

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bethany Newsletter Vol 11 2022



"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us, your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11

Why? What is it about Bethany that brings you here? **Why** do you give to support our many ministries and missions? The answer for everyone is different and as individual as our fingerprints. During this stewardship season, we are asking that you discover your "**Why?**". Please listen and watch our testimonials during Sunday services and online during the week. Please pray and discuss as a family the reasons why you are here and ways that you can continue to support Bethany with your gifts in 2023.

The various ministries at Bethany have planned for our budget needs for 2023. Aside from inflationary pressures, we have seen increased participation in many of our ministries. We are having double our usual numbers for our BNOW meals and programs. Youth participation has increased by 30%. Our Children's Ministries team continues to attract more kids each week. Everywhere we turn, we are seeing an increase in participation, and the excitement that can only be felt when we are all moved by the Holy Spirit. In order to meet our planned ministries for next year, we need to increase our giving by nine percent.

Consecration Sunday will be November 20, 2022. We hope you can be here on this Sunday to make a spiritual commitment to God. We ask that you pray about your pledge of time, talents, tithes, service, and witness. We ask everyone to consider filling out and turning in a card as a spiritual commitment. Please return the Estimate of Giving card to the church office or leave at the altar on Consecration Sunday.

We continue to grow in many ways, and the Holy Spirit is working in our midst. Let us who are blessed be a blessing to others.

STATE OF THE CHURCH REPORT

Bethany United Methodist Church

Rev. Michael D. Ritter, Sr.

Since moving to Bethany UMC on June 29th, life has been busy but has also been truly a blessing. We have enjoyed getting to know the people in the church and the community. It has been exciting coming to an area that I have known my whole life and seeing things in a new way. We have been blessed to have been appointed to a church with the love and acceptance of Bethany UMC. We continue to look forward to our ministry here and what God has in store for us all.

With that being said, I know that there are many challenges in front of us here at Bethany UMC. I believe that one of our biggest challenges is how do we minister in an ever-changing community. Growing up here in the Lowcountry, I saw Summerville as a beautiful, medium-sized town which I would visit when I wanted to get out of Walterboro. Now, Summerville has exploded. It is still a beautiful community, but it has changed drastically. How does this growth change Bethany? How do we minister to those that are life-long members and those that are moving into our community? As we move forward in ministry together, God will share the answer to this huge challenge. I believe that we are working hard to accomplish God's mission and to, make sure all are ministered to but there is always room for improvement.

I said from the beginning that Bethany is a great church and a wonderful place to serve. I must say that even in the short amount of time I have been here, I have seen some wonderful ministries happening around the church and community. I see committees and groups getting active and refocusing on the vision of the church. I believe that we are just beginning to see the fruits of the church's labor. I have witnessed and continue to hear about the growth in spirituality in our worship services. There has been greater work done by the laity in the area in terms of communication, evangelism, leadership, and missions. I believe that the church is truly changing lives by offering Christ to all in the community and in the church.

The membership of Bethany has been keeping their covenant with God and the church by supporting the United Methodist Church with "their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, and their witness." It is my challenge that we do our best to maintain our covenant. There are many who cannot attend services on Sunday but support their church through their prayers. However, the church needs all of our prayers, whether we can attend or not. God answers prayers; let's reach out to God and give thanks for the church and her people.

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Another challenge that I would like to make is in terms of our presence. I feel that we have been making great strides in this area but there is always room for improvement. The pandemic has left all churches scrambling for answers on how to address in-person attendance. Trying to navigate the waters of Covid has been difficult with everyone having his/her own opinions on what should be done. Now, as we move forward, I would encourage us all to evaluate our presence at church. We should be in church as often as we can. Not only during worship and special events, but we should also make special efforts to become involved with the different groups within the church. They are there for us and it is a way for us to grow in our relationship with God and each other. I also challenge church members to be present in their community and be ambassadors for Christ beyond the walls of Bethany.

