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youtube.com/c/BethesdaPresbyterianCamden

Making Room for Resurrection

If you've ever tried to quickly prepare your home for guests at the last minute (as I often must do), then you know the feeling: a quick glance around the room, the panic, a deep sigh, and finally the realization... "We need to make some space!"

Lent is the season when the Church's invitation is to do just that...make room...make space.

Before the Easter lilies bloom, before the triumphant trumpets sound, and before we shout, "Alleluia!" at the top of our lungs...Lent invites us to slow down and make room. Room for repentance. Room for reflection. Room for a renewed hope!

Lent is not about beating yourself up or depression before celebration. Lent is about spiritual gardening.

It's about clearing away what has grown wild within us, like weeds choking out the flowers. It's about loosening and tilling the soil of our own hearts. It's about noticing where God is already at work and preparing ourselves to receive the great joy...the ultimate joy of resurrection.

For forty days, like Jesus in the wilderness, we walk with our Lord Jesus toward the cross...not because we love sorrow, but because we know the cross is not the end of the story!

And the beautiful thing is? We do not have to walk this road alone!

Join Us for the Journey

Throughout Lent, we invite you to join us for Community Lenten Lunches on Wednesdays at noon. These gatherings are simple by design—shared food, shared prayer, shared reflection. In the middle of busy weeks and noisy schedules, it's a chance to pause together and refocus our hearts on Christ.

As we move closer to Holy Week, the story deepens:

 Palm Sunday Processional – We will begin outside (weather permitting), waving branches and joining the ancient cry of "Hosanna!" It's a joyful and slightly chaotic moment—just as it was when Jesus entered Jerusalem. Children, adults, seasoned saints—we all have a part to play in welcoming our King.

 Maundy Thursday Meal & Worship - 6pm – On this evening, we gather around tables to remember the Last Supper. We will eat, pray, sing, and reflect on Jesus' command to love one another. It's tender. It's meaningful. It's one of the most intimate services of the year. A light supper of soup and salad will be provided and we will share communion around our tables. Reservations recommended to help give us a head count.

 Easter Sunday Services – And then...morning comes. We will celebrate the resurrection with not one, but two opportunities to worship. Between services, we'll host an Easter Egg Hunt, because resurrection joy spills over—especially for our youngest disciples (and let's be honest, for the adults who enjoy watching them). This year we will have two opportunities to join in Easter Worship:

9:00 am – Classic Worship with communion, choir, and familiar hymns in our historic sanctuary where generations have joined in worship.

10:15am– Egg Hunt

11:00 am – Modern Worship with communion, band-led songs, in a family friendly atmosphere in Westminster Hall.

Join us for one or both of our Resurrection Sunday services as we celebrate the Risen Christ!

Why It Matters

In a world that rushes from distraction to distraction, Lent teaches us to pay attention.

In a culture that avoids weakness, Lent reminds us that God meets us in it.

In seasons where hope feels fragile, Lent prepares us to receive a hope that death itself cannot extinguish.

This is not about adding more religious activity to your calendar. It's about aligning your heart with the story that shapes our lives.

So here's a gentle challenge: What would it look like for you to take one intentional step this Lent? Attend a Wednesday lunch. Come to Maundy Thursday. Invite a neighbor to Easter. Set aside five quiet minutes each morning. Fast from something that distracts you and feast on something that nourishes your soul.

Make room.

Because when Easter morning arrives—and it will—we don't want to be spiritually cluttered and distracted. We want to be ready. Ready to sing. Ready to celebrate. Ready to receive again the good news that Christ is risen.

And that changes everything.

