

April 2025



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*

Our Lenten season is nearly complete and so any spiritual preparation and reflection that you are doing on the suffering of Jesus before Easter is also almost complete. Together at Bethesda we have been quite busy as a church, but I hope that your Lenten journey has been meaningful, and I hope that you have found the Lord speaking to your heart.

On Ash Wednesday Rev. Platt and I encouraged you to ‘observe a Holy Lent.’ We asked you to make deliberate choices during this season, and by doing so, we hoped that your encounters with the Lord would move your soul.

My own Lenten season has been quite different—but not in ways that you might be expecting. While Jennifer and I have traveled to a great number of doctor’s offices and appointments, for testing, and the sharing of results, I have attempted to remain still and listen for the Lord at each stop along the way. This has not always been easy, and I have been frustrated often in this process. But stillness has been my practice, and it is the one that I am wondering if you can adopt as Lent continues.

In a busy world stillness can be hard, and it can seem counter cultural to most people when they see what is taking place all around them, but for those who seek stillness, it will be a gold mine. They will find the Lord waiting for them.

In this book *Stillness is the Key*, Ryan Holiday says, “It’s ironic that stillness is rare and fleeting in our busy lives, because the world creates an inexhaustible supply of it. It’s just that nobody’s looking.” Then Ryan lists many places where he finds stillness taking place . . . some obvious and some not as obvious. He locates the places where he finds stillness in nature (obvious) but also, he finds stillness in the chaos of toys strewn across the floor in his son’s room (not as obvious).

His list became a good starting point for me. So, as I read his list, I began to wonder . . . where could I find stillness if I too looked for it? If I slowed down, could I see the God of stillness looking back at me? Smiling at me? Inviting me to sit with Him and be changed?

Could we, as we prepare to leave Lent this year ‘observe a holy Lent’ by being still and by being observant to what is all around us? Perhaps this is something you might want to try as Lent prepares to end?

Blessings,

Rev. Derek

Helping our neighbors:

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen: 208 folks were served this past Sunday. Future dates are 6/15, 8/31 and 11/16.

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- Our fourth bench has been ordered! Please continue collecting soft plastics for our fifth bench.

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report— March, 2025

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 Prayer Shawls/Lap Afghans Presented

Two Baby Blankets Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Pastor's Bible Study

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Provided Transportation to Medical Appointments and Other Support for Community Member

Community Support/Outreach

Benefit Fundraiser-- Organized a Fundraiser to benefit the Marotta family, including a Yard Sale, Bake Sale, Breakfast and Lunch Food Items, Raffle, Silent Auction, and Musical Entertainment.

Food Items-- Collected Food Items for Food Pantry and Blessing Box /Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping it Fully Stocked

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen—Prepared and served 208 meals at Plentiful Harvest Kitchen at Covenant Presbyterian Church

Child Development Center

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

Mark your Calendars!



Easter Egg Hunt:

Our Easter Egg Hunt is taking place on [April 19th](#) from 10:00-11:00. It is for ages 0-12 years but there will also be an Egg Scavenger Hunt for our youth volunteers that include gift cards as prizes!! We need all volunteers at the church by 9:00. I am hoping that all of our youth will show up to be all hands on deck! We will be in great need of pre-filled eggs and some snacks! I am also adding an Amazon link for those that would like to contribute that way! The items from the Amazon List will be sent to my house and I will take them to the church! [Amazon Easter Link](#)



VBS:

Wonder Junction is our Theme this year! It will take place on [June 16th-19th](#) from 5:30-7:55! Here is the link if you want to check out an overview! [Wonder Junction Link](#)

Here is our current volunteer list but we still need some more willing souls!. [Please reach out to me if you would like to be added!](#)