Bethany also needs your gifts in the church. The church could not survive without your generous giving. It is important that we not only tithe to the church but that we give offerings to the church as well. God uses our tithes and offerings to improve and strengthen the ministries at Bethany and throughout the whole Church universal.

Another area we are to focus on is our service. We have recently gone through the nomination process, and we have some new faces serving on different committees at the church. This is a wonderful way that many have stepped up to the plate by supporting their church through service; I challenge others to do the same. Wherever you see that there is a need to be filled, do not hesitate to get involved. God is calling you to help the church by your service; get involved.

Our final part of the covenant is the way that we witness. Sharing our faith with others is a critical part of our ministry together. There are many ways to reach out to this ever changing community around us. God has given us a wonderful community and church. It is our place to share our faith and witness wherever we are called.

My final comment is to say that there is something exciting going on at Bethany. As I look out in the congregation on Sunday, visit in the community during the week, or work with the different groups and committees, I see the Holy Spirit continuing to move amongst us. Let us continue to please God with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness and change lives by offering Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Michael Ritter

State of the Church Report

Bethany United Methodist

Rev. Narcie M. Jeter

Bethany lives out what John Wesley often spoke of, “Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.” In all the worship offerings, in all of the study options both on Wednesday night at our BNOW, small group studies during the week, and Sunday School, in the variety of ways you can participate in our superb music ministries, in the myriad of ways you can plug into children and youth programs, and all of our direct giving opportunities and active hands on missions – Bethany is active in MIGHTY, TRANSFORMATIVE ways.

Our church is growing in new members, in outreach, in missions, in discipleship and in leadership. What I’ve learned since arriving to Bethany five years ago, is this church is on the move. We have multiple vibrant ministries from planning led by Clara Stonner to Marc Jacques teaching Jesus in the Gospels to our KidsCare scarecrow on the square! This church is taking our mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world seriously by giving people multiple avenues to see Jesus on full display as we worship, serve, study, fellowship and gather. The Holy Spirit is definitely guiding and leading this congregation and I’m looking forward to watching how our fruitfulness continues to expand!

All Saints' Day

Nov

7th

The All Saints’ Banner will be in all worship areas of the church each Sunday until

All Saints’ Day, November 7.

Please write the names of loved ones you want to be remembered on this special day.

If you have a name that you want on the banner and you are not here, you can call or email the office to have it added.

Safety & Assistance Committee

BETHANY'S NEW MINISTRY

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. “ ACTS 20:28
Bethany UMC is brimming with activities. Take a look at this Beacon issue (and past issues), Bethany’s website, social media sites -- we are a busy congregation – AND NOT JUST ON SUNDAYS !!! Everyone who enters our Bethany campus should feel safe and secure; otherwise we risk losing sight of our mission and God’s message.

Therefore, Bethany’s leadership is in the beginning stages of establishing a “Safety and Assistance Committee”, whose goal is to protect those who rely on Bethany for their spiritual and physical protection.

Preliminary discussions about this essential ministry have already begun, and those who feel called to serve may contact the Committee Chair Tom Thurman (843.697.4429) for more information.



WAYS TO GIVE
BETHANY UNITED METHODIST

- 1 Online**
<http://www.bethany-umc.com/>
- 2 Text**
Text: bethanyumc
To: 833-245-8417
- 3 Mail**
118 West 3rd South Street
Summerville, SC 29483
- 4 In-Service**
You can give during the offertory in Sunday services. Please call Ann or Melanie Russo to request tithing envelopes at 843-873-1230.



STOCK DONATIONS

If you plan on donating stocks as part of your financial gift this year. please initiate this process as soon as possible as it takes several weeks to complete.

PLEASE CONTACT ANN GILL OR MELANIE RUSSO WITH QUESTIONS, (843)873-1230

Charge Conference

Annual Charge Conference will take place on November 29, 2022 at 7:00PM. Immediately following will be a called Charge Conference to Vote on the selling of 111 W. 3rd South Street property.

