

July 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*

Summer is often the time when we relax as families. Many of us take vacations to the beach, to the mountains, or some other special location. Our children enjoy the break from school as they catch up on both their rest and, perhaps, they make some time for other activities they enjoy. Summer can be glorious.

In our side yard, Jennifer and JonMark have planted a small raised-bed garden. Together they have done this before, and it has been a blessing for us. This garden sits right beside our blackberry bush and near various fruit trees that live in our yard.

A few weeks ago, JonMark installed some tomato cages and lattices to help everything grow. The rain has come. Obviously, the heat is here and now we wait to see how our tomatoes, peas, squash, and pepper plants will produce.

Like any experienced gardener will tell you, we know that our little raised-bed garden will need plenty of attention. Weeds will come back. Bugs might invade. The compost that we have will produce fertilizer that will help the growth process, but we will need to see that the garden is tended to properly and the fertilizer is spread where it is needed the most.

Today, our garden displays the signs of prosperity. We have huge, green, tomatoes growing. Pea pods are ready to come off. The black berries are tart and perfect. They are ready to wash and eat. I cannot wait to taste what grows in the earth still. But besides being a means for sustenance, the garden reminds me of a particular aspect of our Christian life—our devotion to our calling as the Body of Christ.

We are told by the Lord Jesus to do a great many things in the name of God. We are to baptize and teach. We are called to encourage and to evangelize in our community. We are told to make disciples using the Triune formulation of God to teach who Jesus is and what He did for us on the cross.

We are told not to forsake the gathering of the saints, and we are told to worship God often. And we are also told to pray. It is before the discipline of prayer I find myself wondering how much of my time am I truly willing to devote to God?

I compare it to my garden... just putting the seeds in the ground will cause some level growth—but not complete the growth that is possible. Like my garden doing part of my responsibility in prayer will cause some level of change in me, but I will not reach the potential Jesus has for me.

So, as we take a break this summer, as our gardens grow and as we are busy resting and relaxing, I encourage you to attend to all of the disciplines Jesus calls you to—the easy ones and the ones that are a bit harder. Spend time in prayer with God. It does take time and some work to carve some space, but when you do, God will meet you and you will grow in Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Derek

Coming up in July:

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet on Tuesday, July 1st at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The **Church Office** and **Child Development Center** will be closed on Friday, July 4th.

Ladies Night Out at Mud Ceramic Studio on Thursday, July 17th at 6:00 pm.

Christmas in July in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, July 20th at 6:00 pm.

Helping our neighbors:

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen: Bethesda served 241 plates on June 15. Future dates are 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.

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report— June, 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

Prayer Shawls/Lap Afghans: One Prayer Shawl Presented

Baby Blankets: Two Baby Blankets Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Provided Transportation to Medical Appointments and Other Support for Community Member

Funeral Lunch and Reception for Family and Friends of Becky Adams

Funeral Reception for Family and Friends of Gail Boyd

Benefit Fundraiser-- Organized a Hamburger/Hot Dog Fundraiser to benefit LaRayne Hall

Community Support/Outreach

Food Items-- 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 241 Meals

Children and Youth

*Vacation Bible School--*Evening Sessions of *Wonder Junction* were attended by an average of 31 children each evening, supported by over 30 volunteers

Mark your Calendars:

Ladies Night Out will be held on Thursday, July 17th at 6:00 pm at Mud Ceramic Studio (2354F Ebenezer Rd., Rock Hill, 29732). Please RSVP to Laura by July 15th.



Christmas in July Packing Party on Sunday, July 20th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! We are also collecting items for the boxes.

You may view what items are accepted here [Gift-Suggestions-PDF.pdf](#).

Ladies Mountain Retreat - September 19-21

Susan and Wes Hibbard have opened up their mountain house in Black Mountain for the ladies of Bethesda to enjoy a weekend of fellowship and Bible study. There are 17 women registered. There is still time to sign up by emailing Susan at sbhibbard@comporium.net

Our Bible study will be Daring Joy. Arrival is any time after noon on Friday. We will begin our Bible study after dinner on Friday.

The cost of the retreat will be no more than \$25.

Church Family,

Each week we have the chance to share how God is at work in our lives and in our Church. There are a lot of ways that this can be done. . through word of mouth, through the mail, through social media. We can also share our worship service through YouTube and invite others to participate digitally and virtually in the service.

We have plenty of methods to share Bethesda with someone else.

Another way that has been available is through the blog that I write.

