

June 2026



Bethesda Banner

Where do you go, both physically and mentally, when the strain of your day becomes too much?

Having just returned to Bethesda after a week away, this question is fresh on my mind—and not for the reasons that you might think. Before Jennifer, Emma, and I left for Disney, I led the last chapel service with the children of CDC for this school year. My question for them was the same as it is for you. It was a question about vacation.

And while I used different words with those kids, I was aware that even our young children feel the daily pressures upon them. Over the summer, they may not have the burden of classes and homework, but that does not mean they are pressure-free when they are at home. So how do they find space to rest and retreat? How do they recover before they return to class—many on, or around, August 1st? Their answers were profound to me.

One answer that I found as I thought about this question, came in a book that I am reading entitled *Paul: A Biography*. The author N.T. Wright, who is both a historian and New Testament theologian, works slowly through Paul's early life to help the reader learn who the Apostle was before Jesus appeared to him on the Road to Damascus.

In a citation from Galatians 1, Paul stated that he took some time away and went back to Arabia before beginning his missional work. Now I won't bog you down with too many historical details, but Wright believes that while Paul was away in Arabia, following the revelation of Jesus on the Damascus road, he travelled to Mt. Sinai. In that time Arabia was a very large place stretching from Jordan to nearly Egypt. And a Hebrew like Paul, a man who knew of Moses and Elijah, where else would one go when they needed to find the Lord but to a historic place where God has been found before?

Now we cannot say if Paul found God in the place, but we can wonder. . . and as we wonder, I can ask you a question as your summer begins. You too will have time and space to go away. You will have room, either physically or spiritually, to retreat and be with the Lord as Paul did. I wonder if you will?

In Galatians 1:18 Paul says that immediately after he spent this time away, he goes to visit Peter, and he meets many of the other disciples of Jesus. Then he ventures out to preach the Word of God. The ministry that God called Paul to begins in earnest, perhaps, at Sinai where he rested with God. But without spending his time there. Without going to seek the Lord, we can wonder if it would ever have happened.

And so, I hope you too will find the space to rest and retreat this summer for we do not know how God will use that time to empower you and call you onward.

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:

There will be a food distribution on June 18 from 4 until 6 pm at Bethesda.

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)

6/12/2026 Freedom Temple Ministries, 215 E. Main St., Rock Hill, SC

6/26/2026 Mt. Olivet AME Zion 527 S. Dave Lyle Blvd. Rock Hill, SC

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report - May 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

One 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

Community Support/Outreach

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

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen—Prepared and Served 108 meals at Plentiful Harvest Kitchen

Provided Lunch for Family Following Funeral Services

Child Development Center

Pastor Conducted Two Weekly Chapel Services for the Three Year Olds through Pre-K Children and for the After School Children



Vacation Bible School

June 22-25, 2026

5:30 - 7:55

Dinner served nightly

For ages 3 years through 5th Grade
(just completed)

Registration cards are in the front of the
sanctuary and in the vestibule.

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.

shibbard@comporium.net or 803-322-4927

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



Congratulations to our 2026 Graduates

Kaitlyn Hall, South Pointe High School (plans to attend University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, nursing)

Reagan Hall, South Pointe High School (plans to attend University of SC Upstate at Spartanburg, education)

Will Johnston, Coastal Carolina University with a degree in Finance, minor in Economics

Emma Marotta, York Technical College with a degree in Medical Laboratory Assistant

Thank you!

Dear Bethesda Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your donations of \$400 and \$267 to Pilgrims' Inn in December 2025. It is with grateful hearts that we accept your generous donation. We appreciate your wonderful contribution to the work of Pilgrims' Inn. Your donation will further our mission of providing shelter, assistance, and supportive services to the community's most vulnerable citizens.

In 2025, Pilgrims' Inn provided food to over 16,557 hungry individuals through our food pantry, which was over 5,517 households. This was about a 20% increase from the previous year. We provided emergency shelter and housing to over 48 women and 31 children in our women's shelter and housing programs. We provided financial literacy and life skills to the women in our programs to get them prepared for the future. We provided early child education services to over 34 low income children in our childcare center. These statistics indicate there is a great need and demand in our community.

Your support helps each of our clients stabilize and move toward independence. We have been working constantly with each client to help them secure a job, find permanent housing, feed their families, and build the life skills necessary to prosper. Our community partners and volunteers have rallied behind our mission, lending their own skills to ensure that clients are successful. Working together, we can change lives.

Again, thank you for supporting our mission, vision, and purpose as we help those in need.

If you have any questions about Pilgrims' Inn, our programs, the clients we serve, or the impact we have, please do not hesitate to call me at 803-327-4227 or email me at jpalmer@pilgrimsinn.org.

Yours Faithfully,

JaVonda B. Palmer, MSW, BSW, BSBA
Executive Director





JUNE BIRTHDAYS



- 3 Grayson Darby, III**
- 6 Todd Hagler**
- 7 Ralph Adams**
- 8 Chuck Barton**
- 12 Debbie Darby**
- 14 Lewis Jordan**
- 17 Marlien Hudson**
- 20 James Platt**
- 21 Pam Jordan**
- 24 Jim Carter, Jr.**
- 25 Laura Merritt**
- 27 Tyson Medlin, Kenneth Wheatley**
- 28 Wes Hibbard, Tony McKinney,
Coleman Burns**
- 29 David Bailey, Beth Smith**

Attendance for May

| | <u>Morning Worship</u> | <u>Sunday School</u> | <u>Online Worship</u> |
|---------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | In-person | | Views |
| 5/3/26 | 65 | 27 | 23 |
| 5/10/26 | 46 | 25 | 18 |
| 5/17/26 | 44 | 27 | 19 |
| 5/24/26 | 32 | 22 | 13 |
| 5/31/26 | 58 | 29 | 8 |

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

Deaths

Anita Ferguson Buffolino, 5/3/26
Wayne Andrew Herndon, 5/20/26 (Dorothy Williamson's brother)
David Steinmeyer (Edie Nettles' cousin)

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

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
Ruby Ledford (David & Esther's neighbor) eye issues
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

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

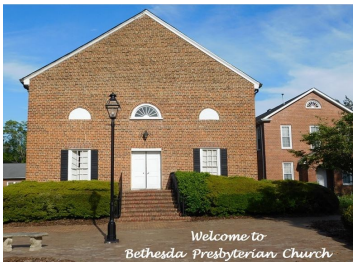
Laura Merritt

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