

April 2026

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Walking Together Through Holy Week

Dear Bethesda Family,

As we approach Holy Week, I find myself both grateful and mindful... grateful for the ways God continues to sustain this congregation, and mindful that for many of us, this season arrives amid uncertainty, transition, and even some quiet anxieties.

Holy Week invites us to walk a path that may feel familiar, yet never shallow. It is the story of Jesus entering to cheers and expectation, sharing a table with those he loves, walking through betrayal and sorrow, and ultimately bringing life out of death. It is not a straight line. It is not tidy. And yet, it is full of hope.

I've been holding onto these words:
"Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy." (Psalm 126:5)

That is the promise Holy Week holds before us...not that there are no tears, but that God is at work even in them, bringing about something new.

This year, as we journey together, there are a few meaningful ways we will mark this sacred time:

Palm Sunday – March 29, 10:00 AM

We will begin gathered under the portico for a devotion before processing together with palms around the block, remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We'll return for refreshments, fellowship, and crafts for our children.

While we won't be joining with Lytleton Street UMC this year due to scheduling differences, this will still be a rich opportunity for us to worship as one body and begin the week together.

Maundy Thursday – April 2, 6:00 PM (Westminster Hall)

This year, we are trying something a little different. We will gather around tables for a simple meal of soup and salad, sharing in Communion as part of our worship. This night remembers Jesus at table with his disciples—breaking bread, offering himself, and calling them to love one another.

We ask that you register so we can prepare, but all are welcome to the table. Come as you are.

Church office telephone 432-4593

Church email
betheda@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Bethesda's Website
www.bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Facebook:
facebook.com/BethesdaPresbyterianCamden

Instagram:
@BethesdaPresbyterianCamden

YouTube:
youtube.com/c/ BethesdaPresbyterianCamden

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Easter Sunday – April 5

We will celebrate the resurrection with two services:

- 9:00 AM – Classic (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 AM – Modern (Westminster Hall)

Between services, we will gather at 10:00 AM for an Easter egg hunt for our children and the flowering of the courtyard cross—a beautiful symbol of resurrection life. I also hope you'll plan to stay after each service for our annual Easter congregational photo.

I also want to speak gently and honestly to something I know some of you are feeling.

In a season of transition, even small decisions can carry added weight. Questions about worship styles, service times, and “what this means for us” are understandable. The Worship Committee gave careful thought to our Easter schedule, and the 9:00 AM/11:00 AM structure was shaped primarily by space and hospitality. We anticipate a larger number of guests at 11:00, and Westminster Hall allows us to welcome more people, provides easier accessibility, and offers proximity to needed facilities.

But more than that, I want to remind us: our unity is not rooted in a service style or a time slot. Our unity is rooted in Christ.

Holy Week itself holds together a wide range of experiences: celebration and sorrow, intimacy and confusion, silence and joy. And somehow, by God's grace, all of it belongs. In the same way, there is room within Bethesda for different expressions of worship, different preferences, and even different questions...while still being one body.

In this season of waiting and searching for what comes next, Holy Week offers us a steady invitation: not to have everything figured out, but to walk closely with Jesus, together.

So, wherever you find yourself this year...full of hope, carrying questions, or simply trying to show up...I want you to know this: you belong here. And there is a place for you at the table, on the road, and at the empty tomb. I look forward to walking this week with you.

With hope,

Rev. Patrick D. Cherry
Transitional Pastor
Bethesda Presbyterian Church



Announcements

**THE CHURCH
OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
ON
MONDAY, APRIL 6**



**THURSDAY, APRIL 16th
10:00-11:00am
MCARN HALL**

**CHURCH MEMBERS AND
FRIENDS WELCOME!
PRIZES!!!!**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
with COMMUNION**

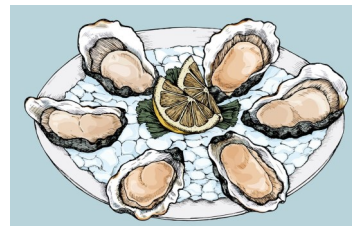
**THURSDAY, APRIL 2
6:00pm
In Westminster Hall**



Please register with the church office.



