

Bethesda



Beacon

August 2026

STAFF

Rev. Patrick D. Cherry

Interim Pastor

pastor@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Mr. Art Maxwell

Interim Head of Staff

artmaxwell51@icloud.com

Rev. Brent Kendall

Director of Evangelism, Outreach, & Ministries

DCE@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Mr. & Mrs. Bo Dickinson

Directors of Music

music@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Mr. Thomas Martin

Clerk of Session

thomasmartin@osmain.com

Mrs. Lisa Woolard

Moderator, Presbyterian Women

lisamwoolard@gmail.com

Mrs. Clara Fenton

Office Manager

clara@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Ms. Holley Ham

Staff Assistant

bethesda@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Mr. Tom Hoke

Facilities Manager

tom@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Mr. Johnny Deal

Media Ministry Specialist

media@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Church office telephone 432-4593

Church email:

bethesda@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Bethesda's Website:

www.bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Dear Bethesda Family,

Summer is winding down, and as students, teachers, and families settle back into school routines, I keep thinking about how much of our life with God happens in seasons. The Lord doesn't just meet us in the big moments...He works through the ordinary rhythm of one season giving way to the next, and I believe He's doing that with us again right now.

August is an important launch for Bethesda as we begin a new season of ministry. We trade the slower pace of summer for a fall full of ministry, fellowship, and chances to grow together. I hope you'll be there for **Kick-off Sunday on August 9th**. We'll gather in Westminster Hall during the Sunday School hour, then worship together, celebrate what's ahead for our ministries, and ask God's blessing on the year in front of us.

Right after worship, we'll hold a **Called Congregational Meeting** to elect two Elders to fill unexpired terms on Session. These are individuals who will help shape the spiritual life and direction of our church, so I'd ask you to hold this one in prayer as the date gets closer.

I'd also love for you to save the date for our **Fifth Sunday Luncheon and Town Hall on August 30th**. We'll talk through where we are in our transition, give an update from the Pastor Nominating Committee, walk through financial projections, and touch on a few other things going on around the church. My hope is that this time together leaves us more informed, more unified, and more at peace as we keep seeking God's will for what's next.

Stepping into a new season always stirs up questions about what's ahead and that's natural. But Scripture keeps reminding us that our confidence was never meant to come from having it all figured out. It comes from knowing the One who does. Proverbs 3:5-6 says it best: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."*

That verse has become something of a prayer for me these days...not that Bethesda would have fewer questions, but that we'd have more confidence in Christ. He's led His church faithfully for generations, and He isn't done leading us now. So, as we worship, serve, and learn together this fall, my hope is that we do it with hopeful hearts, trusting that God is already ahead of us, preparing the way.

Grateful to be walking this road with you.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Patrick

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Elders on the Session of Bethesda Presbyterian Church have called a **Congregational Meeting for Sunday, August 9, 2026**, immediately following the 11:00am worship service for the purpose of electing two Elders to fill two vacant unexpired terms.

COMMUNION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2nd



MEN'S BREAKFAST



Join us the third Tuesday of the month starting
Tuesday, August 18th at 7:30am
in Westminster Hall.



Thursday, August 20th at 10:00am
In McArn Hall

KICKOFF SUNDAY

**August 9th
at 10:00am in
Westminster Hall**

Join us for an **ice cream social** and lots of great information on all of the classes, committees and much more!!



5th Sunday



The next potluck luncheon will be on Sunday, August 30th immediately following worship. Stay tuned for details!



BETHESDA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

We are gearing up for a wonderful school year. We will kick off with Open House and Meet the teacher together on Tuesday, August 11th. Our families can choose to come at 11 am or 5:30 pm. Our first official day is Wednesday, August 12th. We will continue to offer early drop-off at 8 am this year to help our working parents get to work in a timely manner. We look forward to the opportunity to continue sharing the love of Jesus with your children this year. Please be mindful of our families and young children in the parking lot. We look forward to another blessed year here at BCS!

Neely Allen
Director

SACKS OF LOVE

If you are interested in joining the Sacks of Love committee which provides weekend food for hungry students at Camden High School, please contact the Church office. Bethesda Presbyterian Church members donated resources, shopped for food, and packed and delivered over 350 sacks last year!

Food List for Sacks of Love

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

Tuna, chicken, spam	Instant grits
Beanie Weenies	Ramen noodles
Spaghettios, Beefaroni, etc.	Vienna sausage
Poptarts	pudding cups
Raisins	Instant oatmeal
Soup	Instant grits
Individual cereal	Fruit or applesauce cups
Canned vegetables	Juice boxes

American Red Cross Blood Drive



Bethesda
Presbyterian Church

Westminster Hall



August 5



8 AM - 1 PM

—♥ In Memory of Dr. Larry Parrott ♥—

♥ Give Blood. Help Save Lives.