Today I am offer you another way to share Bethesda with someone. Each Monday I am posting on my blog the sermon manuscript for anyone to read and to share. It will always be the message that you can watch on YouTube each week as part of the full worship service. I also post an additional devotional piece once a week on Wednesday that I invite you to look for on the blog. it is just something to think about and to consider as you practice your faith. That too can be shared as you see fit with others.

But today, I have added another piece for you to share with those God's brings to you. In a busy world we might not as much time as we would like to spend with the Lord. So today, I am beginning to post the audio file of my sermon and the Bible text that I used from Sunday morning. This too is a link on the blog. Just click the link. Go down to the bottom left of the page that it will open and press 'play.' You will hear the text and sermon in its entirety played.

This is free to share with anyone also.

Just another way to share what God is doing at Bethesda with someone else. I will also post a link in this email to my blog so for those who do not have it, you can find it.

As we try and reach more people with God's message, the YouTube worship service, this blog, our word of mouth is what the Lord has given us to help spread His message of hope in this community.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Derek

<https://revmarotta.blogspot.com/>



July Birthdays



2	Grant Barton
4	Elizabeth Bull, Kathy Jagers, Jill Carter
5	Julie Cornwell
6	Gage Russell
7	Krystal Jordan
11	Ed Williamson, III
14	Kari Darby
15	Steve Kay
16	Daisy Hine
17	Carolyn Rockholt
19	Anita Coxton
20	Stacy Russell
21	Marvin Johnson, Kelsey Simpson, Matthew Hudson
22	Gayle Dickson
23	Holly love
28	Cindy Davis
29	Donna Hagler
31	Tim Burns

Attendance for June

	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u> Views
-			
6/1/25	43	23	
6/8/25	47	28	
6/15/25	46	28	
6/22/25	36	23	
6/29/25	43	30	

Thank You!

Bethesda Presbyterian Church Ladies,

Thank you for the very generous and Delicious reception following Gail's service.

Your thoughtfulness and friendship are really appreciated. It was good to see many friends and family.

Love in Christ,
Jeanette Poole
Andi and George Stabler

Thank you, Bethesda Church, for the love and support you provided our family during the recent death and funeral of my sister, Gail Boyd, who was a faithful member of Bethesda for many years. Your thoughtful calls, cards, and visits have been a great comfort. The food provided after the service on Saturday was lovingly provided and served by many volunteers. Speaking for the entire Herndon family, I thank you.

Dorothy H. Williamson

Thank you to everyone that has been keeping me in their prayers, sending cards and calling. I am so thankful that Bethesda is my home church and I will be very happy when I return.

Also, thank you to everyone who was involved in the benefit for me Saturday, June 28. Whatever you did, I greatly appreciate it. I have missed being with you on Sundays and am very blessed to be a part of Bethesda.

A special thank you to Tara for playing the music for our Sunday Worship Services while I was recovering from hip surgery. She did a wonderful job!

LaRayne

Ministry Support Online!



Contributions may be made from the QR code.

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Ruth Rawdon
Anita Ferguson Buffoliino
Frank Allen
Jonathan Lauckner
Margaret Moore
Eddie Smith
Benny Coxton
David Bailey - cataract surgeries 6/30 and 7/28
Bill Dover
Eddie Allan Smith
Ricky & Debbie Simpson and family
Gene Cornwell (Mac)
Hildegard Bell
Steve Dickson, Jr.

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 Military:

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

In the Community and Beyond

Cheryl Hughes
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Dennis Duncan (Debbie Fulmer's dad) his memory
Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus
Brittany, Wes & Whitley Teter (Linda's granddaughter)
Dwight Little (cirrhosis of liver & stroke) Leslie Henson's co-worker)
Tommy & Nell Harper (Sarah's parents)
Christina Dixon (Shannon's friend) breast cancer
Janet Osborne (breast cancer)
Debi Dubard - treatment for cancer
Becky Shillington (Jim & Ernice's daughter) surgery
Kathy Miller (Todd Hagler's mother)
Barry Zachary (friend of Walkers) lung cancer
Amber Love
David McKowen (friend of Steve Childers) cancer
Clayburn Barnett
Pam McKinney
Sheri & Sarah Kimbrel
Arlene Henderson (Julie Cornwell's mom) hospice
Melanie Walker (knee replacement 6/19)
Karla Walker (Liz Blackwell's neighbor) health issues
Taylor Dover (Kelly Williamson's niece) breast cancer

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:

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