrace our siblings all over the world. By your grace, bring comfort to those who are grieving, give strength to the exhausted, and provide shelter for those who have lost everything.

May your Spirit move in this, your creation, bringing peace amid the turmoil, and breathing hope into the places that feel broken. May your Spirit continue to be the quiet but constant reassurance that you are with your children and creation, even in the darkest moments, guiding us toward healing and restoration.

As we continue to see the news, we lift up the brave souls who are working tirelessly to rescue and assist. Give strength and wisdom for the tasks ahead. And stir our hearts, dear God, to step in with compassion, helping our neighbors, near and far, with kindness, love, and compassion.

In all of these disasters, we place our trust in your everlasting promises of your presence and care. Restore what has been shattered and lead us toward a path of renovation, peace, healing, and the renewing power of your always present Spirit.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

-Rev. Edwin González-Castillo, PDA Director



October Birthdays



5	<i>Gloria Ballard</i>
6	<i>Anita Ferguson</i>
9	<i>Cecelia Alexander</i>
10	<i>Cole Medlin</i>
11	<i>Carolann Bull</i>
13	<i>Samantha Teska</i>
14	<i>Trudy Amick, Matthew McAteer, Jim Percival, Nicolas McAteer</i>
17	<i>John Nettles, Jr.</i>
19	<i>Josh Stallard</i>
21	<i>Bill Davis</i>
22	<i>Bert Anthony</i>
24	<i>Caitlin Hibbard</i>
26	<i>Steve Dickson, Tom Bull</i>
29	<i>Trey Amick</i>
31	<i>Julia Dover</i>

	Attendance			
	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u>	<u>Bible Study*</u>
	In-person		Views	
9/1/24	47	23	9	N/A
9/8/24	37	17	11	12
9/15/24	53	24	9	8
9/22/24	63	21	6	10
9/29/24	35	no SS		

*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 (carpal tunnel surgery on 9/23/24)

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 Military:

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

In the Community and Beyond

Cheryl Hughes
Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Rachel Ann Taylor (Pat's granddaughter, leukemia)
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
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 & Nell Harper (Sarah's parents)
James David (David Chamber's grandson)
Ron & 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
Twitty Auten
Charles Gantt
Jeff Thompson

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