

September 2025



# Bethesda Banner

The end of summer is upon us, and the extreme heat is finally abating. Well, the day that marks the end of summer at least is here—Labor Day. It is the time to rest from our labors and enjoy being together as families. While many of us enjoy the three-day weekend away from work and cooking out together, I wonder if Labor Day can also be an invitation to engage in the spiritual practice of Rest.

So much in my day, and I am sure in your life as well, is filled to capacity with responsibilities and tasks. We are on the move both emotionally and physically so stopping, or even slowing down, seems like a failure at many levels. Yet perhaps this Labor Day weekend, which is likely passed as you read these words, invites us to put aside our work and to be still as families and friends.

This month I want to share the words of Wendell Berry with you. In his poem, “*How to be a Poet*,” he offers this guidance:

*There are no unsacred places  
there are on only sacred places  
and desecrated places.*

*Accept what comes from silence.  
Make the best you can of it.  
of the little words that come out of the silence,  
like prayers prayed back to the one who prays.*

I have read these words repeatedly this week for they speak to my heart and draw me into a posture of rest when my mind tells me to ‘do more.’ Berry teaches the church that the sacred is found in whatever is worthy of reverence; whatever God has put before your path. God invites us to sit with these things, both great and small, and enjoy their blessing. Because God has given them to us as a gift.

For in a world that is bent on speed, productivity, and the completion of tasks, being still with the Lord, and enjoying the blessing of His creation, is a gift that too many in this world do not take advantage of when it sits right before us.

So, I hope that as you finish the Banner for this month, you will find some time, or make time if it is necessary, to rest and notice how God has placed the sacred right before you today.

Grace and Peace,  
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*

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/41087/how-to-be-a-poet>  
accessed on August 28, 2025.

## Helping our neighbors:

**Plentiful Harvest Kitchen:** On August 31, Bethesda served around 230 plates to our neighbors. Thank you to those who came to help! 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.



Wednesday Night Suppers will begin this Wednesday,  
September 3, at 6:30 pm.

## Missions, Outreach, and Service Report— August, 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

*Two Prayer Shawls/Lap Afghans Presented*

*One Baby Blankets Presented*

### Online Ministry

Worship Services

Sounds of Grace

### Ministry of Care and Support

Provided Transportation to Medical Appointments for Community Member

### Children and Youth

Rally Day Activities

### Community Support/Outreach

*Food Distribution*—Distributed 73 Bags of Groceries to 37 Households, serving 129 people

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



Thank you!

Thanks so much. A big thank you to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. I received a sweet baby blanket in the mail for my first great-grandchild and have presented it to Colleen and Jonathan, who live in Virginia, for their son Elliot Wayne, born in July. They were thrilled. Thank you again.

Nell Glover

**Choir Resumes** - Our adult choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 3, at 5:30. We sing for the worship service 2-3 times a month. We need more singers! If you are interested in joining us, come to the choir room on September 3. You do not need to read music to join. Just come and give choir a try. We finish rehearsals in time for Wednesday evening suppers. If you have any questions or concerns, please email LaRayne at [laraynehall@gmail.com](mailto:laraynehall@gmail.com), text or call her at (803)544-4705, or talk to her in person. Hope to hear some new voices on the 3rd.

**Grief Share** - The Grief Share seminar support group will on Wednesdays from 5:00 - 6:30 pm in the Session Room.

**Morning Circle** will meet on Thursday, September 4 at 10:00 am in the Sunday School Building.

The **Worship Committee** will meet on Sunday, September 7 at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Ministry Support Online!



Contributions may be made from the QR code.



## September Birthdays



|    |                                              |
|----|----------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Stephanie Barton                             |
| 2  | Anne Sanford                                 |
| 3  | Randy Neely                                  |
| 4  | Addison Johnson                              |
| 5  | Esther Bailey, Drew Hagler                   |
| 6  | Cole Johnston                                |
| 7  | Bill Russell, Jr.                            |
| 10 | Kylee Rockholt, Emma Marotta                 |
| 17 | Jordan Hose                                  |
| 21 | Jim Carter, Sr.; Chris Dewey; Mariah Russell |
| 22 | Mark Boyd, Myra Smith, Jackie Saboley        |
| 28 | Lou Beaty, David Hibbard                     |
| 30 | Pam McKinney                                 |

### Attendance for August

|         | <u>Morning Worship</u><br>In-person | <u>Sunday School</u> | <u>Online Worship</u><br>Views |
|---------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8/3/25  | 35                                  | 23                   | 12                             |
| 8/10/25 | 65                                  | 32                   | 13                             |
| 8/17/25 | 47                                  | 23                   | 30                             |
| 8/24/25 | 50                                  | Rally Day            | 25                             |
| 8/31/25 | 36                                  | 23                   | 9                              |

# Remember in Prayer

## At Bethesda

Ruth Rawdon  
Anita Ferguson Buffoliino  
Frank Allen  
Jonathan Lauckner  
Margaret Moore  
Eddie Smith  
Benny Coxton  
Bill Dover  
Eddie Allan Smith  
Ricky & Debbie Simpson and family  
Gene Cornwell (Mac)  
Hildegard Bell  
Steve Dickson, Jr.  
Debbie Darby (Knee replacement, 8/15)  
John Nettles (fell - sprained back and shoulder)

## Deaths

Erline Henderson - 7/28/25 (Julie Cornwell's mom)

## 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,  
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  
Karla Walker (Liz Blackwell's neighbor) health issues  
Taylor Dover (Kelly Williamson's niece) breast cancer  
Bear Ballard (Pam & Byron's great grandson)

## 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](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net)

Website: [www.bethesdapres.org](http://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