Finance

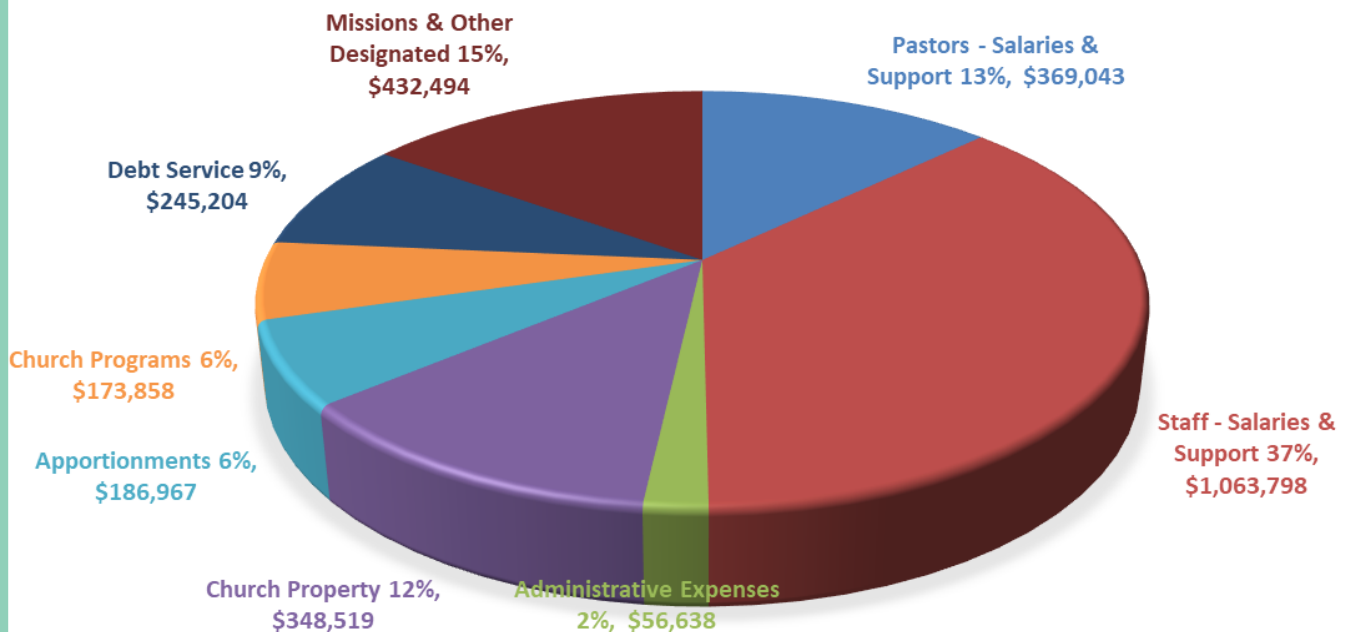
It's that time of the year again! We are getting giving envelopes together for 2023.

If you are NOT currently using giving envelopes but would like to use them in the upcoming year, please email Melanie Russo at mrusso@bethany-umc.com or call the church at 843-873-1230.

In an effort to reduce waste, If you have previously had envelopes assigned to you, but are currently using Pushpay or other forms of payment, please let us know so that can assign your number to someone else.



BUMC 2023 ANTICIPATED SPENDING \$2,876,521



Bethany NOW

Nurture • Outreach • Worship

Wednesday Nights this Fall

Join us on Wednesday evenings this fall for Faith, Food & Fellowship. Every week adults, students and kids gather to eat, learn and grow in their faith. Join us for a meal in the Fellowship Hall and stay for a class.