We look forward to walking this road with you.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Patrick



The Light at Bethesda



Church members and friends
join us for an hour of bingo with
prizes on
Thursday, March 19th from
10am-11am

In McArn Hall

FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Tuesday, March 17th at
7:30am
Westminster Hall



****Tik Tok famous
"Million Dollar
Spaghetti"**



Meals for Missions
Thursday, April 9th
5-7PM

ALL Proceeds
Support
Youth
mission trips
& local
mission projects

\$10
per order



**What you get:
spaghetti, side, dessert**

Bethesda Presbyterian Church
502 E Dekalb St.
Camden, SC 29020

Questions?
Contact Hannah Winstead
dcmebethesdapresbyterianchurch.org
call or text (843)450-7846

Order by Tuesday,
April 7th



ANNUAL ADULT OYSTER ROAST

Sunday, April 19 from 5:30 – 7:30pm

Location: Bethesda

Menu : Oysters, Shrimp, and BBQ.

Members bring an appetizer, side or dessert.

All adult Bethesda Church members and friends, and
BCS parents and friends are invited to
enjoy an evening of delicious food, good friends,
and fun fellowship.



Contact the office at 432-4593 or
bethesda@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org by **April 1st**
to let us know who will be attending.

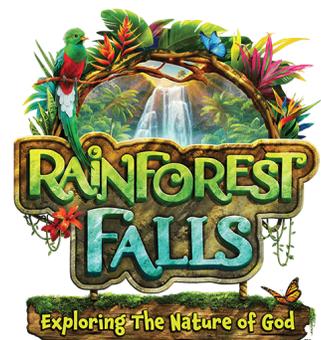


**SAVE THE
DATE!**

VBS 2026

JUNE 15-19

9am-12pm



Registration link: vbspro.events/p/bethesdacamdenscecopres

UPDATE

Lent: Reflection, Repentance, Preparation for Easter

WHO: Bethesda Covenant Partners.

WHAT: Opportunity for dedicated individual prayer time during Lent, combined with indoor walking for exercise.

WHEN: ***UPDATE** Beginning Thursday 26 FEB and concluding on Thursday 2 APR. Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 5:45 am - 7:00 am.

WHERE: Westminster Hall.

HOW: Congregational Care Committee member, Stephanie Batten, will unlock Westminster Hall at 5:45 am. For safety, the doors will lock at 6:00 am. However, covenant partners are welcomed to join after 6:00 am by knocking on the door. At 6:45 am cool down begins with the entire group exiting at 7:00 am.



Matthew 12-13: At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals and the angels attended him.



tacklehunger.org

We collected \$2396 for Food for the Soul.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!!!!



March 4th--Lyttleton Street UMC, Host; Pastor Leatha Brown, Preaching, 1206 Lyttleton Street, Camden

March 11th - St John's UMC, Host; Pastor Quentin Chavis, Preaching, 45 Roseborough Rd, Lugoff

March 18th - St Paul's UMC, Host; Pastor Roger Harris, Preaching, 511 Knights Hill, Camden

March 25th - Unity UMC, Host; Pastor Roy Butler, Preaching 1332 Fort Jackson Blvd, Lugoff

All services begin at 12:00 noon followed with a light lunch.

Operation Christmas Child shoebox items:

- Puzzles
- Coloring books
- Crayons
- Markers
- Fishing kits
- Play dough
- Musical instruments
- Dolls
- Old (but clean) t-shirts to make jump ropes

Spring Litter Pick-Up

**Saturday March 21, 2026
9:00AM - 12:00 NOON**

To Register:

EMAIL KERSHAW COUNTY AT KCCLEANCOMMISSION@GMAIL.COM

PLEASE HELP US MAKE KERSHAW COUNTY LITTER FREE!

A great civic opportunity for churches, community organizations, citizens, and business owners to come together to beautify Kershaw County!



Please call/text Ginger long at (803) 605-0639. Gloves, safety vest, grabbers and trash bags will be provided.

Youth can earn service hours. If enough people show interest, we can form a Bethesda team.

BETHESDA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

We had a fantastic February with Dental Health Week and our Valentine's Day parties. They loved having Dr. Joseph come for a visit. We are excited for Read Across America week and all of the fun that goes along with it. We cannot wait to have some time with our favorite guys at Donuts with Dads this month. We will end the month with our Easter celebrations, an egg hunt and the start to Spring Break. We cannot believe we are inching closer to the end of the year so quickly. We still have some spots available for next year so please send anyone interested in our precious school my way. Please feel free to email me at bcbs@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org if you have any questions about registration.



