

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter 2023 Vol 4

As a child, I looked forward to this time of the year. I can still remember lining up on the steps of the church and being handed a palm branch to carry. I was going to be able to walk into the church and wave the branch high above my head and place it at the altar rail. What a feeling it was to perform the mighty task. However, did I really know what I was doing; Probably not.

As I sit and watch the children coming forward on Palm Sunday now, I smile as I reminisce about years past. How wonderful and innocent they look waving the palms with the big smiles on their faces. How innocent I once was also. Why did I grow up and learn more about the day of Palm Sunday and Holy Week? Why did I have to find out that it was actually someone like me who turned his back on Jesus?

Holy Week is filled with contrasts. On Palm Sunday we experience the joyous demonstration of the one who comes in the name of the Lord as we shout "Hosanna, Hosanna" and wave our palms in acclamation. The hopeful wave palms, symbolizing the triumph in Jesus Christ; the one who comes in the name of the Lord to set us free from our destructive longings. These palms become pledges of resurrection. As our journey of Lent draws us closer to the cross,, we cling to these palms as we proclaim Christ's suffering on earth. As Jesus descended from the Mount of Olives and through the cheers from the crowd, He certainly knew that the people would turn against Him. Jesus coming down the mountain and entering the city wore a painful smile.

If we want to cheer for Jesus, then we need to walk with Jesus beyond the day of Palm/Passion Sunday. We need to stand with Jesus as He is witnessing in the temple on Monday. We need to walk with Jesus on Tuesday. We need to listen to Jesus on Wednesday. We need to dine with and pray with Jesus on Thursday. We need to take up our cross and walk faithfully with Jesus on Friday. We will wait all day Saturday because of the unknown and the sadness of the death of our Lord. Then and only then on Sunday, we indeed can shout "Hosanna" for the God who delivered us from death to life, from sorrow to joy, from the grave to grace. May your Holy Week be filled with praise as you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, and the road he traveled.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Michael

Word & Table

Have you listened to the Word & Table Playlist on Spotify? This month you can also find 10 songs chosen by Michael Brown. Use the QR code to find Bethany UMC on Spotify.



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Easter Sunday

6:30am Sunrise Service at Azalea Park (Please bring lawn chair, in case of rain we will move to Spell Chapel)

8am Worship in Spell Chapel **

8:45am & 11:15am Traditional Worship in Sanctuary**

8:45am Word & Table Contemporary in the Fellowship Hall**

**** denotes nursery available during service**

Bethany United Methodist Church

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Summerville Country Club

DATE: MAY 6TH

TIME: 8:00AM

FORMAT: FOUR PERSON CAPTAINS CHOICE

COST: \$75

CONTACT KYLE AT 843-469-5917

Calling all healthcare professionals

Bethany in conjunction with our new Safety and Assistance Committee, setting up an emergency is setting up an emergency response team that will be available during worship and Sunday school times (8 am-12:30 pm). As part of the emergency response team, we are asking any healthcare-trained individuals that are interested and willing to consider being part of the team. We would like to have 1 or 2 healthcare trained individuals who are willing to be on standby for each service and during the Sunday school hour.

Our definition of a healthcare trained individual is a Physician, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, Nurse, EMT, and Paramedic. If you are willing to share as part of this team, please reach out to Roanna Payne at roanna1958@bellsouth.net.

The Last Supper

Members of Bethany United Methodist Church will present **The Living Dramatization of Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper**, directed by Ted Varner, a Bethany member.

It is a moving drama meant to help people better understand the passion of Christ in the events leading up to His crucifixion.

The Upper Room set (recreated on a series of connecting flats and measuring 12 feet by 27 feet), the table with settings, and a cast in costumes and wigs, all combine to make da Vinci's painting come to life.

Tickets are still available online or contact Emily Vick at evick@bethany-umc.com



“THE LAST SUPPER” Comes to Life during Holy Week

THE LIVING DRAMATIZATION OF
LEONARDO DA VINCI'S THE LAST SUPPER

LIVE PERFORMANCES:

Maunder Thursday, April 6

7:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 7

7:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Communion will be served. A love offering will be collected.
This drama is recommended for adults and youth.
A ministry will be provided for children under age seven.
Admission is free, but tickets are required.