Bethany NOW Schedule

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 5-6pm | Dinner in the Fellowship Hall |
| 6 – 7:30pm | Kids Activities |
| 6:15 – 7:30 | Youth and Adult Activities |

Dinner Costs

\$8 Adults

\$6 Seniors 65 & Older

\$4 Kids 12 & under

\$20 Family Max (immediate family)

Menu for November

11-2-2022 Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, dessert

11-9-2022 Cavatini casserole, garlic bread, salad bar & dessert (Pizza rolls for kids)

11-16-2022 NONE

11-23-2022 NONE Thanksgiving Week

11-30-2022 Chicken & dumplings, oriental slaw, green beans, roll & dessert

LOCAL MISSIONS

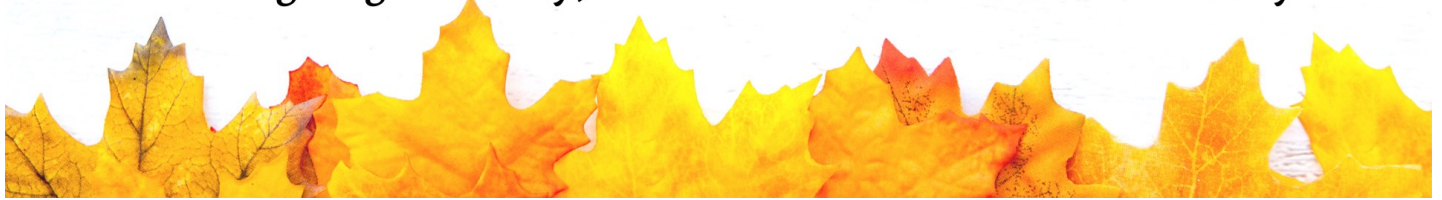
THANKSGIVING FOOD BAGS

Monetary Donations are now being collected to provide turkeys/bags of food to Dorchester County families in need.

367 families were recipients in 2021!

DONATE by Nov. 13th through offering, mail or drop off at the church.

Please give generously, as costs have increased considerably.



Katie's Krops Desserts

Thursday, November 3rd & 10th

We are in need of **600** individually wrapped homemade desserts to be paired with Katie's Krops meals. Please deliver to the business office by Thursday no later than 11:00 am. Thank you for your help with this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Narcie at njeter@bethany-umc.com or 854-429-1848.

Continued on next page

Angel Tree

Make a child's Christmas wish come true!

**Tree is going LIVE November 18th. Gifts can be
dropped off November 30th - December 11th in the
Business Office.**



Bethany Congregation, please stop by the Timrod Library on November 5th for their one day fall fest. Let's show our support to this little treasure in our town, as they are helping spread the word about the Bethany Gift & Gourmet Market.



Children's Ministry

Bethany Babies

What a joyful time it is when a baby is born! To help celebrate this amazing occasion, Bethany's Baby Ministry team visits new parents with a token of our support and dedication. Families receive a handmade wooden cross to hang in the nursery, a beautiful stole for the baby, a homemade treat and a welcoming sign in the yard. We want them to know that we are excited to be part of the new baby's life.



How can you support this ministry? Let us know if someone from Bethany is expecting or has had or adopted a child. This is the most important part. We need help keeping up with this. If you would like to be on the visitation team, contact Caroline McInnis at carolinejmcinnis@hotmail.com. We would love for you to be part of this ministry.

Call for Acolytes and Crucifers

Calling all kids 3rd grade and up! We invite you to serve as an acolyte or crucifer in our 8:45 and 11:15 Traditional services. Whether you are new to acylating or are a returning acolyte, please sign up if you are interested in serving in this important ministry.

We begin worship with the Cross of Christ held high, followed by His light leading the processional of our ministers and choir to the altar. We end each service by extinguishing the altar candles and carrying Jesus' light out into our community with us as we leave. This tradition represents the very basis of our Christianity. This is an excellent opportunity for a young Christian to serve his/her church.

