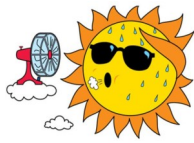


July 2026



Bethesda Banner

Earlier today I was reading an article by Chris Smith that I wanted to share with you this summer. He wrote:

"While training for long run hurts, I know why it hurts. . . Isn't that the whole point? If training was a cinch, then I'd feel I wasn't pushing myself. But writing doesn't feel like that one bit. Going round in circles on the book – finding it hard, feeling stuck – doesn't seem challenging in a motivating way. . . Like I'm doing something wrong or the project itself is a waste of time. If you've ever grappled with a design that won't come together. . . or a piece of writing or other creative work that feels directionless, you might know this feeling too. Why does difficulty and discomfort often feel like failure when you're engaged in work like this?"

In the article that I read, Chris reflected on the challenges of simultaneously writing a novel and training for a marathon. As he did so, Chris struggled with the formation of the plot while trying to heal the fatigue of mind and muscle. As I read his honest reflections, I could feel his tension. He was trying to accomplish something that he felt called to, yet he was stuck not knowing if he was successful or not.

I wonder if Chris' struggles apply to us as we share the gospel? I wonder if as we notice the discomfort can we see this as God at work in our lives, and present when we feel the challenge?

Consider the lessons from Paul's life. At first, he thought that he understood God's call. Yet there was also a challenge in that work. As Paul serves the Lord and tries to proclaim the gospel, he is met with people who do not share his faith. The Book of Acts is replete with stories of churches sending him away before he is harmed, imprisoned, or arrested. Like Chris, Paul could feel the discomfort and discouragement of a task that he cannot complete alone. Yet Paul persevered. He continued in his work.

Now I know that we are not Paul, but we do know something about the challenges that come with tasks that feel too big for us. But I wonder if this summer you can join me in recognizing into the discomfort and the challenge. As we recognize it, we can also affirm that God is with us in this work. And who knows, perhaps, God is providing a direction forward for us as we share our faith...

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://psyche.co/ideas/struggling-with-creative-work-doesnt-mean-youre-failing> accessed on June 29, 2026. Emphasis added.

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 - June 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

Special Offerings Collected for Local Missions and the Benevolence Fund at the End of May

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Presented 2 Lap Afghans

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Provided Transportation to Medical Appointments for Community Member

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 36 families, serving 130 people, and providing 74 bags of groceries, plus two freezers of frozen foods

Children and Youth

*Vacation Bible School—*Evening Sessions of Bible School were attended by an average of 30 children, supported by 35 volunteers. Collected \$1077 to provide clean well water for villages in Tanzania

Ministry Support Online



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



Thank you to all of our 2026 VBS
Volunteers!!!

Because of your servant hearts, children heard about Jesus, made new friends, laughed, learned, and created memories that we pray will last a lifetime. While each of us had different responsibilities, we all worked together with one purpose: sharing the love of Christ.

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.

sbhibbard@comporium.net or 803-322-4927

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



Communion will be held this Sunday, July 5.

The morning circle will meet on September 3 at 10:00 am in the Sunday School Building. Mark your calendars.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

2	Grant Barton
3	Jill Carter
5	Kathy Jagers
6	Julie Cornwell
7	Gage Russell
8	Krystal Jordan
9	Ed Williamson III
10	Kari Darby
11	Steve Kay
12	Daisy Hine
13	Carolyn Rockholt
14	Anita Coxton
15	Stacy Russell
16	Marvin Johnson
17	Kelsey Simpson
18	Matthew Hudson
19	Gayle Dickson
20	Holly Love
21	Cindy Davis
22	Donna Hagler
23	Tim Burns

Attendance for June

	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u>
	In-person		Views
6/7/26	28	21	8
6/14/26	39	25	18
6/21/26	52	26	19
6/28/26	40	23	35

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

Deaths

Chad Barr , 6/9/26 Derek & Jennifer's
brother-in-law

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

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
Eddie Bolin
Shannon Freeman
Luna Blue

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