EASTER FLOWERS FOR THE HAMMETT CROSS

On Easter Sunday friends and families are encouraged to bring flowers to add to the Hammett Cross.

If you do not have flowers, there will be a bucket with flowers you can use.

This is an excellent time to take your family's Easter photos.

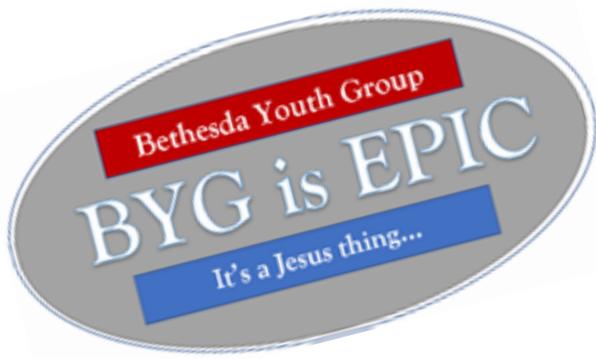


BETHESDA FLOWER GUILD

Calling all gardeners, flower lovers, friends and volunteers. Spring is almost here!!!! If you have flowers to share from your gardens or yards, please let Jan Shumate (803) 424-7752) from Bethesda's Flower Guild know.

Covenant Partners, if you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact the church office for availability and instructions.





MEN'S BREAKFAST



FROM OUR DOME

Happy PALM Sunday! Happy HOLY Week! Happy EASTER!

What a joy-filled and sacred season we are celebrating together as the family of faith at Bethesda Presbyterian Church!

The Season of Lent - Lent is a 40-day solemn Christian season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, preparing our hearts for Easter by reflecting on Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. This year Lent began on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18, 2026) and concludes on Holy Thursday (April 2, 2026).

For 40 days (excluding Sundays), we have been invited into:

- **Fasting/Abstinence** – Giving up luxuries or limiting food as a reminder of our dependence upon God.
- **Prayer** – Increasing our focus on Scripture, worship, and daily devotion.
- **Almsgiving** – Sharing our resources with those in need.

Lent is a time of self-examination, reflection, repentance, and spiritual renewal—all to prepare us for the glorious celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter.

Palm Sunday – The Beginning of Holy Week

On Palm Sunday, we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The crowds waved palm branches, laid them along His path, and shouted:

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” — Matthew 21:9

“Hosanna” means *“Save us now!”* The palm branches symbolized goodness, victory, triumph, and peace. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week—the solemn week focusing on the final days of Jesus' earthly life, culminating in Easter Sunday, the most important celebration in Christianity.

Maundy Thursday - Observed the Thursday before Easter, Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with His disciples. On this night we remember:

- **The Institution of the Lord's Supper** – Jesus shared bread and wine, giving us Holy Communion.
- **The Washing of the Disciples' Feet** – A powerful symbol of humility and servant leadership.
- **The “New Commandment”** – “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 13:34).

It is a sacred evening of reflection, gratitude, and renewed commitment to love as Christ loves.

Good Friday - On Good Friday, we remember the crucifixion of Jesus—His sacrificial death on the cross of Calvary. It is a solemn day, yet even in the shadow of the cross we see the promise of hope and new life.

Easter Sunday – Resurrection Power! **“HALLELUJAH! HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN...INDEED!”**

Jesus Christ's resurrection is not merely a philosophical revival of His ideas or teachings. He was literally raised from the dead. The power of God filled that tomb with life, and Jesus arose in victory!