We especially need children to serve at the 11:15 service. The 8:45 service spots quickly fill up, but 11:15 is a constant struggle to fill. Please consider serving at this service, even if just once. You can sign up using this link:

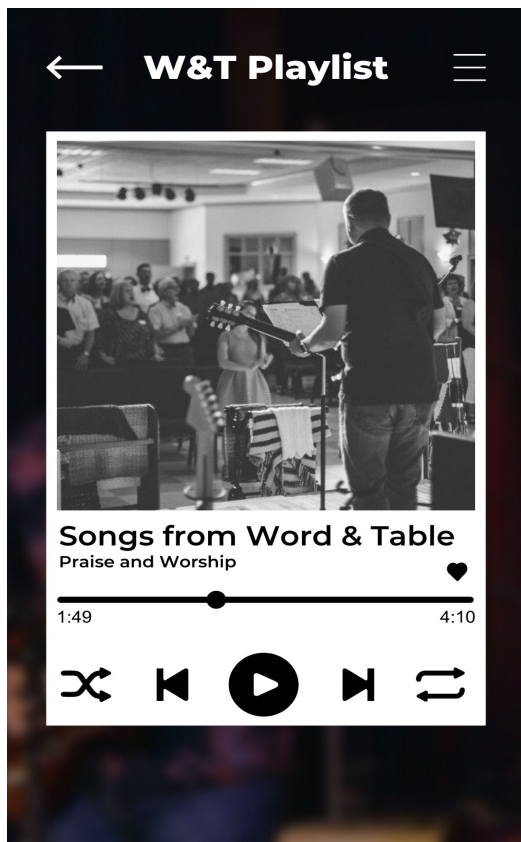
<https://bethanyumc.ccbchurch.com/goto/scheduling/25/public>

We also need adults to meet the kids before service and make sure they are ready to go and have all the information they need about what to do in the service.

If you would like for your child to be trained, or have a refresher, please contact Children's Ministries at smitchum@bethany-umc.com or evick@bethany-umc.com.



Word & Table



If you have found yourself wishing you could remember a song from Word & Table, or wondering what we might be singing soon... Now you can find a playlist of songs of praise and worship used in Word & Table on Spotify. Feel free to use the QR code to find a playlist of songs from Bethany's Word & Table Worship. You will also find different playlist curated by members of the W&T Praise team. This month we have "10 songs by Mike Jeter," which are simply 10 songs which have impacted Mike in his musical journey.





A Stephen Ministry Minute

Let us introduce Laura and Brenda who were commissioned in June to join the Stephen Ministry team. They took on the 25 weekly classes to read, role-play and grow in their skills for Christian caring. Consider following their leads to start training in January 2023!



Laura - wife, retired licensed Charleston Tour Guide, trainer of horses and Basset hounds

"I was wanting to make a positive contribution to my church and to those in need. Stephen Ministry gives me a chance to help others through faith and prayer."



Brenda Byrd - wife, mother of 3 sons, retired Financial Manager and busy grandmother to five

"I was a Stephen Minister at my previous church and saw what a difference it makes! We all need someone to listen and walk with us during difficult times. That is what a Stephen Minister does. Care Receivers are blessed as God provides the cure."

Start the process of accepting the gift of a personal and confidential Stephen Minister.

Use the Stephen Ministry Mailboxes to leave a request or call one of the leaders below:

Women: Leah Martin 404-408-5457 or Marti Johnson 843-442-1675

Men: Denis Tsukalas 843-729-5348 or Mark Barnes 843-873-2130

A new Stephen Minister training class will start in January.

If you are encouraged to learn the helping skills that Stephen Ministry teaches, please apply. **Applications are in one of the church tabletop kiosks. Please return by Nov. 30.** For questions, please contact Rev. Mark Barnes or any Stephen Minister or Leader.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kayden Pilch
Deborah Dominianni
William McLamb
Jessica McHale
Bethany Thomas
Aaron Jones
Nora Norton

STAFF PARISH WOULD LIKE TO WISH THE FOLLOWING
BETHANY EMPLOYEES A HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THE
MONTH OF NOVEMBER

KidsCare

November means Thankfulness at KidsCare! We are thankful for all that God has provided this school year! We would like to mention that He has provided us with qualified counselors, drivers and children to fill up the buses! We enjoy our afterschool ministry and thank God for each blessing He brings our way!