Register online at redcrossblood.org



PRAYERS

MEMBERS: Susan Marshall, Baynard Boykin, Judy Martin, John Shaylor, Ken Mays, Erline Vaughan, Art Delperdang, Jo McLeod

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Anna Vaughn Manly (cousin of the Thomas'), Barbara Cecil (Carolyn Drake's sister), 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), Susan Didato (friend of the Deals), Betty Coffee (friend of Bethesda), Joe Floyd, Jim West (Bobby & Linda Parnell's son), Bett Huggins (friend of the Deals), Kyle Asti & Tim Fisher (relatives of the Bates), Marie Wilson, Angelyn DuRant (Melanie Newman's mother)

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)



The family and friends of
Barbara Cross

Lisa Woolard and family on the
death of her mother, Judy
McAbee

Beverly Sheorn on the death of
her brother

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, food, and love you sent to our family on the loss of my precious Mama, Judy McAbee. She loved Bethesda and her church family. I truly appreciate the wonderful reception and all the hands that prepared the delicious food and helped in any way to honor her in this manner.

My sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love and support you have shown us during our time of grief.

Sincerely,
Lisa Woolard and family



1. Bill Brooks
3. Fran Goodwin
4. Mary Catherine Norwood
5. Mary Catherine Miller
6. Katie Munn
7. Marc Jones
- Cole Whitehouse
- Richard McCombs
12. Mike Eddings

16. Tracy Marshall Bell
21. Quentin Webber
- Sandy McCombs
24. John Stephenson
- Maggie Blank
25. Alyson Barnett
- Johnny Deal
28. Glenn Tucker
30. John Thomas
- Art Maxwell
31. Tom Hoke





BETHESDA

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

502 East DeKalb Street, Camden, South Carolina 29020
Office: 803-432-4593 www.BethesdaPresbyterianChurch.org

DCM@BethesdaPresbyterianChurch.org

Wednesday Youth Service Projects

On Wednesdays, youth share God's love through service projects. After a brief Bible lesson, students work with adult volunteers to deliver meals to less mobile community members. Once a month, they also select an additional service project. This program is open to students in 6th–12th grade every Wednesday from 3:00 – 5:30pm. Bus service from Camden Middle School is available based on demand.

BYG – Bethesda Youth Group

Sunday evenings offer youth a welcoming place to grow in faith, build friendships, and have fun together. Students in 6th–12th grade are invited to gather for fellowship, food, games, Bible study, discussion, and prayer as they learn what it means to follow Christ in everyday life. Every Sunday 5:30 – 7:30pm in Westminster Hall.

Children and Youth Programs

BLAST – Bible Learning and Singing Together

Wednesdays are jam-packed with amazing opportunities to sing, play, and learn about God with our friends! We have classes available with wonderful volunteers for ages 3k through 5th grade every Wednesday from 2:30 – 5:30pm! Bus services from Camden area schools are also available based on demand.

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:45 - Fellowship

10:00 - Sunday School

11:00 Worship

BLAST and Youth Registration





BLAST KICKOFF



AUGUST 5, 2026

Preschool - 5th Grade

&

6th - 12th Grade

2:30 pm - 5:30pm



*We provide
school pickup for
elementary and
middle school
students.*

Ice Cream Social * Bounce House * Face Painting

Program Information

We will share information about our BLAST program, which begins Wednesday, August 5, and meets every Wednesday through May 19.

This free program is available to children in the community.

Youth participants will take part in a service project by delivering meals to those with limited mobility and will also participate in a Bible study program.

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

502 E Dekalb Street, Camden, SC 29020

RSVP to the church office at 803-432-4593

August 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

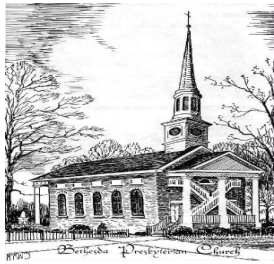
Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 COMMUNION 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship Service	3 1:00 Congregational Care	4 11:00 Wor- ship Commit- tee 4:00pm CE Committee	5 ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE 8AM-1PM 2:30 pm BLAST KICKOFF 6:00 Outreach	6	7	8
9 10:00 KICK-OFF SUNDAY 11:00 Worship Service (cong. Meet.) 1:30 Session	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship Service	17	18 7:30am Men's Breakfast	19	20 10:00am BINGO	21	22
23 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship Service 5:30 BYG-Parents meeting	24	25	26	27	28 10:00 Property Committee	29
30 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Potluck dinner 5:30 Youth-BYG	31					



Bethesda Presbyterian Church

*502 DeKalb Street
Camden, SC 29020*

Return Service Requested

August 2026

Faith IS NOT KNOWING
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,
BUT KNOWING
who holds the future.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Dear Ladies,

I hope you are able to enjoy God's beauty of luscious green grass and bountiful flower beds! My dahlias are struggling with these high temperatures and pests; however, I do have some beauties! I'm always so amazed at God's creation!

Next month (September) we will start back with our regular activities and Circle meetings. In the meantime, we are still collecting items for Operation Christmas Child. Items for August include, baby toys, toy cars, boats, and planes, toys, deflated soccer balls that can be purchased through Amazon (I have the pumps), and old t-shirts to make into jump ropes. Thank you for continuing to bring your items in!

Lisa Woolard
Moderator

AUGUST SHOEBOX ITEMS



Baby toys
Toy cars, boats, planes
Toys
Deflated soccer balls-found on Amazon
(I have the pumps)
Old t-shirts to make into jump ropes