

August 2026



Bethesda Banner

Ministry is not a one-time moment, or event, that we celebrate and then forget. Participation in ministry is a reflection and a response to the presence of the Lord with us daily. As we encounter the Lord, and as we grow in our relationship with Him, we remember how God is with us, and that motivates our actions moving outward.

So, while the work of serving the Lord and the community comes to an end as the tables and chairs are put away and the building locked back up, ministry does not end because we continually reflect on how God is with us and where God's call is taking us.

This is how I felt, and it is how I continue to feel, as I think about the most recent food distribution at Bethesda. According to our records, we provided food assistance to 235 people. . . in the rain. . . while laughing and sharing our joy.

Since that night, I have thought back to the people that I talked to. I remember how they offered God's blessing to us and were appreciative of the work the Lord calls us to. Some people told me that they have been continually praying for our church. Yet in those moments of ministry, even if they occurred days ago, we reveal something about ourselves and about our relationship with God. We may have served the Lord a week ago, but the blessing and presence of God does not stop speaking to us—and about us.

So, when we do ministry, we are sharing part of who we truly are. But the choice to serve and to respond remains ours alone. God moves in our hearts and in our lives and this helps the community see us as we truly are. Thinking about this I remember something that I once read. Thomas Merton once wrote:

"For me to be a saint means to be myself. Therefore, the problem of salvation is in fact, the problem of finding out who I am, and of discovering my true self. . . We can be ourselves or not, as we please. We are at liberty to be real, or to be unreal. We may be true or false, the choice is ours. We may wear now one mask, and now another, and never, if we so desire, appear with our own faces."

I know many people shy away from being labeled as a saint. But Merton is correct, we must be ourselves in the work that God calls us to and that is 'saintly work.' When we serve the Lord, we show others our love of God. We show them how God is with us and how God's presence prompts each of us to act or respond. Yet the choice is always ours.

The choice to be ourselves, and to serve the Lord, is always ours. No one can force or coerce us into ministry. So, as we remember how God is with us, I hope you too will continue to be yourself and let your relationship with God motivate your care for this community.

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***

Helping 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.

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report - July 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

Four Prayer Shawls/Lap Afghans Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Provided Transportation to Medical Appointments for Community Member

Hosted Reception Following the Funeral of Kayce Brookings, Granddaughter of Ruth Rawden

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 Food items to 59 families, 241 serving people, and providing 114 bags of groceries plus fresh fruits and vegetables and frozen foods

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen—Prepared and served 170 meals to community members

Children and Youth

Prayers for Schools—Congregation members, Bethesda Buddies, and Youth Group members visited schools attended by Bethesda's children and youth to pray for God's protection wisdom, peace and guidance over everyone who will walk through school doors this year

Ministry Support Online



**Contributions may be made from
the QR code.**

Upcoming dates:

Rally Day 8/30/26

Offering for Benevolence 8/30/26

Morning Circle 9/3/26 10:00 am in the Sunday School Building

Session Meeting 9/20/26 6:00 pm in the Session Room

Women of the Church

You are invited to a Bible study retreat in the mountains of North Carolina. Our Bible study topic will be 12 Daring Women of the Bible. We will spend time in Bible study and enjoy fun and fellowship together.



October 2 - 4

Contact Susan Hibbard if interested.

sbibbard@comporium.net or 803-322-4927

More information will be sent out as the date gets closer.

Grief Share

The Grief Share support group will be starting soon. . We will start meeting on Sundays from 4:00-5:30 in the ladies parlor beginning August 23. Grief Share is a 13-week video seminar series that features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. The video seminars are combined with support group discussions of the material presented in the videos. After watching the video, we spend some time talking to each other and supporting each other through our grief journey. Please feel free to share this information with anyone you feel might benefit from this support group. For more information, please feel free to contact Karen Percival at [803-517-2268](tel:803-517-2268) or call the church office at [803-328-1360](tel:803-328-1360).



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Asa Darby, Chay Williamson, Seth Williamson**
- 2 Tony Neely**
- 4 Darius Alexander**
- 9 Tamara Rockholt**
- 10 Peggy Adkins**
- 11 Jim Bell**
- 14 Hildegard Bell, Lennie Teska, Jr., JD Hibbard**
- 17 Shannon Freeman**
- 20 Hart Teska, III**
- 21 Abby Costner, David Chambers**
- 23 Betty Jo Alexander, Rebecca Simpson**

Attendance for July

	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u>
	In-person		Views
7/5/26	36	18	service not online
7/12/26	30	21	31
7/19/26	52	25	25
7/26/26	44	no SS - no power	service not online

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

AT BETHESDA

Ruth Rawdon
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.
Ed and Dorothy Williamson
Faye Rockholt
Lou Beaty - hip surgery and rehab

Deaths

Kayce Leigh Brookins 6/30/26 (funeral & burial
Bethesda 7/11/26)
Anthony Davis 7/22/26 (Bill Davis's brother)

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, Julie Cornwell, Sarah Hunter,
Lindsey Lewis, Elizabeth Davis, Lynda Matos

In the Military

Chase Davis, Zoe De Anda, Pierce Dewey, Gage Orr,
Michael Wilkerson, Sabrina Dollar, Tyler Palm,
David Tallent

IN THE COUMMNITY AND BEYOND

Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus
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
Donna Parrish (Jim & Lisa's friend) heart failure
Sherrie Varnadore (Peggy's daughter)
Whitley Teter (Wes & Brittany's daughter and Linda's
granddaughter) surgery 3/25/26
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Janet Osborne - breast cancer
Tommy & Nell Harper (Sarah Childers' parents)
Kathy Miller (Todd Hagler's mother)
Clayburn Barnett - esophageal cancer surgery 4/16/26
Sheri & Sarah Kimbrel - health issues
Glenn Prange (3 yr. old) leukemia, bone marrow
transplant
Bonnie Davis (Bill's mom) breast cancer surgery
Charlie Ruffalo (Substation II owner) cancer
Luna Blue (David & Esther Bailey's great-granddaughter)
feeding tube
Kari Darby (Jimmy's daughter-in-law) aneurism, stroke

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

Linda Messer

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