We participated in Scarecrows on the square this year and are so thankful for everyone who came out to help! At the time of this writing, we don't have the winner information but regardless of who "wins" we are all spreading the Good News in different ways as a group effort!

We did a Noah's Ark theme about the children's favorite song for Chapel time. "The Unicorn Song". Look it up on our FB page!

Special thanks to Mr. Luke Biggs and Mr. Charlie Davis for leading our Chapel time by "Making a Joyful Noise to the Lord, all the earth! Come into his presence with singing!" Psalm 100:1-2

Bethany CDC



in Every Thing
give Thanks
1 Thessalonians 5:18

In November, the students at Bethany CDC will have special Thanksgiving celebrations with their classmates and talk about the many blessings in their lives. They will continue to learn about the wonders of fall, take nature walks, and make the quintessential preschool craft... handprint turkeys.

All of us at the CDC are thankful for our many blessings including:

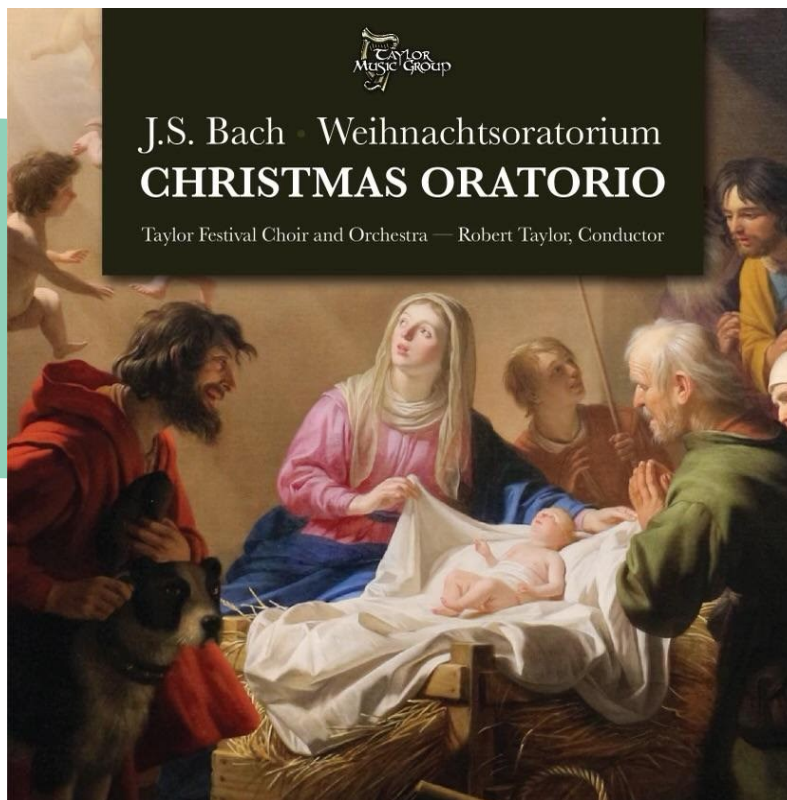
- Wonderful students and families
- Caring, dedicated teachers who love their students like their own children
- A church community that supports our mission and ministry
- God's grace and love



As we are called to do in 1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 18, we will **rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances.**

Music Ministries

On Nov. 12 and 13, Rob Taylor's professional choir will perform Johann Sebastian Bach's great holiday masterpiece, the Weihnachts Oratorium (Christmas Oratorio). This is the first complete performance of this great work in the Charleston area! The performance on the 13th, time TBD, will be here in the Bethany UMC Sanctuary.