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15 - *“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter and then to the Twelve... Death has been swallowed up in victory... But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (1 Cor. 15:3–8; 55–57)

This is no legend. This is the foundation of our faith. Because He lives, we live. Because He conquered death, we walk in victory.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule at Bethesda

Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday

- **9:45am** – Fellowship with light refreshments and coffee in McArn Hall
- **10:00am** – Palm Sunday Parade (All children, youth, and adults participating meet outside Westminster Hall)
No children or youth Sunday School classes.
One Adult Sunday School class will be offered for those not participating in the parade.
- **11:00am** – Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday

- **6:00pm** – Maundy Thursday Service in Westminster Hall. Light supper served...soup & salad. Communion will be served.

Sunday, April 5 – Easter Sunday

- **9:00am** – Easter Worship Service in the sanctuary
- **10:00am** – Church Courtyard Gathering
Short devotional
Easter Egg Hunt
Flowering of the Hammett Cross
Annual Bethesda Church family & friends picture
- **11:00am** – Easter Worship Service in Westminster Hall
Annual church family picture immediately following the service

Sunday, April 19th from 5:30–7:30pm - Bethesda Annual Oyster Roast

Location: Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Bethesda Church adults & friends, along with Bethesda Christian School staff, teachers, and parents are invited for an evening of delicious food, encouraging fellowship, and fantastic fun!

- Please bring your favorite appetizer, side, or dessert.
- Contact the church office at (432-4593) or email bethesda@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org to let us know if you will attend so we can prepare accordingly.

As we journey from the palms to the cross to the empty tomb, may our hearts be renewed, our faith strengthened, and our joy made complete.

Happy Palm Sunday. Blessed Holy Week. Glorious Easter!

HALLELUJAH! HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Brent Kendall

FROM OUR DCM

Hello Bethesda Family!

First, I want to thank all of you for allowing me to attend the ECO National Gathering in Atlanta. It was a wonderful experience and so helpful to get to connect with my counterparts in this new denomination. I learned many new things, and I am happy to say that I was reminded of some great tidbits that I had forgotten. I can say that this gathering was a real blessing to me in my professional life and I would encourage anyone who is able to go next year to go ahead and sign up! You don't have to be a staff person to benefit from gathering with fellow believers for worship, learning, and fellowship.

With all of the ECO excitement and weather events, February felt even shorter than normal, but it was fruitful in the children's and youth ministry area. Our youngest disciples continued to learn valuable lessons from the book of Jonah and other minor prophets and use their gifts in choir to prepare for Youth Sunday and the spring BLAST performance. The youth BLAST program continued with their mission to visit our homebound Bethesdians bringing the fellowship and meals to their homes. These visits are a real blessing to both parties and give hope and joy in some of life's toughest moments. Thank you for your prayers and continued support of our BLAST meal ministry. On Sunday nights at BYG we began a new Lenten study about Jesus's Farewell Message to the disciples and what it means to us in 2026 to follow Jesus's last commands.

Looking ahead there are so many things happening around Palm Sunday, Easter, Youth Sunday, Graduate's Sunday, and summer! With that- a short explanation and then I will give you the IMPORTANT list of dates.

1. Vacation Bible School volunteer sign up is LIVE. Please use the link to sign up OR contact me directly to sign up to help during our wonderful week of Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School June 15-19. If you want to be a crew leader for our 4th and 5th graders this year we are trying Something NEW and exciting where our oldest VBS participants will be going out into the community to SERVE and see what it means to live out our faith and Bible stories from the week. Sign up to volunteer here: vbspro.events/p/bethesdacamdenscecopres
2. If you want to help us create the beautiful set and decorations, the dates are as follows and you can come for all or part of these time slots. ALL help is appreciated and welcomed: Mondays in April at 11AM-2PM, April 16/23/30 at 10AM-2PM, May 4/5/11/12/18/19/26 at 11AM-2PM, May 20/21/27/28 at 10AM-2PM, June 1-4 at 10AM-2PM
3. Our VBS Volunteer meetings are as follows: after worship on March 22 to just give everyone over view of theme and plans, after worship on April 19 to give an update on anything signups or plans, May 24, and June 14
4. Youth Sunday is April 12 and we will have youth and young disciples leading everything and our little BLAST kiddos will sing some of the songs from their spring performance. And an extra special treat this year, our very own youth Maggie Wilcox, wrote a worship song that we will be singing as well. We CANNOT wait to share our gifts and talents with the greater Bethesda family.
5. May 3rd- Graduate Sunday is our first Sunday in May and we will celebrate this milestone and pray over our graduate(s).
6. The upcoming Meals for Missions are on March 5th, April 9th, and May 7th.
7. Church Yard Sale is July 10th and 11th so start saving your stuff to donate! We will begin accepting donations after VBS is over on June 22nd.

