

October 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*

C.S. Lewis once wrote, “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” I wonder if you can find the places in this past month where the words of C.S. Lewis have been real for you?

Whispering in pleasures (or blessing), speaking in your conscience, and shouting to you in your pain. In each of those places and experiences, I wonder if God is attempting to call, or revive, His Church?

As autumn is taking shape around us, perhaps this is an appropriate time to meditate upon how God is closer than we realize attempting to not only rouse the world, as Lewis says. God is also seeking to rouse the church. God wants each of us to begin our sacred work of sharing the gospel and meditation upon His returning scriptures as a way to meet the Lord and re-engage each other.

As we feel the closeness of God grow, space is created for us to notice and hear God. Another way to think about this, or to frame the conversation, comes in the words of Wendell Berry. He offers us these words as we watch the seasons change from the blistering heat of summer into the pained tress of autumn. He says:

*I go among trees and sit still.
All my stirring becomes quiet
around me like circles on water.
My tasks lie in their places.*

Berry continues in his writing by saying that each of the tasks in his day are drawn away from him until he is left with space—space that the Lord can fill. In that space, I hope, he and the Lord encounter one another in a deep way. This is where the voice of God that Lewis wrote about comes into focus for us regardless of what you are going through in your day.

October will be a very busy month for us as the Body of Christ. It will lead into an even busier November where we will continue practicing our faith and serving our community. I hope that you will go find a place to be still and listen for the voice of the Lord because I too believe that God is trying to “rouse a deaf world.”

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Derek

Helping our neighbors:

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen: Bethesda served on August 31 and served over 200 of our neighbors. The next date is November 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.

The **Grief Share Support Group** meets on Sundays from 4:00-5:30 pm in the Ladies' Parlor

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

Wednesday Dinners are at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall

The **Morning Circle** will meet on Thursday, October 2, at 10:00 am in the Sunday School Building.

The **Church Office will be closed on Friday, October 3.** Please leave a message at (803)-328-1360 or email bethesda@comporium.net

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report— September, 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

Three Prayer Shawls/Lap Afghans Presented

Two Baby Blankets Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Provided Transportation to Medical Appointments for Community Member

Community Support/Outreach

Plentiful Harvest—Prepared and served 231 meals at Plentiful Harvest Kitchen

Food Distribution—Distributed 32 Bags of Groceries to 14 Households, serving 57 people

Food Items-- Collected Food Items for Food Pantry and Blessing Box /Maintained the Blessing Box by keeping it fully stocked



UPCOMING MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES



Our **Christmas Worship Service** will be on December 21. This year's theme is "Celebrate the Child". We need voices for our choir and ringers for our hand chimes.

Christmas choir will begin on Wednesday, October 8 at 5:30 in the choir room. We need voices to join our present singers. You do not need to be able to read music or have experience. If you would like to sing for Christmas, please come.

The **Hand Chimes** will begin rehearsal on Monday, October 27 at 6:30 in the choir room. If you have never played chimes before, you do not need to read music, so come and join us. If interested, please come on October 27.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact LaRayne at larayneha@gmail.com, text or call at (803)-554-4705 or talk to me in person. Please pray about these opportunities and hopefully you will join us.

Thank You

Dear Sisters in Christ at Bethesda,

It was so kind of you to give to Thornwell in memory of Christina (Hibbard) Joniaux-Villocrese, Jane Putnam, Bobbie Kaye Hagler, Gail Boyd, Rebecca Adams and Doris Jonas. We will honor them by welcoming children and families to receive the care, love, support and resources Thornwell provides - changing lives!

Thank you,

Rebecca

Called Congregational Meeting

On Sunday October 19, 2025, the Session has called a meeting of the congregation of Bethesda Presbyterian Church for the purpose of electing 3 Elders to the class of 2028. The Congregational Nominating Committee is submitting the following names as a slate of Elders for approval. Trudy Amick, Sue Burns and David Chambers. Additional names may be submitted from the floor with prior approval of the nominee.

John Nettles

Clerk of Session

October:

-Dimes for Hunger- This will kick off [October 5th](#) in church but it is never too early to start saving that loose change! Our goal this year is to reach \$1,000! We have done it before and we can do it again!