Volunteer List

- Setup Crew**- We will need all hands on deck on [June 15th](#) at 6:00.
- Kitchen/Dinner/Cleanup**- David Chambers will lead our new (drum roll please) VBS Food Committee! Wohooo! The Food Committee this year will be in charge of coming up with a fun menu to cook for VBS! They also will be the ones to shop for the food and prep the food! Volunteers so far to help David are Linda Messer and Debbie Simpson.
- 3's & 4's Class Leaders**- Emma Marotta (need 2 more volunteers)
- Kinder & 1st Grade Leaders**- Beth Smith, Sue Burns and Jen Marotta
- 2nd & 3rd Grade Leaders**- Liz Blackwell (need 1-2 more volunteers)
- 4th & 5th Grade Leaders**- Cadence Lackey (need 2 more volunteers)
- Arts & Crafts**- Esther Bailey, Ernice Bookout (needs 1 more volunteer)
- Music**- Abby Costner and Maegan Davis
- Storytelling**- James Platt, Leslie Platt, Louanne Hildebrand (need 1 more)
- Recreation**- Susan Hibbard, Sarah Childers (need 1 more volunteer)
- Photographer**- Derek Marotta
- Floaters**- Jesse Merritt (need 1 more volunteer) (will float based off of evening work schedule)

As always, thanks so much for being a congregation that ALWAYS goes above and beyond!

-**Laura Merritt**

Upcoming in April:

Property Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 1, at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Choir will meet at 5:30 on Wednesday, April 2, at 5:30 pm.

Wednesday Night Dinner will be on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, April 3 in the Sunday School Room.

Church Workday on Saturday, April 5, from 8 am until 12 pm.

Thank you

To prayer shawl ministry and my church family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl.

I am very grateful for you all and appreciate the love and support you offer.

Thank you,

Donna

Ministry Support Online!



Contributions may be made from the QR code.



April Birthdays



1	<i>Emily Darby</i>
6	<i>Frank Allen</i>
8	<i>Margaret Moore</i>
10	<i>Sean Goodband</i>
13	<i>Don Faris, Eden Shannon</i>
15	<i>Adley Costner</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; Thomas Dunlap, IV</i>

	Attendance for March			
	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u> Views	<u>Bible Study</u> in-person and online
3/2/25	46	21		
3/5/25 Ash Wednesday	38			
3/9/25	40	18		
3/16/25	43	28		
3/23/25	49	25		
3/30/25	40	27		

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)
Hildegard Bell
Eddie Smith
Luke Johnson
Steve Dickson, Jr.
Benny Coxton
Edward & Dorothy Williamson
Esther Bailey - cataract surgery 3/
LaRayne Hall - hip replacement on May 12
Peggy Adkins
Suzanne Griffin - upcoming surgeries 3/24/25 and 4/7/25

Deaths

Family and friends of Janet Sue Walker Phillips 2/22/25
(burial Bethesda Cemetery 2/27/25)

At Bethesda Child Development Center

Cynthia Jackson, Dawn Westmoreland, Jamie Baker,
Catherine Goodband, 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)
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) new 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 Johnson Saboley
Peggy Neal (JoEllen's mom) disease narrowing blockages
Christina Dixon (Shannon's friend) breast cancer
Janet Osborne (breast cancer)
Debi Dubard - treatment for cancer
Becky Shillington (Jim & Ernice's daughter) surgery
Terry Brown (Darlene Dunlap's cousin)
Kathy Miller (Todd Hagler's mother)
Barry Zachary (friend of Walkers) lung cancer
Bobby Westmoreland and friend, Sherri
Michelle Plott (knee replacement) 3/18/25
Amber Love
Cathie Williams

In the Military:

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

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Email: bethesda@comporium.net

Website: www.bethesdapres.org

Our Pastor:

Rev. Derek Marotta

Our Elders:

Steve Childers

Debbie Fulmer

JonMark Marotta

Jesse Merritt

Laura Merritt

Linda Messer

Jim Percival

Lisa Percival

Stacy Russell

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

Director of Christian Education - Laura Merritt

Secretary/Bookkeeper - Pat Jones

Director of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall

Sexton - Donna Hagler