ANNUAL ADULT OYSTER ROAST



BETHESDA CHURCH

Sunday, April 19th from 5:30 – 7:30pm
Menu : Oysters, Shrimp, and BBQ.

**Members bring an appetizer, side or
dessert.** Friends bring yourselves.

Enjoy an evening of delicious food, good
friends, and fun fellowship.

Contact the office at 432-4593 or
bethesda@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org by
April 12 to let us know who will be attending.

**Men's Breakfast
April 21-7:30 A.M.
Westminster Hall**



Come enjoy a short devotion, a few jokes,
and some good food.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



April Items Needed:

- Combs
- Hair brushes
- Hair accessories
- Wash cloths
- Band-aids
- Stuffed animals Deflated
- Deflated soccer balls with pumps
- Old t-shirts to make jump ropes

BETHESDA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

What a wonderful March at BCS! We had a great week dressing up for Read Across American week. The leprechaun visited our classes on St. Patrick's Day, and the children are still talking about it. Our 2k class were learning all about butterflies this month and were able to release some after getting to watch them come out of their cocoon. Our Donuts with Dad was a BIG success. We loved getting to have all of our favorite guys come to enjoy a special morning with their little ones. We are looking forward to Spring Break but before we get there, we have a lot of fun planned for our Easter celebrations. We still have a few spots available for next year. Pass my email along to anyone who may be interested.

bcs@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org



Vacation Bible School 2026

JUNE 15-19
9am-12pm



**REGISTRATION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE
OR IN THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR PARTICIPANTS AND VOLUNTEERS.**



April 2026 Birthdays

- 7. Darlene Maxwell
- 9. Marshall Batten
- 10. Eliza Reames
- 12. Sharon Sinclair
- 15. Leda Wilcox
- 16. Henry Woolard
- 18. Caitlyn Whitehouse

- 20. Merry Bradley
Quinn Conley
- 21. Betsy Whitehouse
- 22. Lynn Young
- 29. Lindsay Guy
John Hallman
- 30. Emily Jones

**If the Beacon doesn't have your birthday please share that information with us.
432-4593**



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

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), 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 (Bobby & 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)

EASTER FLOWERS FOR THE HAMMET CROSS

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

*AS FOR ME
and my house
WE WILL
SERVE THE* **Lord**
JOSHUA 24:15



Friday, March 6
Repairing the iron access gate
Bob Bates, John Stephenson & Bill Brooks



MEN'S BREAKFAST -
KEN CHATTO'S BIRTHDAY



BINGO!



BLAST MEAL MINISTRY



Happy PALM Sunday, Happy HOLY Week, and Happy EASTER!

Palm Sunday - Scripture recalls the events of Jesus entering Jerusalem and being greeted by the crowd of people waving PALM BRANCHES, covering His path with PALM BRANCHES, and shouting “*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) The shouts of “*HOSANNA*” meant “*Save us now!*”, and the palm branches symbolized goodness and victory. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, a solemn week focusing on the final days of Jesus life. Holy week culminates on Easter Sunday, the most important holiday in Christianity.

Maundy Thursday - Maundy Thursday invites us to remember Jesus at the Last Supper with his disciples, where He instituted Communion, predicted His betrayal, and later prayed in agony in the garden of Gethsemane before His arrest. The night also highlights His humble act of washing the disciples’ feet, setting an example of love and serving one another in humility. The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin *mandatum*, meaning “*command*,” pointing to Jesus’ new commandment: “*Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another*” — a call that remains central to the life and witness of the Church today.

Good Friday – Christians recall the crucifixion of Jesus, His death on the cross of Calvary, and the promise of Hope and a new life.

Easter Sunday - “HALLELUJAH! HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN...INDEED!” Jesus is ALIVE! Jesus Christ’s resurrection is not merely a philosophical renaissance of His ideas and teachings – He was literally raised from the dead! The power of God exploded inside that tomb, reconnected Jesus’ spirit with his dead body, flooded his corpse with life, and Jesus arose! This is no legend nor fairy tale! ***This is the foundation of our faith!*** The Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit writes in 1st Corinthians chapter 15....

