

February 2026



# Bethesda Banner

I am not the first person to say, "The storm has passed." Here at Bethesda, I was amazed and blessed to listen to the stories of neighbors and friends coming together to plan and share their resources as we prepared for this winter storm. It amazed me that this latest front would stretch from New Mexico, across the Great Plains, and all the way up to the East Coast.

## Bethesda Presbyterian Church

4858 McConnells Hwy.

York, SC 29745

(803)328-1360

Sunday School 9:45 am

Worship 11 am

Visit

[www.bethesdapres.org](http://www.bethesdapres.org)  
for updates.



***This is a publication of  
the people of Bethesda  
Presbyterian Church***

It was a blessing to witness you as a church surrounding each other in days leading up to the storm in support. Food was shared. Heaters passed around. Generators prepped. Expertise shared. Wise counsel utilized with a warm smile and the hope that spring will come soon. Your skills were passed around so freely and so graciously. You sacrificed when no one made you do it. This is just who you are, and I am lucky to bear witness to it.

Now I know it would be easy to say, "Well, that is what it means to be a church," or "it is who we are at Bethesda." But on Saturday as messages from so many of you trickled into me making sure that my family and I had both power and water, I could think of no other response but, "Thank you, church family. And thank you, Lord."

My family was fine. We did not lose power. But if we did, the blessing of the Body of Christ would be present to support us. As I thought about that blessing, I recalled something I read again that I would like to share with you as a call for us to take with us into the mission field moving forward.

*"To be a blessing is . . . to anticipate the life of the kingdom by modeling the ways [that] God ultimately relates to the world and advancing the relations human beings will have with one another. If being church is called ministry [then] advancing the kingdom is known as mission."*

These are words that I hope you will take with you into every ministry encounter that you have in this new year. For whether we face another winter storm, or a hurricane, or just a needy family who needs a bag of groceries or a place to process their pain, you and I have the choice of how we will care for our community and each other.

We have the choice of how we will respond to God's call. I believe that as a church, God will help us live out that choice faithfully and diligently and so as another storm prepares to come, and as resources are gathered again, I have confidence both in the Lord and in you.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Derek

*Helping our neighbors:*

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen - Bethesda will serve at Covenant on February 8 from 2-6 pm. Yes, we know that's Super Bowl Sunday! You can help and still make it home in time for kick off! Plan to help for a couple of hours or the entire time. 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.

### **Missions, Outreach, and Service Report—January 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

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

*Five Prayer Shawls Distributed*

**Online Ministry**

Worship Services

Sounds of Grace

**Ministry of Care and Support**

Provided Transportation to Medical Appointments for Community Member

Hosted Two Funeral Receptions for Family and Friends

**Community Support/Outreach**

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

**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.....

The Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 10:00 am in the Sunday School Building.



#### Chime Ringers Needed

Easter is on April 5. We will be starting chime practice on Monday, February 9 at 6:30 in the music room. We need 12 ringers so hope you can come join us. If you have any questions, please ask me at [larayneha@gmail.com](mailto:larayneha@gmail.com), call or text me at [803-554-4705](tel:803-554-4705) or talk to me. LaRayne

*Thank you*

Dear Body of Christ at Bethesda,

Our family wants to express our thankfulness for your ongoing prayers and financial support of our family as we continue to serve in ministry. We have personally seen God's love and care through Bethesda, and we are grateful for you.

With much appreciation and love, Laura & Felipe Matias

**Offering envelopes** for 2026 are available. They have been placed in the mailboxes in the church office and on the front pew in the sanctuary. If you are no longer using envelopes, maybe you are using the QR code, ACH, etc., please let us know. Questions, contact the church office (803)328-1360 or by email at [bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net)

The new 2026 Flower Chart is in the narthex to sign up to place flowers in the sanctuary for Sunday morning worship. If you wish to have info in the bulletin on that Sunday, contact Pat at (803)328-1360 or by email at [bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net)

#### Ministry Support Online



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

The Session has called a meeting of the congregation on Sunday, February 22, 2026, immediately following the worship service for the purpose of receiving the Annual Ministry Report and to elect 4 members from the congregation to serve on the 2026 Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC). The CNC is responsible for nominating individuals from the congregation to serve in Elder Class of 2029. Nominations from the floor to serve on the CNC must have prior approval from the individual and the individual must be present.

