



May 2026

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Dear Bethesda Family,

Easter is not just a single Sunday. In the life of the church, Easter is a season. It's a time to keep living into the good news that Christ is risen and that God is still bringing new life...even in uncertain times.

As we move toward summer, many of us find ourselves waiting. The Pastor Nominating Committee continues its important work of seeking the right pastor for Bethesda's next chapter. Waiting is not always easy. We want clarity and direction. The disciples knew that feeling too!

After Easter, they found themselves between what had been and what would be. Jesus was alive, but they did not yet know what the future would hold. And yet Jesus stayed with them, prepared them, and promised that the Holy Spirit would lead them.

That promise leads us to Pentecost, which we will celebrate on Sunday, May 24th. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came with power and courage, and a small, uncertain group of disciples became a faithful community that changed the world.

That is why, beginning after Easter, we started a new sermon series: *Turning the World Upside Down*. Together we will journey through the first eight chapters of Acts and discover how God used ordinary people, filled with the Holy Spirit, to bring hope, healing, and transformation. Acts is the story of what happens when people stop asking only, "What do we want?" or "What are we afraid of?" and begin asking, "What is God doing among us...now?" Again and again, the early church faced uncertainty, disagreement, change, and challenges they never expected. Yet, in the midst of it all, God continued to work...not because the people had everything figured out, but because they remained open to the leading of the Spirit.

My hope is that this series will help us see our own season with fresh eyes. Bethesda is not simply waiting for a new pastor; we are still called to be the church right here and right now. There are still relationships to strengthen, neighbors to love, children to nurture, prayers to pray, and ways to serve. God is still shaping us for the future, even in this in-between season. In a season of transition, Acts reminds us that the future of the church does not depend only on finding the right leader or having all the answers. The church belongs to Christ. The Spirit is still moving. God is not finished with Bethesda yet.

I also want to offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped us host the Presbytery of South Carolina meeting on Saturday, April 25th. From those who welcomed guests and worked behind the scenes to those who spent time cleaning and preparing our campus in the weeks beforehand, your service reflected Bethesda's warmth and hospitality. As we head into summer, may we continue to stay connected, remain open to the Spirit, and trust that God is leading us forward...together.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Patrick

Bethesda Activities/News

SUMMER SOFTBALL LEAGUE

A great opportunity is available this summer! Kershaw County Parks and Recreation is having a Summer Church Adult Slow pitch League. We are hoping there will be enough interest to form a Bethesda team!

The team size should be 12 to 14 players. You must be 16 years old or older to participate. Games will be held on Monday nights beginning June 8th. Game times will be 6:30pm, 7:30pm, and 8:30pm.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Cathy Floyd at 803-420-9399 or cbfloyd95@gmail.com.

MEALS FOR MISSIONS

Thursday, May 7
5-7pm

Baked spaghetti, salad, dessert
\$10 per order

Order by Tuesday, May 5th

All proceeds support youth missions.

GAME DAY—BINGO

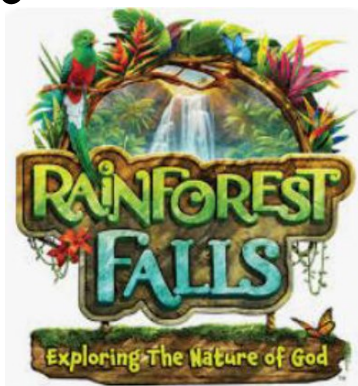
Thursday, May 21st at 10:00am
in McArn Hall

LOTS OF FUN AND PRIZES!!!!



VBS 2026

JUNE 15-19



!!!!!!SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!

9 AM- 12 Noon

Children and Volunteers Registration Code



Registration is open until June 1st



Tuesday, May 19th at 7:30am
in Westminster Hall

Mother's Day Celebration

The men of the church would like to invite everyone to our annual Mother's Day celebration in McArn Hall on Sunday, May 10 at the special time of 9:30am. Sweet and savory refreshments will be provided as we honor the Moms of Bethesda. We hope you can come and enjoy this time of fellowship.



Director of Evangelism, Outreach, & Ministries

What a wonderful, worshipful—and yes, busy—month of April here at Bethesda Church! God continues to pour out His blessings, and I am deeply thankful for all that He has done, is doing, and what I trust He will continue to do as we love, worship, trust, follow, and serve Him together.