I believe that's all for now and quite enough to keep us busy. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or want to help, please go ahead and reach out. My door is always open and my phone is ALWAYS on.

In Christ,

Hannah Winstead



PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS: Susan Marshall, Baynard Boykin, Carol Meckstroth, Judy Martin, John Shaylor, Ken Mays, Sally Huntley, Erlene Vaughan, Jennifer Barfield, Art Delperdang, Roland Windham, Windy Satterwhite

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Anna Vaughn Manly (cousin of the Thomas'), Judy McAbee (Lisa Woolard's mother), Barbara Cecil (Carolyn Drake's sister), Diane Alexander (friend of Mike Eddings), Clint Baxley (Stephanie Batten's brother), Betty Carges (family friend of Jim & Jo McLeod), Huntley Duryea (The Windham's nephew), Nina Bell (Doug Bell's sister-in-law), Colette Hearon (friend of the Floyds), George Carder (Jo McLeod's cousin), Mike Mays (Bob Mays' son), John Kennelly (friend of Angie & Lindsay Guy), Rev. Tim Erskine, Sophie Butcha (friend of the Satterwhites), Rory Gaffney (Tommy & Elizabeth Gaffney's grandson), Nick Lindsay (Karen Lindsay's brother), Susan Didato (friend of the Deals), Betty Coffee (friend of Bethesda), Joe Floyd, Karen Huntley (Sally Huntley's daughter), William Deemer (friend of Sally Huntley), Jim West (Linda Parnell's son)

MILITARY: Hamilton Matthews (friend of Marc & Kathryn Jones), Matthew Palmer, Clay Higgins (Grandson of Emily Jones, nephew of the Deals and Joneses), Jonathan & Laurie VanEtten (Pam & Bill Nettles' daughter and son-in-law)



Our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Tommy Gaffney and Roy Issacson.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Dear Ladies,

What a great turnout we had for our February meeting! We had 22 ladies attend the meeting and 10 of us continued fellowship over lunch at Sam's House of Pizza in Dusty Bend. In case you missed it, Babs started the meeting with a devotional and Beverly Sheorn presented the lesson. As we study women of the world who have made a tremendous impact all over the world, let us reflect on how our lives can impact others.

We also discussed gearing back up with Operation Christmas Child. Collection of items will begin this week and go through mid-November. Our goal will stay at 200 shoeboxes again this year (even though we collected over 260 last year.) Many of us have started purchasing items in bulk, it is so much cheaper. 300 toothbrushes have already been purchased to start us off. If there is a particular item you want to buy, please let me know and I'll take it off the list. I am also asking for used (but clean) t-shirts to make jump ropes again this year. Please take a few minutes and go through your closets and just drop them in the Operation Christmas Child box. Once more, I thank all of you for participating in this wonderful ministry. For those of you who don't know, when the children receive their boxes, they are told the gospel story in their language by a leader in their own community. Then they have an opportunity to attend a 12 week program to further increase their knowledge of Jesus Christ and hopefully spread God's love with those around them. In 2025, Samaritan's Purse collected 12,205,900 shoeboxes that were sent all around the world! Our March items we will be collecting include: puzzles, coloring books, crayons, markers, fishing kits, play dough, musical instruments, dolls, and old t-shirts (to make jump ropes.)

Our March Circle meeting will be held on the 10th at 10:30 in John Knox Hall. I hope to see another big crowd worshipping our Lord together. Please also continue to be praying for your "adopted youth." On April 26th, we will be providing a meal for the youth and revealing who we have been praying for all year long.