Contact Emily Vick for tickets @ evick@bethany-umc.com

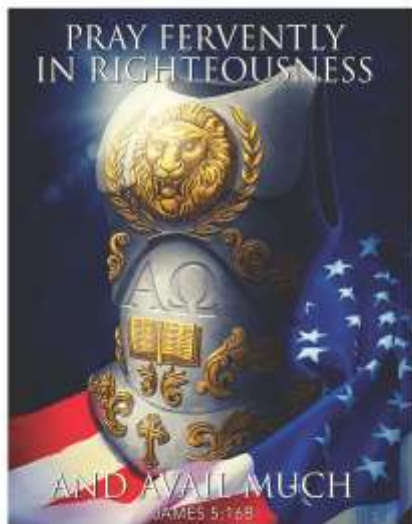
National Day of Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, May 4, 2023

Breakfast - 6:30 am - 7 am

Program - 7 am - 8:15 am

Tickets - \$20



To register, please scan the
QR code above, or visit
www.summervilleymca.org

Bethany United Methodist Church

Dr. Robert J. Howell, Jr. Fellowship Hall
118 West Third Street South
Summerville, SC 29483



Bethany Card Team A personal letter in “snail mail” is becoming a rarity!

Bethany's Card Team extends recognition and support to our church family during times of celebration, challenges and sorrow. The Card Ministry offers a quiet way to make a difference in others' lives. It is a way to encourage and comfort those who are hurting and celebrate with those who are celebrating. We serve Christ by sending cards to our members and attendees, reminding them that they are loved and not forgotten.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please call Rev Mark Barnes at the church or Phyllis Laferte (843-810-9987)

Bethany friends, this article introduces you to Miss Natasha Muwani who is the recipient of a Bethany funded scholarship to attend Africa University.

Natasha is a 21-year-old native of Zimbabwe. She is the daughter of a single mom and an excellent student. She received a full scholarship (tuition, room and board) to one of Zimbabwe's top ten high schools. She had to wait a year following high school to have sufficient funds to enter Africa University and achieved a GPA of 3.83 in her first year. That qualified her for a scholarship at AU and the University recommended her to us following our notifying the university we would like to provide a scholarship for a needy student. Natasha is an international relations major and aspires to be an ambassador. Last year she played on the Zimbabwe national ladies field hockey U21 (under 21) team. She plans to continue playing hockey at a high level.



Africa University was formed and built by the United Methodist Church 30 years ago. It is an example of how a connectional church like the UMC can tackle large projects. Enrollment is currently about 2,800. The student population currently comes from 23 different countries in Africa, graduation rate is 94.7% and 92% of the graduates serve in Africa. Despite its relatively small size, AU is currently ranked the 4th best university in Zimbabwe. Graduates are often very successful. AU is located in Mutare, Zimbabwe on land that was part of the Old Mutare Mission. The Old Mutare Mission was started by the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1898. Today the Old Mutare Mission has a hospital, orphanage and a school. Methodism has been active in mission in what is now Zimbabwe for a long time.

Her letter to us following her learning of the scholarship follows:

February 2023

This letter serves to express my heartfelt gratitude for the sponsorship, I would not have imagined how the semester would have started and went by. When was notified about the news, I was ecstatic and I could not wait for this moment to write to explain how appreciative I am. Currently I am doing my second year studies in Bachelor of Science Honors in International Relations and I would say I am in the field I belong in. I plan to obtain my first degree in June 2026 and I aspire to work in the field of politics as an Ambassador and being a national hockey player I plan to get recognized internationally. I have received so much support and I would like to give back to the community as I study and once I graduate. Again I thank you for the huge contribution towards my studies, it is in my duty to keep up with my grades and keep my word. I look forward to having you as part of this journey

*Yours faithfully
Natasha Muwani*

Many thanks to Rev. Mitch Houston who was instrumental in getting this missional project launched. Dave Braddon, Lay Leader

PS: My wife Karen and I had the pleasure of visiting AU in January, 2016.