Easter Sunday (April 5th) was truly special. From our two morning worship services—Classic in the Sanctuary and Modern in Westminster Hall—to the joyful **Easter festivities**, it was a beautiful celebration of our risen Lord. The children's Easter Egg Hunt, our annual church family photo on the sanctuary steps, and the powerful worship of our great God made for an unforgettable day. What an incredible sight and sound to behold—**to God be the glory!**

April was filled with meaningful ministry and fellowship opportunities. We gathered for our **Maundy Thursday Service**, enjoyed a wonderful **Oyster Roast**, and continued growing through our Monday **Adult Bible Study** in Genesis and **Men's Tuesday Morning Breakfast**. Our **Presbyterian Women** met for their Circle gathering, and our Wednesday **Youth Meal Ministry** continued its impactful visits with homebound members.

We also shared in fun and fellowship through Bethesda **BINGO**, a **JOY Club outing** to Mr. B's and McLeod's Farm, and a **Rake & Run** project serving a family in need in our community. Our Annual **Spring Clean-Up** helped care for our campus, and **BLAST** (our Wednesday program for children and youth) remained a highlight—especially with the children's choir sharing two musical presentations in recent worship services.

Our Sunday evening **Bethesda Youth Group** gatherings have been especially meaningful. This past Sunday, our youth participated in a **mini mission trip to Food for the Soul**, delivering donations from our Souper Bowl of Caring. Our youth served the residents a meal and spent time in conversation with them—an impactful experience for all involved. The evening concluded back at Bethesda with a delicious meal and ice cream bar prepared by our PW ladies, followed by the revealing of each youth's "secret prayer partner." It was a truly special night.

We also ended the month on a high note as Bethesda hosted the **ECO Presbytery Spring Gathering**—what a great success!

Thank you to everyone who helped organize, prepare, serve, and participate in the many ministries of Bethesda Church. God is doing great things here, and I am both excited and humbled to be a part of it with you.

Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events...

- **Sunday, May 3rd** – BYG End-of-School-Year Party (5:00–7:30 PM) at Bobby & Linda Parnell's home
- **Wednesday, May 6th** – BLAST End-of-Year Party (Movie: *DAVID*)
- **Sunday, May 10th** – Mother's Day (Special recognition for all women)
- **Tuesday, May 12th** – PW Luncheon (11:30 AM)
- **Wednesday, May 14th** – BCS Graduation (9:30 AM, Westminster Hall)
- **Tuesday, May 19th** – Men's Breakfast (7:30 AM)
- **Thursday, May 21st** – JOY Club BINGO (10:00 AM, McArn Hall)
- **Sunday, May 31st** – Graduate Sunday (11:00 AM Service)

Looking Ahead...

FUGE Youth Camp – June 8–12 (Southern Wesleyan University)

FUGE is a powerful, life-changing experience for students (grades 6–12), filled with worship, teaching, recreation, and meaningful connection with Christ and others. Please be in prayer for our students and leaders as they prepare for this incredible week.

Vacation Bible School – June 15–19

Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God

Kids will embark on an exciting adventure discovering what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God. Register today by contacting Cathy Floyd (803-420-9399 or cbfloyd95@gmail.com) or visiting our church website. Volunteers are also needed! Please contact Cathy Floyd.

VBS Sunday – June 21st

Join us in Westminster Hall for a special worship celebration

God is moving in and through Bethesda Church in amazing ways. Thank you for being a part of this church family and for faithfully serving Him. I look forward to all that He has in store in the days ahead!

BETHESDA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

How are we almost done with our school year?!? We are looking forward to our 4k graduation and end of the year parties. Right before we went out for Spring Break, our 4k class donated a rock for us to be able to paint for celebrations for years to come. We are thankful for KBI, HMH Mining, and Luck Stone who all helped make it happen. Please reach out to me if you are interested in renting the rock. We had a wonderful Spring Break and Easter celebrations. We loved having Heidi Graves come to take our pictures. They all turned out so adorable. The children have loved getting some extra outside time with the beautiful weather we have had. We still have a few spots available for next year. Pass my email along to anyone who may be interested.

bcs@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org



BINGO



2026 ECO SPRING GATHERING



Food for the Soul

Bethesda Youth Group

BYG is EPIC

It's a Jesus thing...



PALM SUNDAY PARADE



EASTER SUNDAY



RAKE AND RUN



**BETHESDA
CHILDREN'S
CHOIR**



MEN'S BREAKFAST



MEAL MINISTRY



ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Dear Ladies,

I am writing this article just days before our big “reveal” and dinner for the youth we have been praying for all year. Thank you so much for helping with the dinner, but especially for your devotion to these youth! What an impact our prayers can have on others!

We will end our year on May 12th with a luncheon at Sam’s House of Pizza in Dusty Bend at 11:30. Please mark your calendars and join us as we close out our year. This luncheon is for all ladies of the church, so invite a friend!