The PWCT will meet on March 2 at 10:00 in the conference room.

Lisa Woolard

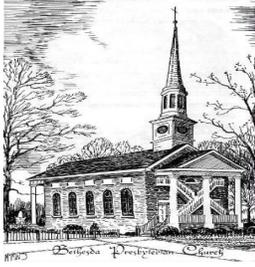
MARCH

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Communion 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 5:30 BYG	2 10:00 PWCT 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Congregational Care	3 11:00 Worship 4:00 CE	4 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Outreach 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Girl's BS	5 Drive-thru Dinner 5-7pm	6	7
8 3rd Sunday of Lent 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 1:30 Session 5:30 BYG	9 10:00 Bible Study	10 10:30 PW Circle	11 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Girl's BS	12	13	14
15 MOTHER'S DAY 4th Sunday of Lent 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 5:30 BYG	16 10:00 Bible Study	17 7:30 Men's Breakfast 	18 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Girl's BS	19 10:00 BINGO	20	21 9:00 KC Spring Litter Pick up
22 5th Sunday of Lent 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 5:30 BYG	23 10:00 Bible Study	24 	25 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Girl's BS	26	27 10:00 Property	28 Bahama Mission trip (March 28- April 3)
29 PALM SUNDAY 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 Parade 11:00 Worship	30 10:00 Bible Study	31				

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2. Jody Kelly | 11. Dennis Lofe | 21. Lisa Martin |
| Thomas Martin | Kent Watkins | Elizabeth Nash |
| Carolyn Hammond | 12. Evie Wilcox | 22. Wylie Nash |
| Becky Watkins | 17. Shirley Kiger | Ryan Campbell |
| Banks Munn | Louise Myers | 23. Clara Fenton |
| 3. Adelaide Godfrey | 19. Ellen Williams | Elizabeth Gaffney |
| 4. Susan Marshall | James Guy | 25. Gray Batten |
| 6. Emily Kendall | Ken Chatto | Grace Floyd |
| 7. Violet Graham | 20. Boykin Garity | 26. Brenda Sullivan |
| 10. Mike Satterwhite | | 29. Annette Conner |
| | | 30. Phoebe Roquemore |



*Bethesda Presbyterian Church
502 DeKalb Street
Camden, South Carolina 29020*

Return Service Requested

MARCH 2026



SACKS OF LOVE

Monetary donations are welcome and NEEDED to fill any shortfalls that we may have in donated food items. Anyone interested in volunteering to help shop, pack or deliver to the school this year, please contact Kathleen Hughes at 843-729-1842 or kchughes51@gmail.com if you can help.

Food List for Sacks of Love

**All should be individual serving sizes with pop-tops or tear-off lids*.*

- Vienna sausage
- Tuna, canned or pouch /Chicken, canned or pouch
- Pork, canned or pouch
- Spam in individual tear-open pouches
- Beanie Weenies
- Chili or chili & beans
- Spaghettios, Beefaroni, or other pasta foods (7 or 7 ½ oz size)
- Individual serving of fruit (cups/cans)
- Peanut butter or cheese filled crackers (6 cracker packs are best)
- Pop Tarts
- Granola breakfast bars
- Peanuts, cashews, sunflower seeds
- 8 oz. Juice boxes
- Pudding Cups & Jell-o Cups
- Ramen Noodles
- Hot chocolate (pouches)
- Small bags of pretzels, animal cookies, or other individually wrapped cookies or cakes
- Beef Jerky (Slim Jims)
- Raisins
- Single Serve Soups
- Cup of Soup
- Bagels or muffins (individually wrapped)
- Pasta Cups, Mashed Potato Cups, Mac and cheese cups
- Breakfast bars like Belvita or generic brand
- Canned vegetables (many come in Individual or smaller can sizes)
- Dinty Moore Complete Meal (several varieties and it's a complete meal)
- String Cheese (for Calcium) shelf stable
- Yogurt (Gogo Squeeze Yogurtz) are shelf stable