

May 2026



Bethesda Banner

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*

Yesterday afternoon the doorbell rang. Immediately the dogs began to frantically bark and run around the den alerting me to what I had just heard. Unable to find a pair of matching flip flops, I stepped out on the front porch barefoot and greeted a man wearing a polo shirt from Comporium.

With a mixture of frustration and fatigue on his face he told me about an issue with the phone line at the church. The short version of the story is that when another contractor was digging out in front of the church, they cut Comporium's line and we lost our phones.

Now pointing at the white cable running across my driveway and towards the church, he showed me that the line was replaced. I asked the obvious question, "When do you think it will be buried?" He was ready for that one and I could tell that he was also ready for me to get angry at his response. Yet I was not angry. This was not his fault, and I did not blame him.

Together we walked about halfway through the yard talking about what happened and why it happened. I asked a few questions but more than anything else, I listened. I let him tell me what happened and as he told me the story, the man interjected his feelings about the events that called him to Bethesda.

As often as I could I told him that we did not blame him and we did not blame Comporium for what was obviously not their fault. I told him that I knew he would get the cable buried quickly and that I was sorry that we had to meet like this.

The man rubbed his face and shook my hand and then said, 'thanks for understanding, most people don't.'

Well, the Body of Christ should be the place where grace and understanding flow into situations like this. While it is inconvenient for us to have a white cord running from the street to the building and this will impact the grass that needs to be cut (thanks Lord for this wonderful rain!). I wonder what might have happened and what he might have thought of the Church if I acted exactly like he thought I was going to when he first rang the bell and I came outside? Anger and frustration would not have served the Lord.

Perhaps the next time that you have the chance to offer grace, you could bring to mind my story. Maybe you will be the balm that another person needs, and they too will feel the love of Jesus in their day. . .

Grace and Peace

Rev. Derek

Helping our neighbors:

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen - Our next date to serve is this Sunday, 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)

5/08/2026 Trinity Methodist Church 22 East Liberty St. York, SC

5/29/2026 Mt. Olivet AME Zion 527 S. Dave Lyle Blvd. Rock Hill, SC

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report—April 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 Shawl 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

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

Children and Youth

*Easter Egg Hunt—*Hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for Children Through Fifth Grade and a Scavenger Hunt for Youth

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.....

May 4-8: CDC Teacher Appreciation Week

May 6: Choir Practice at 6:30 in the Choir Room

Wednesday dinner at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall

May 7: The Morning Circle at 10:00 am in the Sunday School Building.

May 9: Plentiful Harvest Kitchen

May 21: CDC 4 year old Graduation and Program at 10:30 am in the sanctuary

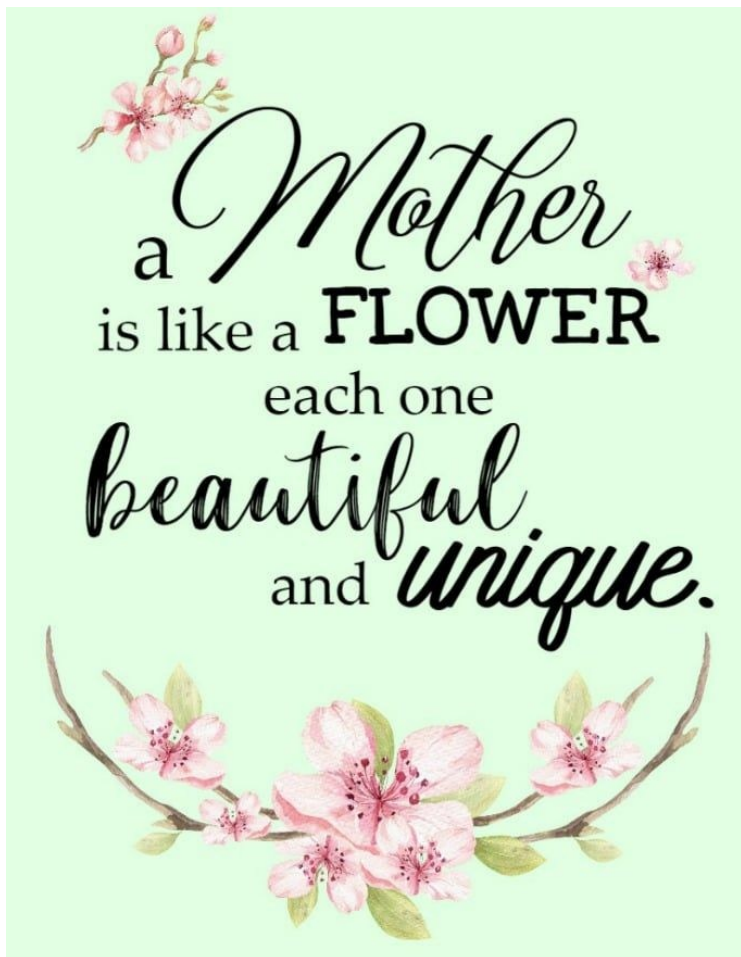
May 31: Graduation Sunday

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



Graduation Sunday will be on Sunday, May 31st. If you have a high school or college graduate, please let the church office know.

The Child Development Center's Graduation and program will be Thursday, May 21st at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary for the Four Year's Old Class of 2026. Plan to attend this exciting time for our church and community.





MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kitty Sharpe
- 2 Patt Lauckner
- 3 Christy Johnson, Lisa Hagler
- 5 Ken Melton
- 10 Cheryl Forlines, Cadence Lackey
- 14 Gene Williamson
- 17 Hailey Carter
- 19 Josiah Walker
- 20 Logan Johnston, Lily Hull
- 21 Sully Foy
- 23 Donauon Burns
- 25 Sue Burns
- 27 Deanna Johnson
- 29 Lauren Hibbard

Attendance for April

	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u>
	In-person		Views
4/2/26 Maundy Thursday	38		
4/5/26 Easter Sunrise	46		
4/5/26	73	No Sunday School	24
4/12/26	43	25	17
4/19/26	41	23	25
4/26/26	62	24	18

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

Baptism

William Chase Bradford 4/26/26

Deaths

Barbara Ann Reinhardt Falls 4/24/26 (private burial at Bethesda on 4/29/26)
Anita Rockholt Buffolino 5/1/26

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, Madison Hartis, Julie Cornwell, Sarah Hunter

In the Military

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

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
Cathie Williams (Donna's sister-in-law) hip replacement surgery 5/6/26
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

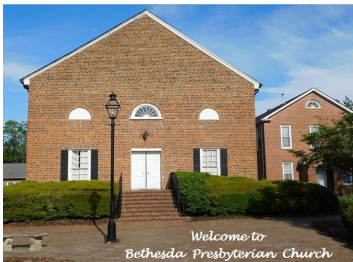
Laura Merritt

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