Local & Global Missions

DOORS OF FREEDOM — April 2023

During the month of April, Bethany Women of Faith, Del Webb at Nexton, and Rogers and Brown Shipping Company will be collecting items for teen girls living at the Doors of Freedom Shelter. This shelter opened in April of 2018. They provide a haven for up to 10 survivors, ages 12 to 18, who have been rescued from human trafficking. Counseling and educational courses are provided on site. Referrals are received locally and outside of our region. The survivors arrive with minimal clothing and may only have one pair of shoes. They would greatly appreciate a gift card of any type so a counselor can take them shopping. When they can purchase new items, it is uplifting and helps to improve their self-image. Other requested items are:

***Personal Care Items: Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Deodorant, and Nail Polish
Bags or single serving Snacks: Chips, Cookies, Popcorn, Candy, Energy or Breakfast
Bars***

Crackers with Cheese or Peanut Butter

Pajamas, ankle high socks and slippers all in women's sizes

Gift cards will be used to purchase shoes, hoodies, jackets and underwear.

Let us show our love by giving an item that would uplift the mood of these teen girls. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7. Your donations will bring smiles to teenage girls who have so little!!

Donation Sites: Bethany UMC Church Office, Del Webb at Nexton Activities Center, Roger and Brown giving box in the lobby, and Sue Smith's house, 1083 Old Field Drive in Cresswind

Sincerely,

Sue Smith, Program Coordinator, (301-904-3427)

Joe Laferte, Del Webb at Nexton Coordinator (843-810-1126)

Lisa Flynn, Roger and Brown Coordinator (843-958-2220)



Katie's Krops Desserts

After much thought and consideration, they adjusted the Katie's Krops Dinner schedule to once a month for the next three months, and then they will reevaluate.

Upcoming dinner dates will be: **Thursday, April 13th, May 18th, & June 8th.**

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.

Bethany CDC

Spring is such a wonderful time of year... new growth, new life, the miracle of Easter – there are so many things to celebrate!

At Bethany CDC, spring is exciting because we get to see how much our preschool and kindergarten students have grown throughout the school year. The CDC halls are filled with the joyful sounds of children laughing and singing, relishing the independence of newfound skills and the comfort of warm friendships made here at school. We are truly blessed by our sweet students and families!



EASTER
Blessings

Stephen Ministry

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Philippians 4:6

You can unload your worries by talking them out with a trained Stephen Minister.

Accept this gift of a caring, listening and non-judgmental friend. Please reach out today with a note placed in the "Care Mail" boxes in the SS building.

Or give a call to one of these:

For Women: Leah Martin 404-408-5457 or

Marti Johnson 843-442-1675

For Men: Denis Tsukalas 843-729-5348 or

Mark Barnes 843-873-2130

Children's Ministry

Flowering Cross

The flowering cross is an especially striking and beautiful way to represent the new life that emerges from the death of Christ on Good Friday. Please help us adorn the cross with flowers on Easter Sunday, as we celebrate the transformation of the rugged cross into a symbol of life and a new beginning. All children's Sunday School classes will visit the cross during the Sunday School hour.

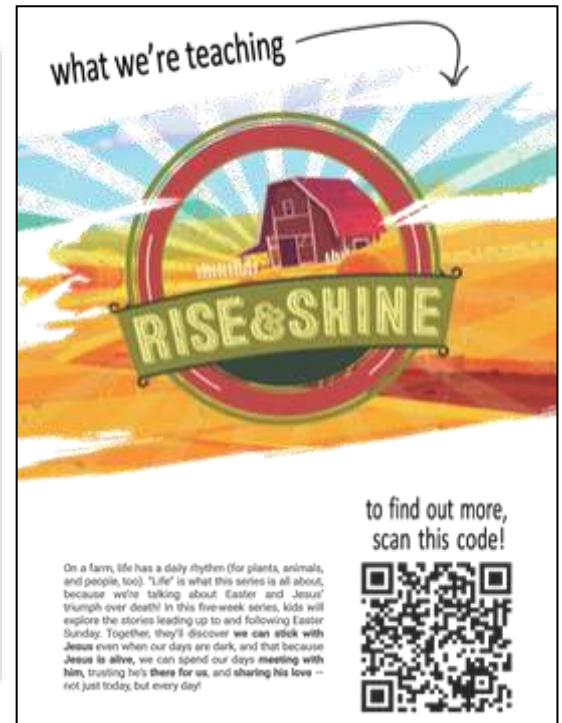


Bethany's Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 8th @ 10am sharp!

