

November 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*

It is November. This is the second to last month of the year. Christmas is so close I can almost taste the Christmas cookies and hot cocoa. Soon the soft jazz that normally plays on my laptop during the day will be replaced with soft, familiar, Christmas carols. I will no longer see images of falling leaves on my screen but will instead gaze upon snowy peaks and candy canes.

But as it is November, I am reminded about something else. . . change. It is inevitable. The seasons come and they go.

This summer brought so much heat. I spoke with many of you who wished for rain and an ease to the struggles that the heat brought. Then August brought us nearly 15 inches of rain, and we were shocked by how life changed again. Life felt out of control—but are we truly ever in control? Or was God, the Lord of heaven and earth, the Creator and Sustainer of His Creation always at work in ways that we did not see?

Now we might feel out of control for very different reasons. . . very personal reasons that have little to do with the weather and which month it currently is.

It is said that change is the one constant in life. As soon as we become comfortable, and as soon as our life becomes predictable, we can expect a shift to be waiting around the next curve of life for us. That shift often traps us and it can overwhelm any sense of faith growing in us.

As I think about the transient nature of our days and our lives, I recall Katherine May's words. She wrote: "Life meanders like a path through the woods. We have seasons when we flourish and seasons when the leaves fall from us, revealing our bones. Given time, they grow again."

That last sentence strikes me. "Given time, they grow again." It is so easy, and I would argue too easy, to notice the places and situations where we believe that God is absent and not at work. It is easy to state, rather defiantly, that God has left us and that He cannot, or will not, return. But in those statements, we forget that all of life is a journey—a journey that changes. There are seasons where we feel and enjoy the prosperity of the Lord. Times when we could forget how good God is and times when we notice a need to come together as the church and serve our community more diligently.

Yet, that is the very moment when we need to be reminded that all things grow again; all things are reborn because God is constantly around us and consistently working in us. I hope that this month you will spend some time noticing how God has been with you in the good places and in the places and moments of struggle. For God has been in both places. As you notice them, speak to God about each moment and each place and see what God says about each place.

Grace and Peace
Rev. Derek

1 Katherine May, *Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Time*, (Riverhead Books, New York, 2020), 68.

Helping our neighbors:

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen: Our last time to serve at Plentiful Harvest Kitchen is November 30 at Covenant from 2:00 until 4:00 pm. Make plans to come for the whole time or an hour or two to help feed our neighbors.

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.

October was Dimes for Hunger month. The total amount collected was \$1,185.66. Thank you for helping to exceed our goal of \$1,000.00!

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report— October, 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

Seven Prayer Shawls/Lap Afghans Presented:

Three Baby Blankets

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Sounds of Grace

Matsiko

Ministry of Care and Support

Grief Share, Grief Support Group Met Weekly

Provided Transportation to Medical Appointments for Community Member

Community Support/Outreach

Bag Lunch Program--Prepared and Distributed 546 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

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

Food Share—Began a New Program, *Food Share*. Distributed 13 Boxes of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Children and Youth

Trunk or Treat—Hosted Trunk or Treat for Children aof Bethesda and the Community Children, attended by 130 Children

Special Guests

Hosted *Matsiko World Orphan Choir*, Lodging and Meals Provided by Church Members

Child Development Center

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

Coming up...

Hand Chimes will meet on Mondays at 6:30 in the Choir Room.

Adult Christmas Choir Practice is on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in the Choir Room.

Wednesday Dinner is at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

The Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, November 6th, at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

CDC Chapel will meet on Thursdays at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

All Saints Day Memorial - Next Sunday, November 9th, will be the All Saints Day Memorial to remember loved ones that have passed since November 2024. There is a list in the office of names we have collected. If you would like to double check to make sure that we have the names of your loved ones, please contact Pat in the church office, (803)328-1360 or email at bethesda@comporium.net

Ministry Support Online!



Contributions may be made from the QR code.



Community Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, November 25, 2025
6:00 pm



Bethesda will host Antioch and Adnah churches for our Community Thanksgiving Service. Please bring finger foods for the reception following the service.



Tis the Season to Give!



Christmas is coming quickly, and Bethesda Presbyterian Church is on a mission to make a difference through **Operation Christmas Child!** This year, our goal is to fill **200 shoeboxes** with love and gifts for children around the world - and we need **YOUR help** to make it happen!



