

April 2026



Bethesda Banner

As we finish Lent this year and move towards new stories in God's word, and into new avenues of ministry as the Body of Christ, I wonder about the small characters who shape the narratives around you? The seemingly insignificant intruders whose stories you cannot forget.

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*

Thinking about this idea, let's cast our mind back to Holy Week and focus back on Pontius Pilate. He is a man whose story is well-known and well-shared. But what about his wife? How well do you know her story? Since history has lost her name, we shall refer to her as Mrs. Pilate. There is only one reference to her in the entirety of scripture. Yet as you read these words, I suspect that you already can fill in her story without me citing it. But let's think on it together:

*"While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message:
"Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great
deal today in a dream because of him." (Matthew 27:19).*

That's it. Nothing else is known about Mrs. Pilate.

She knows that Jesus is innocent. She has dreams that demonstrate this to her and these dreams disturb her. Her dreams seem to indicate that her husband is going to do something terrible to this innocent man as well. Everything else is left to us to figure out about her.

Does God speak to her in those dreams? Did she hear Jesus preach once and after hearing one of Jesus' messages or teachings did, she become an early convert to the church? History is mute on these questions and others like them. But without the tension that Mrs. Pilate adds to Pontius Pilate's historic encounter with Jesus, it feels like something would be missing from Holy Week.

And that is how many of our stories of faith go both inside and outside of the church. We are familiar with the heroes of our faith. The parents, grandparents, Sunday School teachers, and church leaders who impacted us positively for the Lord. But what about the subtle people who gently kept the narrative of how God is at work around us alive and active? What about their story? Even if that story only fills one verse, or one sentence, of the overall story in Christ Jesus. Those people and their stories matter.

Perhaps as spring continues to return, and we celebrate the joy of Easter each week of this new season, this is something that we can continue to thank the Lord for. Perhaps we can bring to mind the people who impact us, the big and the small. . .

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Derek

Helping our neighbors:

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen - Our next date to serve is May 10.

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.

Catawba Area Agency Food Pantry Dates (tentative)

4/10/2026 Faith Presbyterian Church 7520 Charlotte Hwy, Indian Land, SC

4/17/2026 Kenneth Monroe Transformation Centre 745 Saluda St. Rock Hill, SC

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report—March 2026

Presbyterian Women's Circle:

Card Ministry

Donations to:

Thornwell

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

Tito Palacios and La Mission in Guatemala

The Matias Family

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

Pastoral Care

Pastor Observed Home Communion with Two Families with Homebound Members, Assompanied by Two Elders

Community Support/Outreach

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

*Food Distribution—*Distributed 100 Bags of Groceries to 48 Households, serving 167 people

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.....

April 1: Choir Practice at 6:30 in the Choir Room
Wednesday dinner at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall

April 2: The Morning Circle at 10:00 am in the Sunday School Building.
Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

April 3: Good Friday, Sanctuary open for prayers from 10:00 am—noon

April 4: Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 am

April 5: Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 am followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
Easter Worship Service at 11:00 am

April 18: Spring Gathering of Providence Presbyterian Women

Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church

Breakfast at 8:30 am

Program at 9:15 am

There will be a memorial service for ladies who passed away in 2025.

May 3: Homecoming, covered dish lunch following worship service

June 22-25: Vacation Bible School, 5:30 pm - 7:55 pm





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Emily Darby
6	Frank Allen
8	Margaret Moore, Hayden Burns
10	Sean Goodband
13	Eden Shannon
15	Adley Costner
22	Preston Sharpe
25	Billy Johnston, Jr.
26	Pat Jones
28	Todd Russell, Pam McDonald
29	Thomas Dunlap, IV

Attendance for March

	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u>
	In-person		Views
3/1/26	50	26	25
3/8/26	30	23	18
3/15/26	55	27	23
3/22/26	50	29	17
3/29/26	43	25	23

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

AT BETHESDA

Ruth Rawdon
Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Frank Allen
Jonathan Lauckner
Margaret Moore
Eddie Smith
Benny Coxton
Bill Dover
Eddie Allan Smith - hospital with respiratory issues
Ricky & Debbie Simpson and family
Gene Cornwell (Mac)
Hildegard Bell
Steve Dickson, Jr.

BIRTH

Jaxon William McGowen 3/25/26 son of Ben & Ember McGowen

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

At Bethesda Child Development Center

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

In the Military

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

IN THE COUMMNITY AND BEYOND

Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus
Whitley Teter (Linda's granddaughter), surgery 3/25/26
Janet Osborne - breast cancer
Tommy & Nell Harper (Sarah's parents)
Kathy Miller (Todd Hagler's mother)
Clayburn Barnett - esophageal cancer
Sheri & Sarah Kimbrel - health issues
Glenn Prange (3 yr old - leukemia) bone marrow transplant
Ruby Ledford (David & Esther's neighbor) eye issues
Donna Parrish (Jim & Lisa's friend) heart issue
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Cheryl Hughes - health issues
Debi Dubard - treatment for cancer
Becky Shillington (Jim & Ernice's daughter) chemo
Amber Love (Alberta's friend) heart problems
David McKeowen (Steve Childers' friend) stage 4 cancer
Taylor Dover (Kelly Williamson's niece) breast cancer
Mark Williams (Donna Hagler's brother) prostate cancer
Bonnie Davis (Bill's mom) breast cancer
Emma Joy Dover (Sarah's 9 yr old niece) Type 1 diabetes
Charlie Ruffalo (Substation II owner) cancer
Sherrie Varnadore (Peggy's daughter)

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:

Trudy Amick

Sue Burns

David Chambers

Steve Childers

JonMark Marotta

Jesse Merritt

Laura Merritt

Jim Percival

Lisa Percival

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 - Rev. Derek Marotta

Director of Christian Education - Laura Merritt

Secretary/Bookkeeper - Pat Jones

Directory of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall

Sexton - Donna Hagler