Preschool will hunt eggs on the playground.
Kindergarten-2nd Grade will hunt eggs on the edge of Azalea Park near our parking lot.

3rd - 5th grades will have a Scavenger Hunt in the Youth House

There will be lots of eggs and a visit from the Easter Bunny!



what we're teaching

RISE & SHINE

to find out more, scan this code!

On a farm, life has a daily rhythm (for plants, animals, and people, too). "Life" is what this series is all about, because we're talking about Easter and Jesus' triumph over death! In this five-week series, kids will explore the stories leading up to and following Easter Sunday. Together, they'll discover we can stick with Jesus even when our days are dark, and that because Jesus is alive, we can spend our days meeting with him, trusting he's there for us, and sharing his love -- not just today, but every day!

Get ready for Hero Hotline

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need teachers and assistants in classrooms to fill our volunteer roster. If you are interested in helping out, contact Stephanie Mitchum at smitchum@bethany-umc.com.



VOLUNTEER TRAINING

If you are serving as a teacher or assistant, there will be a training session on April 29th from 9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M in the Children's Wing. This one-time session will provide a review of our curriculum and plans for crafts, snacks, recreation, science and more. Child care will be available. Mark your calendars and plan to attend! **Teen helpers do not need to attend, we will have a separate training for them at a later date.**

Children's Ministry...continued

DECORATIONS

We will be decorating the entire church, so we need lots of items and help! If you would like to help prep decorations, we have lots of things to do at home. We will begin decorating in early June, so let us know if you want to help with this fun part of VBS! We are also collecting:

7 of each color rectangle plastic tablecloths in teal, lime green, orange, yellow and purple

15 rolls of each color streamers in teal, lime green, orange, yellow and purple

55 Blank CD's

6 of each color 8' foil curtains in teal, lime green, orange, yellow and purple

SOME OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Pray – Your prayer for our Heroes, Sidekicks, missions and program help us to have a fantastic week.

Teacher Snacks – each day we provide a snack table for our volunteers. We need two-liter drinks, breakfast items, finger foods, heavy appetizers, and anything you think our volunteers would like.

Set-up and Break-down – we need lots of help moving tables, setting up classrooms, and many other things. Set up will be Sunday June 11 from 12:30 – 4:00 and break down will be June 16 from 11:00-3:00.

Register for VBS at bethany-umc.com. Classes are filling up quickly, so register now.



Missions

\$50,000 Faith Promises and over half collected...150 volunteers at the Volunteer ...Extravaganza, 12 Mission Partners had Bethany help in the Volunteer Extravaganza. We actually witnessed and participated the organization's we support. Over 20 of our Mission Partners participated in our Missions Fair, and Rev. Phil Thrailkill brought our Missions Sunday message challenging us to go out our door and around the world spreading the Gospel of Jesus. It was a great weekend!



Missions



Moments with Seniors

Through the years many people have complimented us for taking the time to sing to the folks in the local nursing homes. I always reply, “We do not go to perform FOR the residents.....we go to sing WITH them.” Our visits with these folks reminds me of the “Singspirations” we used to have with members of my small town church in Illinois. One Sunday evening each month we would gather to sing hymns.

Everyone had an input of his/her favorite old Gospel songs, and they all came to sing along. The event was not “polished” so much as it was “making a joyful noise.” It was truly a worship service set to music and lifted many people’s spirits. It was not unusual to have some folks get misty eyed while singing a favorite of a departed loved one. That was half a century ago, and the feeling is still the same today. Sharing those old Gospel songs is a timeless treasure.