1 Corinthians 15: 3-8; 55-57: “*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. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.... Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where O death, is your victory? Where O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

***Sunday, March 29th - Palm Sunday Parade**

9:45am – Fellowship with light refreshments in McArn Hall

10:00am – All children, youth, and adults who want to participate in the parade meet outside of Westminster Hall. There will be no children or youth SS classes. We will have ONE ADULT SS Class.

11:00am – Worship service in the sanctuary.

***Thursday, April 2nd - Maundy Thursday**

6:00pm – In Westminster Hall. Light supper served...soup & salad. Communion will be served.

***Sunday, April 5th - Easter Sunday**

9:00am – Easter Worship (Classic) service in sanctuary

10:00am - Everyone gathers in the church courtyard for short devotional, Easter Egg Hunt, place flowers in the Hammet Cross, Annual Bethesda family & friends picture. Please **remember to bring** Easter baskets for your children, your camera/cell phone for pics, and bring some flowers to hang on the Hammet cross.

11:00am - Easter Worship (Modern) service in Westminster Hall.

Immediately following the service, we will take our annual Bethesda family & friends picture.

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

Bethesda Church Adults & Friends and Bethesda Christian School staff, teachers, & parents are invited.

Menu = OYSTERS, SHRIMP, & BBQ

Bethesda Church members are asked to bring your favorite appetizer, side, or dessert.

PLEASE contact the church office (432-4593) or e-mail (bethesda@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org) to let us know if you will be attending so we know how much Oysters, Shrimp, and BBQ to prepare.

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!

Hallelujah! He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!
Brent Kendall



Presbyterian Women



Dear Ladies,

Happy Easter! I hope you are enjoying this time of year as much as I am. It's great to see the daffodils, azaleas, and tulips in bloom! To me, God's creation is showing its splendor every day!

It is also a very busy time of the year for our Circle. We have several upcoming events. Our next meeting will be on April 14th in John Knox Hall at 10:30. And on April 26th, we will host the youth dinner. The menu will include lasagna, side dishes, and an ice cream bar. We will purchase the lasagna and sign up for the other items during our Circle meeting. Please participate, if you can. If you don't have a youth you are praying for, you are still welcome to attend! This is also when we will reveal who we have been praying for all year long. The supper will be served at 6:00; however, we will need to be at the church around 5:15-5:30 to set up. I truly appreciate all of y'all who have been gracious to bring small gifts and cards for the youth, but most importantly, praying for them.

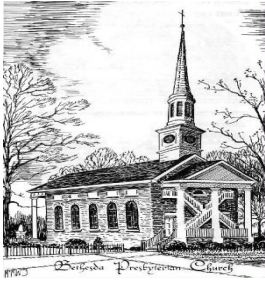
Looking ahead, we will finish the year off, by enjoying a lunch together, as tradition has it, on May 12th at 11:30, so please mark your calendars. The location will be announced at Circle.

The PWCT will meet on April 6th, at 10:30 in the conference room.

Lisa Woolard
Moderator

APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Outreach 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Girl's BS	2 5:45 Prayer/ walk 6:00 Maundy Thursday Service- Communion	3	4
5 EASTER SUNDAY Communion 9:00 Worship 10:00 Courtyard 11:00 Worship	6 Church offices closed 10:00 Bible Study 10:30 PWCT 1:00 Congregational Care	7 11:00 Worship 4:00 CE	8 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Girl's BS	9	10	11
12 Youth Sunday 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 1:30 Session 5:30 BYG	13 10:00 Bible Study	14 10:30 PW Circle	15 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Girl's BS	16 10:00 BINGO	17	18
19 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 5:30 BYG 5:30 Oyster Roast	20 10:00 Bible Study	21 7:30 Men's Breakfast	22 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Girl's BS	23	24 10:00 Property Committee	25 9am-2pm ECO Meeting
26 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 5:30 BYG	27 10:00 Bible Study	28	29	30		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Please check your weekly bulletin for changes to each week's activities</div>						



Bethesda Presbyterian Church

*502 DeKalb Street
Camden, SC 29020*

Return Service Requested

April 2026

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 Squeez Yogurtz) are shelf stable