How you can help:

- * Bring donations to fill the boxes (Place in the church office)
- * OR drop off completed shoeboxes - both are amazing blessings! All donations are needed by **November 23rd** so we can see what supplies we need before Our Packing Party!

Then we would love for you to join us for our festive **Packing Party on November 30th at 6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall! Bring your family, your Christmas spirit, and let's pack boxes together while spreading the joy of Jesus this Holiday season.

Go to [Official Shoebox Gift Suggestions](#) for gift suggestions and a list of items that should not be included in the boxes. If you donate the completed boxes please make sure you put a label on top for boy or girl and age.

Let's make Christmas one to remember - **200 boxes strong!**

I appreciate any support that you can offer for this cause!

In Christ,

Laura Merritt



Rock Hill Music Club

Presents

American History Month

A Blending of the Old with the New

Laurie Neal, Violin

P.J. Brunson, Piano



Historic Church Tour

Sunday, November 16, 2025

3:00 pm

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Bethesda Presbyterian is hosting the Rock Hill Music Club on Sunday, November 16 at 3:00 p.m. for their monthly music meeting. The congregation is cordially invited to attend. The guest musicians are Laurie Neal, Violin and PJ Brunson, Piano. They are the Ananda duo (sanskrit for "perfect bliss") and will play original Celtic-Classical New Age Fusion Music. The program will follow with a Historic Talk & Walk with Bobby Walker and with a reception. The Rock Hill Music Club is over 100 years old and raises scholarship money for music scholarships for Winthrop and York County High Schools. This program satisfies programming for American History Music Month. Please plan to join us! Admission is free!



November Birthdays



2	Linda Adkins
4	Joe Medlin
5	LouAnne Hildebrand
6	Sidney Russell
8	Carol Hope
11	Tracey McAteer
12	Ruth Rawdon
14	Tim Hood, Sr.
15	Tara Rogers
19	Faye Rockholt
20	Karen Percival
22	Benny Coxton, Jimmy Darby
25	Susan Hibbard
27	Mack Cornwell
30	Jim Beaty, III; Levon Love

Attendance for October

	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u> Views
-			
10/05/25	40	26	20
10/12/25	63	49	18
10/19/25	36	23	21
10/26/25	41	19	9

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Ruth Rawdon
Anita Ferguson Buffoliino
Frank Allen
Jonathan Lauckner
Margaret Moore
Eddie Smith
Benny Coxton
Edward and Dorothy Williamson
Bill Dover
Eddie Allan Smith
Ricky & Debbie Simpson and family
Gene Cornwell (Mac)
Hildegard Bell
Steve Dickson, Jr.
Debbie Darby (Knee replacement, 8/11/25)

Deaths

Dennis “Dink” Duncan, 10/20/25 (Debbie Fulmer’s dad)
Darlene Dunlap, 10/27/25 (Funeral 11/9/25 2 pm at Bethesda)

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

At Bethesda Child Development Center

Cynthia Jackson, Dawn Westmoreland, Jamie Baker,
Catherine Goodband, Natalie Ashe, Emily Hopkins,
Shelby Ashe, Madison Hartis, Julie Cornwell.

In the Community and Beyond

Cheryl Hughes
Johnny Rockholt (Faye’s son)
Hildegard and Jim Bell’s granddaughter, lupus
Brittany, Wes & Whitley Teter (Linda’s granddaughter)
Tommy & Nell Harper (Sarah’s parents)
Janet Osborne (breast cancer)
Debi Dubard - treatment for cancer
Becky Shillington (Jim & Ernice’s daughter) chemo
Kathy Miller (Todd Hagler’s mother)
Barry Zachary (friend of Walkers) lung cancer
Amber Love (Alberta’s friend) heart problems
David McKowen (friend of Steve Childers) cancer
Clayburn Barnett - esophageal cancer
Sheri & Sarah Kimbrel - health issues
Taylor Dover (Kelly Williamson’s niece) breast cancer
Bear Ballard (Pam & Byron’s great grandson)
Ruby Ledford (David & Esther Bailey’s neighbor) eye issues
Mark Williams (Donna Hagler’s brother) prostate cancer
Glenn Prange (3 yr. old - leukemia) bone marrow transplant
Bonnie Davis (Bill’s mom) breast cancer surgery, 11/4/25

In the Military:

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

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