The Board of Trustees of the Corporation for Bethesda Presbyterian Church York, South Carolina has called a meeting of the corporation to immediately follow the congregational meeting. This meeting will be for the purpose of presenting an annual report to the Corporation.

### **News from the Property and Cemetery Committees**

We are purchasing a stand-alone columbarium for our historic Bethesda cemetery as another option for cremation remains. In this permanent above ground memorial, the cremation urns will be held in individual compartments called niches. The niches can hold up to 2 urns and will be the same cost as a single cemetery plot, which depends on one's status. Currently our member cost is \$600.00 (\$900.00 if related to a member and \$1200.00 for nonmembers as stated in the cemetery policy). If anyone has an interest, please let our cemetery representative, Bobby Walker or our church secretary know asap. You can help offset the cost for this columbarium by advanced payment for your niche. Also , this allows for free engraving on your niche if it's done with the initial purchase of the columbarium, which will save you some money down the road.



FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD  
THAT HE GAVE  
HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON  
THAT WHOSOEVER  
BELIEVETH IN HIM  
SHOULD NOT  
PERISH BUT HAVE  
EVERLASTING  
LIFE.

JOHN 3:16



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

5	Debbie Simpson, Lisa Teska
7	Sarah Childers, Deloras Melton
10	LaRayne Hall
13	Bill Dover, Danny Drayton
14	Leslie Henson
16	MaryJo Gardner, Sarah Russell
23	Valerie Bull
28	Cohen Hudson

### Attendance for December

	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u>
	In-person		Views
1/4/26	51	25	29
1/11/26	41	11	26
1/18/26	40	21	21
1/25/26	Ice - no church		22

## 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.  
Debbie Darby - Knee replacement surgery 8/11/25

### DEATHS

Harper Johnson 12/30/25  
William Johnson 1/2/26  
Claire Williamson 1/14/26  
Laura McKnight 1/23/26

### 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, Shelby Ashe, Madison Hartis, Julie Cornwell.

### 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  
Brittany, Wes & Whitley Teter (Linda's granddaughter)  
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

## **Trex Plastic Recycling Challenge**

Our next bench has been ordered. As we work toward another bench in 2026 please keep in mind the types of plastic that can be recycled: ALL PLASTIC SHOULD BE CLEAN AND DRY - NO FOOD RESIDUE!

Grocery Bags - Bread Bags - Case Overwrap - Pallet Wrap and Stretch Film - Dry Cleaner Bags - Newspaper Sleeves - Ziploc and other Resealable Storage Bags - Produce Bags - Product Wrap - Retail Bags - Air Pillows - Bubble Wrap - Plastic Shipping Envelopes - Electronic Wrap - Plastic films labeled with #2 or #4 recycling symbol (polyethylene films) - Wood Pellet Bags - Salt Bags - Cereal Box Liners

### **Please DO NOT put the following plastics in the recycling bins:**

Frozen Food Bags - Candy Bar Wrappers - Potato Chip Bags - Net or Mesh Produce Bags - Pet Food Bags - Degradable/ compostable bags or film packaging - Pre-Washed Salad Mix Bags - Hot Dog or Meat Wrap Packaging - Six Pack Rings - PPE (Gloves, Masks or Protective Wear) - Pool Covers - Lamination Film - Silage and Hay Bags - Vinyl Shower Curtains or Tablecloths - Bedding or Linen Packaging - Shiny, Crinkly Films like Floral Wrap

Don't see your item on this list? Try these tests to see if your plastic is acceptable or not.

See if the package will stretch when you pull it. If yes, it can be included. If it tears like paper, then please don't put in the bin.

Is the package shiny or does it make a crinkly/crunchy sound in your hand? If yes, do NOT recycle in the NexTrex® bin.

Debbie Darby, Ernice Bookout and Sarah Childers pick up the recycling from the church, weigh it and take it to the correct recycle points. Lately, we have had to go through the bags and pull out dirty items and items that cannot be recycled. Please follow the above lists and it will save them a lot of time! Thank you!

# Bethesda Presbyterian Church

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Email: [bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net)

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