One of our participants is a lady in a wheelchair who sings beautifully but never seems to look at the song sheets. She spent her life as a pastor’s wife and knows the songs by heart! Another of our favorites is our own Pastor Emeritus James Alewine.

Our sessions always end with a thank you from several people for sharing the love and blessings of our Lord through singing. Everyone feels blessed. If you enjoy singing old gospel songs, please join us.

Paul Harris

Ecuador 2023 Mission Trip

Ever wondered what we do on our Ecuador Mission Trips or what goes into the planning of an international mission trip?

Been curious what it is like to participate on a mission trip, wondered if you could do it, or what is required to participate? There is an informational meeting Sunday, March 5th, at 10am in room 126.

In addition to sharing past experiences and accomplishments, we will be discussing what we expect to be working on this year as well as do some group planning to discuss dates, possible travel itineraries and any other items as it relates to this year's trip.

If you would like more information but are unable to attend the meeting, reach out to Stephen Bishop (843.696.6938 or f1skier@comcast.net).

Join Bethany and China Outreach Ministries (COM) in Christian Hospitality May 5-7

As part of their ministry, COM staff at UGA will bring a group of Chinese students to visit our area May 5-7. Bethany is glad to partner again with COM by sharing and showing the gospel to these students in many ways, particularly by offering room in our homes for two nights. The group will arrive Friday at 9:30 pm, tour the Charleston area on Saturday, join their hosts at Bethany for a potluck dinner on Saturday night, and worship with us during Sunday School and church service—from there, they return to UGA.

If the Lord has given you a heart to give hospitality to strangers who need to hear and see the gospel in action, we need you! For more details and to explore ways you can serve, contact Laura Knotts. Email: lknotts.laura@gmail.com Text: 843-870-6263



**CHINA
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES**

NEW BNOW Class - Methodism 101

Methodism 101 will begin during Bethany NOW. This class will focus on information about the United Methodist Church, ***including history, beliefs, church structure and modern United Methodism.*** There will be four sessions: April 19 & 26 and May 3 & 10. The class will meet during the regular BNOW class time of 6:15 -7:30pm in the Friendship Circle room. Tom Thurman and Rev. Michael Ritter will lead. If you are new to the United Methodist Church, or just need a refresher on what it means to be United Methodist, this is a great way to be informed.

Join us for dinner before from 5-6 in the Fellowship Hall (reservations are not needed) and then stay for the class. If you have questions, contact Emily Vick at evick@bethany-umc.com.

Menu:

4/5— No BNOW

4/12— No BNOW

4/19— BBQ chicken breast sandwich, potato salad, baked beans, salad bar

4/26— Tacos, Spanish rice, Black beans

KidsCare

Spring is upon us with many new beginnings!! We are looking forward to our KidsCare Easter Egg Hunt on Thursday April 6th. Then we get to have a fun week of adventures at camp during Spring Break! Summer Camp 2023 is fast approaching and registration for our current families is open. Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is also open to our current families. We will open registration to new families for both the new school year and Summer Camp in May.

God bless you this Easter as we are reminded once again Jesus has risen!!

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live.” John 11:25



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Bethany Prayer Shawl Ministry has been very busy. We always have a good selection of prayer shawls to give out to Bethany members, and to their friends and family. We pass them out to anyone who may benefit from one knowing that they were made by a Bethany member and blessed by a Bethany Minister. A handmade card is included with each shawl.

Babies baptized at Bethany receive a handmade baby blanket, or a small gift for our “older babies”. Graduating High School Seniors receive a special scarf made in colors of their prospective school or in colors that the Senior selects. Currently we are working on beanies and scarves for the homeless. We welcome all who know the difference between a crochet hook and a knitting needle. Even if you don’t know the difference, there will be someone present to explain. Many of our shawls are made at home and brought in and blessed before handing out. We meet the first Monday, of every other month from 2-3 p.m. in Room 119. Our meeting will be March 6, 2023.