Please continue to support Operation Christmas Child. Our shoebox items we will be collecting this month include: Pjs and other clothing, hats, sunglasses, flip flops, flashlights, dolls, and deflated soccer balls with pumps. Also, please don’t forget to donate your old t-shirts so we can make jump ropes. Thank you so much for your continued help in this mission.

We will start meeting again in September. Have a wonderful summer and stay safe.

Lisa Woolard
Moderator

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox items for May

Please keep in mind these items must fit inside a shoebox!

Pjs and other clothing
hats
sunglasses
flip flops
Flashlights
dolls
deflated soccer balls with pumps



VBS wish list

Tropical trees, plants, and greenery
Tropical stuffed animals (parrots, frogs, monkeys, etc.)
Large umbrella (broken is fine)
Brown cross body bag
Large butterfly net
Boxes
Toilet paper rolls and paper towel rolls

SACKS OF LOVE

We appreciate the donations of food and of money that church members have given throughout the year. You have all been a tremendous help in our mission to give assistance to those teenagers over weekends when they might otherwise go hungry!

Any items that you might wish to donate can be placed in the box in McArn Hall.

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

VBS Work Days

Monday, April 27 11:00
Wednesday, April 29th 5:30 – 7:30
Mondays in May 11:00 – 1:00 (May 4th, 11th, and 18th)
Wednesdays in May 11:00 – 1:00 (May 20th and 27th)
Thursdays in May 11:00 – 1:00 (May 21st and 28th)
Mondays in June 11:00 – 1:00 (June 1st and 8th)
Wednesday June 3rd 11:00 – 1:00
Thursday June 4th 11:00 – 1:00

Dates are subject to change

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 2. Eric Palmer | 21. Jan Marsh |
| 3. Harris Baker
Carolyn Drake | 23. Harvey Clarke |
| 5. Keith Bradley
Matthew Mendelssohn | 24. Jerry Hughes |
| 9. Ken Mays | 26. Paisley Beam |
| 14. Tim Calhoun
Liza Watkins
Caroline Reames
James Reames | 28. Jan Shumate |



Prayers & Sympathy

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

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), Travis Hughes (son of Kathleen & Jerry Hughes), Bett Huggins (friend of the Deals)

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)



A very heart felt thank you to Bethesda for the sympathy cards and prayers for Roy and our family.

The delicious meal provided to us by a loving & caring group was greatly appreciated.

In Christian love,
Brenda, Phillip & Todd Isaacson



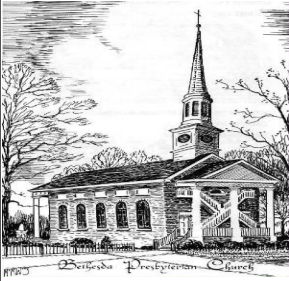
To the family and friends of
Tommy Shumate.

ALTAR FLOWERS

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.

May 2026

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Communion 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 5:30 BYG	4 10:00 PWCT 10-:00 Bibie study 11:00 VBS Workday 1:00 Congregational Care 5:45 CE Committee	5 11:00 Worship Committee	6 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir	7 Mission Meal 5-7pm	8	9
10 9:30 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship Mother's Day	11 10:00 Bible study 11:00 VBS Workday	12 11:30 PW Luncheon	13 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir	14 9:30 BCS Graduation	15	16
17 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 1:30 Session 5:30 BYG	18 10:00 Bible Study 11:00 VBS Workday	19 7:30 Men's Breakfast	20 11:00 VBS Work day 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir	21 10:00 Bingo 11:00 VBS workday	22	23
24 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship	25 OFFICES CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY 	26 NewsLetter DEADLINE	27 11:00 VBS Work- day 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir	28 11:00 VBS Workday	29	30
31 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 5:30 BYG						



Bethesda Presbyterian Church

502 DeKalb Street

Camden, SC 29020

Return Service Requested

May 2026

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING 2026

On Mother's Day, May 10th, churches across South Carolina will participate in a special offering to assist Presbyterian Communities in our efforts to care for seniors after they have outlived their financial resources. This tradition of caring started in 1954 when Presbyterian churches throughout our state came together to begin supporting older church members in this special way.

Over the last 10 years, the average annual cost of charitable care was \$1,244,455, and during that time we served over 450 residents. Presbyterian Communities gives thanks to God for the provision and generosity of our faithful donors.

We look back in thanksgiving for the ways this offering has touched the lives of residents and their families through the years. Would you continue this tradition of caring? A gift of any amount will be put to use immediately blessing the lives of those who need it. Thank you for your prayerful support of this ministry.

 *Mother's Day*