

September 2026



Bethesda Banner

Recently I was listening to one of my favorite bands as I worked in the yard while trying to forget how humid it is right now. I have been following their work since the early 90's when four guys from Wisconsin released their first catchy song about a sweater being pulled apart. Since then, the band has released many more albums; some I have enjoyed and some not as much.

A couple weeks ago their newest album came out, and like the rest, there are parts I like and parts that I skip past. But what caught my ear was the beginning of their first single on the new album. In the song, Rivers, the lead singer, says (or confesses) the following:

*Cranking out another 90's jam
Wish I could do something different
But nobody wants to hear that
They just want the classics
You can't blame 'em really
There's something special about your early work*

This got me thinking about 'the classics,' or more appropriately, I thought about the early work that we did as Christians that built the foundation upon which we live and serve. How much do you remember about that early work, that early spiritual growth, that you did after you first heard God whisper your name?

Let's explore that this fall together.

Over the next few months, I want to offer you a chance to engage in a little personal Bible Study with me. My hope is that our time together in this format will help you build onto the solid foundation that you have with the Lord, and even though the texts that I will share might be familiar (the classics), there is indeed something special about these early stories.

I will introduce a text and reflect a little on it. Then I will invite you to do the same. There will be other exercises or practices that tie into the passage from the previous one. For now, let's just begin with a simple story and see what God does in our lives...

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*



This week I would like you to read Psalm 42 every day this week—maybe even out loud. Perhaps read it more than once each day. As you read this famous Psalm it might be helpful to grab some extra paper or a journal to write down your experiences in God’s Word.

Write down your responses so that you can refer to them throughout this week.

- A. As you read this psalm, what word or phrases stick out each day? Spend a moment noticing what changes throughout the week.
- B. Have you ever experienced a time in your faith journey when joys and delights seemed to vanish? Describe this in as much detail as you can. You don’t have to share it with anyone.
- C. The Psalmist cries out to God, “*Why have you forgotten me?*” (Ps. 42:9). What advice or encouragement would you give the psalmist, or another person, when they find this verse?
- D. The Psalm begins with a familiar image, a classic one if your like, the deer panting for the water. Why does the deer seek water? Do you seek the Lord in the same way?

I love this Psalm, and the song associated with it, because Psalm 42 addresses seasons that we all endure. On one hand I want only to confess the presence of God being with me. In public I readily and loudly confess that I am never down-cast because God is with us, but that is simply not true. Everyone has a time when they feel broken. Set apart. Bruised.

One of the details that I appreciate about this Psalm is its pacing. Many people who feel separated from God want to rush back and start confessing or acting like nothing is wrong as fast as they can. Yet this Psalm takes its time. In this place there is no rush. Psalm 42 is not rushed in expressing a feeling of separation from God as it is also not rushed in ending with a word of Hope.

Salvation will come. Restoration is not a hazy promise. It is real. Maybe that is why I like this passage so much. On the one hand we can feel lost, and yet in our lostness, God with us also.

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 - August 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

Benevolence Fund Offering

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawls/Lap Afghans Presented to:

Three Prayer Shawls/Lap Afghans Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Grief Support Group

Community Support/Outreach

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

Christian Education/Children and Youth

Bible Buddies and Youth Activity

Rally Day—Breakfast and Scavenger Hunt

Ministry Support Online



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

Upcoming dates:

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

Covered Dish Wednesday 9/9/26 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall (bring a covered dish)

CDC Committee Meeting 5:45 pm in the Session Room

Women of the Church Bible Study Retreat in the NC mountains 10/2/26 - 10/4/26 (Contact Susan Hibbard)

Free Bagged Lunch Program 10/5/26 - 10/9/26

Trunk or Treat 10/28/26 5:30 - 6:30 pm



MUSIC MINISTRY



We will be starting rehearsal for our adult choir on Wednesday, September 2 at 5:30 in the choir room. The adult choir meets for an hour each Wednesday and sings for the Sunday worship service 2-3 times a month. Our goal is to lead the congregation in music during the worship service. We need more voices and hope you will prayerfully consider joining us this fall. Other opportunities will be coming. They include the Christmas choir which will begin rehearsals in October and hand chimes which will also begin in October. Dates for starting both of these groups will be announced in a few weeks. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at larayneha@gmail.com, call or text me at 803-554 4705 or talk to me before or after the worship service. We would love to see you on September 2. Director of Music, LaRayne Hall

The Grief Share support group meets on Sundays from 4:00-5:30 in the ladies' parlor. 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 or call the church office at (803) 328-1360.

Thank You

We're Moving!

In September, we're moving to an apartment at Chandler Place.

Edward and Dorothy

New address:

745 Dilworth Lane

Apt. 103

Rock Hill, SC 29732

Dear Prayer Shawl Ladies,

THANK YOU! The shawl that you made for me is so beautiful and so comfortable. I have wrapped myself in its warmth knowing that it includes prayers for healing. So comforting! Thank you for continuing to cover my family and friends with your beautiful shawls. It is such a wonderful way to show God's love and healing.

Thank you,

Pam McDonald



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



1	Stephanie Barton
2	Anne Sanford
3	Randy Neely
4	Addison Johnson
5	Esther Bailey, Drew Hagler
6	Cole Johnston
7	Bill Russell, Jr.
10	Kyle Rockholt, Emma Marotta
17	Jordan Hose
21	Jim Carter, Sr.; Chris Dewey; Mariah Russell
22	Mark Boyd, Myra Smith
28	Lou Beaty, David Hibbard
30	Pam McKinney

Attendance for August

	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u>
	In-person		Views
8/2/26	31	18	
8/9/26	48	22	22
8/16/26	44	27	27
8/23/26	31	16	36
8/30/26	55	Rally Day	7

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.
Faye Rockholt
Lou Beaty - hip surgery and rehab

Deaths

Justin Meenaghan 8/1/26 Burial Bethesda
Presbyterian cemetery 8/8/26
Willie Wilson 8/7/26

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

In the Military

Chase Davis, Zoe De Anda, Pierce Dewey, Gage Orr,
Michael Wilkerson, Sabrina Dollar, 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
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
Starr Albert
TJ White
Jamie & Colton Barr
Donna Neely
Erin Neely Morris
Jordan Neely

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