Famous Author James M. Scott Speaker at April Happy Hearts

The April 28, 2023. Happy Hearts luncheon speaker is famous author James M. Scott. A former Nieman Fellow at Harvard, James M. Scott is the author most recently of *Black Snow: Curtis LeMay, the Firebombing of Tokyo, and the Road to the Atomic Bomb*. His previous works include *Rampage*, which was named one of the Best Books of 2018 by the editors at Amazon, *Kirkus*, and *Military Times* and was chosen as a finalist for the prestigious Gilder Lehrman Prize for Military History by the New York Historical Society. Other works include *Target Tokyo*, a 2016 Pulitzer Prize finalist, *The War Below* and *The Attack on the Liberty*, which won the Rear Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison Award. In addition to writing, Scott is a sought-after public speaker on World War II. Over the years, he has lectured on military bases, at presidential libraries, book festivals, and in universities and museums around the world. Scott lives with his wife and two children in Mt. Pleasant, SC.

His book, *Black Snow: Curtis LeMay, the Firebombing of Tokyo, and the Road to the Atomic Bomb*, will be the focus of Mr. Scott’s discussion at the Happy Hearts luncheon.

A meal will be served at 12:00. Please call Dot by at 843-343-5450 or email her at dmprevatte@yahoo.com by Sunday, April 23, to make your meal reservation.

Music

What an exciting time in the Music Ministry! Every area of our ministry is busy making and preparing spiritually fulfilling and exciting music as we continue in the Lenten season, and build towards Easter and Eastertide.

For those that attend Word and Table, you are accustomed to Mike Jeter and his wonderful musical talents and expertise. Expect more exciting new songs, amplifying a powerful and dynamic worship experience!

In the traditional services, all of our ensembles have special musical offerings in store, with wonderful guest musicians set to augment our wonderful church's musical talent. On March 26 (the Fifth Sunday of Lent) and on Palm Sunday, the Chancel Choir will sing the Agnus Dei and Sanctus movements from John Rutter's magnificent *Requiem Mass* – accompanied by Charleston Symphony musicians Jessica Hull Dambaugh (flute), Daniel Mumm (cello), Matt Macie (percussion), and of course our own wonderful Michael Lopez. On Easter Sunday, the Chancel Choir will be accompanied by strings from the Charleston Symphony as we offer movements from Ralph Vaughan Williams's choral masterpiece *Five Mystical Songs* (which begins with the text "Rise Heart, My Lord is Risen!"). After Easter Sunday, we have more special music in store, highlighted with a visit from young opera star Grace Kahl, who will sing solos in Mozart's *Laudate Dominum* and offer up the exhilarating *Exultate Jubilate* on April 23rd.

Our smaller ensembles are hard at work as well. Our Men's Ensemble has performed multiple times recently, and I am so proud of their work and music-making. This Sunday (March 26) you will hear our terrific Women's Ensemble offer a new song entitled "I Want to Walk as a Child of Light". Our Chamber Ensemble has been hard at work perfecting four Renaissance motets that will not only be part of our worship on Sunday mornings, but also part of the Last Supper production on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

It goes without saying that our incredible Chancel Bells will offer their special brand of music-making, helping our souls to soar on Easter Sunday as they perform *Marche Triumphale* by Michael Helman. I hope everyone understands how fantastic our bell choir is! Speaking of wonderful, our equally wonderful Melody, Wesley and Cherub choirs present their annual musical on April 30th. Please plan to come hear them at the 11:15 service that day!

All in all, as I said above, what an exciting time in the Music Ministry! I am so blessed to be a humble part of it.

God Bless

Rob

Ascend Student Ministries

April

Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						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 (FH)
- ASCEND GAME NIGHT!
- YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10:00 AM (YH)
- LIVING LAST SUPPER
- EASTER SUNDAY
- FLOWERTOWN PARKING
- CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
- BNOW WEDNESDAY GROUPS
- CONFIRMATION CLASS

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONFIRMATION

2023

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
11:15 AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

ASCEND STUDENT MINISTRIES

Resurrection Sightings

AN EASTER SERIES

Sundays • 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Fellowship • Games • Praise & Worship
Message • Small Groups

ASCEND STUDENT MINISTRIES

GAME NIGHT

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP AFTER SPRING BREAK!

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.