-Trunk or Treat- This year it will take place on [Wednesday, October 29th](#) from 5:30-6:30! We are in need of candy donations and people willing to decorate their trunks! For candy donations please drop off in the church office and label it Trunk or Treat. If you plan to participate in the Trunk Decorating Contest please let me know the "name/theme" of your car! We have a competition this year and I will need names of each car in order to put them on the ballot. The last day to text me the name/theme of your car will be [Sunday, October 26th](#) so that I have a chance to get everything finalized on the ballot! There will be awards/prizes for those that are voted "The Best Overall Trunk", "The Funniest Trunk" and "The Most Creative Trunk".

November-

-Operation Christmas Child Packing Party- This will take place on [Sunday, November 30th](#) at 6:00! All are invited! We will be in need of boxes and supplies in order to make this happen! I will send more detailed info out about this closer to time but wanted everyone to be able to mark their calendars!

December-

-Live Nativity- That is right! You read that correctly! Bethesda will be doing their first ever Live Nativity! I hope you are just as excited as the few of us who have taken the idea and ran with it! We of course are open to all suggestions on how to make this work because I know it is about to be a very exciting event but also a huge learning curve. This means we will need ALL HANDS ON DECK and ALL AGES! This will take place on [Thursday, December 18th](#) from 5:30-7:30. This will also be the day that we do our [Christmas Food Distribution](#). After driving through the nativity, people will have the option to receive food from the distribution. All of this to say, I have a VERY vague idea of what this may look like but with all hands on deck and a whole lot of faith we as Bethesda can make this work!



Trunk or Treat
Wednesday, October 29
5:30 - 6:30 pm



Bethesda Presbyterian Church Parking Lot
Games, Candy & tons of fun and prizes!

Candy for Trunk or Treat can be dropped off at church.
Please let Laura know if you plan to decorate your trunk!



Beginning in October Bethesda will partner with Ft. Lawn Community Center to distribute food boxes of fruits and vegetables. Food Share is a food assistance program sponsored by MUSC and DSS. Food boxes are available to SNAP participants for purchase of \$5.00 payable through their EBT SNAP card. Food boxes are also available to non-SNAP participants for \$20.00 per box.

Fresh Food Boxes are filled with 9 to 11 varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables. Fresh Food Boxes will be available monthly on the third Tuesday for distribution at Bethesda. Food Boxes are provided at a cost which allows anyone to buy a box. Each box contains about 18 lbs. of fresh fruit and produce and include unique recipes, tips and nutrition notes to give the participants the encouragement to expand their food knowledge, cook new things and eat

How it works.

Those interested in participating in this program fill out a one-time contact information form. Each month the Regional Food Share group will contact those who have signed up or previously received boxes to confirm if they want a box for the upcoming month. SNAP participants can make payment when contacted at the reduced \$5.00 / box cost or pay \$20.00 at the time of delivery. Non-SNAP participants pay \$20.00 at the time of delivery.

How will Bethesda support this program?

Each month Bethesda will be given a list of participants who have requested a Food Box to be picked up at our church. Bethesda will coordinate with the Ft. Lawn Community Center to pick up the requested boxes for our location. Food boxes will be available for distribution at Bethesda on the third Tuesday of each month between 4 and 6 O' clock pm.

The amount of support staff needed to support distribution at Bethesda will vary and depend on the number of boxes needed for distribution. This opportunity is anticipated to require low support involvement and may be accomplished by recruiting church members each month based on need. There are opportunities to involve various small groups and ministries of the church to support this program as needed each month.

FOR MORE INORMATION or If you or someone you know would like to take advantage of this program, contact the church office, the pastor or John Nettles. Contact information forms for sign up are available in the church office.

Ministry Support Online!



Contributions may be made from the QR code.



October Birthdays



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

Attendance for August

	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u>
	In-person		Views
9/07/25	37	20	13
9/14/25	44	26	13
9/21/25	34	14	14
9/28/25	47	26	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

Charles Keith Ligon 8/31/25 (Carol Hope's brother)
John Henry Chappell, III 9/8/25 (burial 9/13/25 Bethesda Cemetery)

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.

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
Karla Walker (Liz Blackwell's neighbor) health issues
Taylor Dover (Kelly Williamson's niece) breast cancer
Bear Ballard (Pam & Byron's great grandson)
Helene Hibbard (Wes' mother)
Ruby Ledford (David & Esther Bailey's neighbor) eye issues
Mark Williams (Donna Hagler's brother) prostate issues

In the Military:

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

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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