The Taylor Festival Choir will perform with an orchestra of elite players (including members of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra) and a collection world-class vocal soloists. The performance is dedicated to the memory of The Taylor Festival Choir's inspiration and namesake Bob Taylor — Rob's father, who was also a choral director — who passed away 25 years ago. Tickets can be purchased at www.taylormusicgroup.org. Bethany members may purchase tickets at a \$5 discount using the promo code "Bethany".

November brings opportunities for much music making in the Glory of God. We have music ranging from Brahms's "How Lovely is they Dwelling Place" for All Saints' Day to the start of Christmas music with the first Sunday of Advent on November 27.

We continue to encourage all church members to consider participation in one of our choirs, as an instrumentalist, or in our hoped-for Beginning Handbells Choir.

All of our ensembles have already begun preparation towards our Dec. 18 Festival of Carols (at 4pm in the Sanctuary) and look forward to the flurry of activity the Christmas season brings!



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

LOCK IN 2022

THE ULTIMATE NIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNITY BUILDING!

5:30 PM - 7:00 AM

WILD BLUE ROPES • STARS & STRIKES
MIDNIGHT SNACKS • GROUP GAMES
GLOW FUN • S'MORES • DEVOTION



COST OF \$75

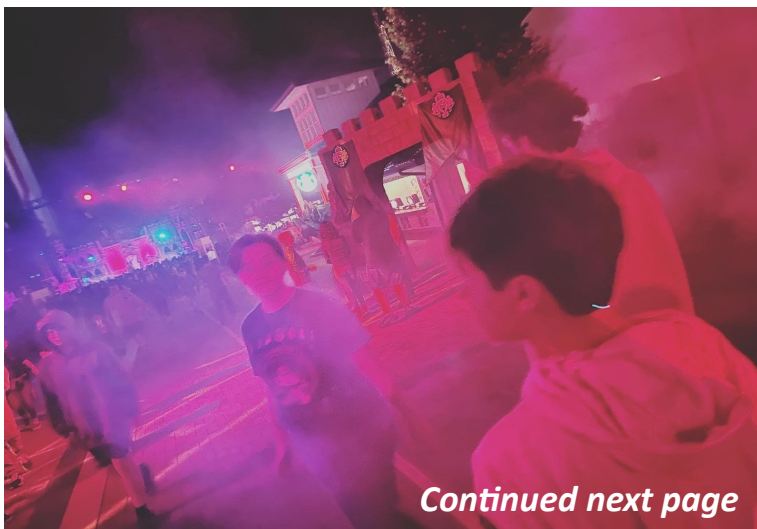
ASCEND STUDENT MINISTRIES NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

- ASCEND 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
- Youth Sunday School, 10:00 am (YH)
- Doughnuts with Duke (the Jeter House)
- NO ASCEND (Thanksgiving Break DD2)
- Thanksgiving
- LOCK-IN!!!
- BNOW Small Groups, 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm (YH)
- ADVENT Worship Services

WWW.ASCENDSTUDENTMINISTRIES.ORG

SCAROWINDS 22'



ASCEND • NOVEMBER • MESSAGE SERIES



SUNDAYS • 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM • MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

FELLOWSHIP • PRAISE & WORSHIP • GAMES • SMALL GROUPS



FRIENDSGIVING • COMMUNITY

Student Ministries— ASCEND continued



Scarowinds Continued



Recreation Ministries

BETHANY GOLF LEAGUE

Golf League will begin Monday
October 17th at Summerville
Country Club.

Play every Monday, locations at
various courses around
Summerville.

9 hole format, players need to
arrive by 2:45 for 3:30 start.

NO COMMITMENT NECESSARY,
CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.



BETHANY BALL

BETHANY BALL 2023 REGISTRATION IS
OPEN - REGISTER VIA THIS LINK
OR SCAN QR CODE:  

[HTTPS://BETHANYGYM.SPORTNGIN.COM
/REGISTER/FORM/350553350](https://bethanygym.sportngin.com/register/form/350553350)

IF A BETHANY CHURCH MEMBER ENTER
CODE BETHANY2023 FOR 10% OFF OF
REGISTRATION.



**VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION IS ALSO
OPEN FOR BETHANY BALL LINK IS
BELOW:**

[HTTPS://BETHANYGYM.SPORTNGIN.C
OM/REGISTER/FORM/905542029](https://bethanygym.sportngin.com/register/form/905542029) OR
SCAN QR CODE 





December 8 Starting at 6:30 – last car in line at 8:00
December 9 Starting at 6:30 – last car in line at 8:00
December 10 Starting at 5:30 – last car in line at 8:00

Bethany's parking lot will become Bethlehem December 8,9 & 10. The pavement and people will transform into The Greatest Story Ever Told through a drive-through reenactment of the way life was over

2,000 years ago on the night Jesus Christ was born.

Each night, over 100 volunteers are needed to bring the production to life. Sign-up for casting will begin in November. You can sign up in-person or online. We also need lots of help:

Volunteer Behind the Scenes

There are several ways you can help make the production a success. There will be a sign-up for the volunteer spots along with cast sign-up.

- *Set-Up – Beginning November 12 and each Saturday leading up to the Living Christmas Story, we will be assembling sets and setting up scenes. Many, many volunteers are needed to help each week.*
- *Covering Building Windows – a team is needed to cover all the windows in the building that face the sets with heavy black plastic. This can be done any time the two weeks before the 8th.*
- *Food Prep/Serving – There will be soup & sandwiches each night. Help is needed in preparing the soup, setting up and serving food.*
- *Costumes/Props – Lots of help is needed with handing out costumes and props. Volunteers will be needed to pull costumes and hand them out to cast members. There will also be volunteers to help with dressing cast members and to restock the costumes and props.*
- *Traffic –15-20 volunteers are needed each night to coordinate the lining up of cars and directing traffic.*

Security – Each night that the sets are up, there must be on-site security. It is vital that we have someone here through the night to patrol the grounds beginning Sunday December 3.

Take-Down – We disassemble the sets Saturday night after the last car goes through. Be here by 8:30pm on Saturday to help us get the parking lot and building ready for Sunday.

Donate

You can help provide sandwiches, chips, desserts and drinks for the cast and crew. Drop-off any food in the kitchen during business hours or after worship any time before December 8. All donations are much appreciated!! Sign up for sandwiches will be online and in-person

Promote

Help us spread the word that the LCS is happening! You can deliver posters to businesses around town, let your neighbors and friends know about it, share any social media posts and just talk it up! We know that the community looks forward to this happening and we want everyone to know about it!!



Bethany United Methodist Church
118 West 3rd South Street
Summerville, SC
29483 - 5997

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ORGANIZATION
Summerville
29483



Room Request

If you have a standing room reservation, please submit your request by visiting our website at:

www.bethany-umc.com or contact Ann Gill at
agill@bethany-umc.com

Bethany Beacon is published monthly by Bethany United Methodist Church. Articles, story ideas, questions, comments, news or photos may be sent to the Communications Team at ***ddominianni@bethany-umc.com*** Please email your address changes or if you would like to be removed from the Bethany Beacon Newsletter mailing list.

Upcoming deadlines: ***Submissions are due the 15th*** of each month

www.bethany-umc.com

www.bethanygym.com

bethanygym.com [facebook.com/BethanySummerville, SC](https://facebook.com/BethanySummerville,SC)

twitter.com/BethanyUMC

[Instagram/@umcbethany](https://instagram.com/@umcbethany)

Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 AM. to 5 P.M.,

Friday 8:30 A.M. to Noon,

Church Office: 843.873.1230

Office Fax: 843.873.1937

Gym Office: 843.873.7261

Child Dev. Center: 843.821.1946

Emergency Number: If you have an emergency for which you need pastoral care at night, on weekends, or holidays, call 843.425.1069.