

Christian sympathies go out to the family and friends of Lila Davis, who joined the church triumphant on November 20.

Christian sympathies go out to the family and friends of Valerie Oldham, who joined the church triumphant on November 28.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### VBS Need

If you are replacing your artificial Christmas tree this year, VBS wants the old one. This year's theme is camping so we need lots of trees! Artificial trees can be donated anytime, contact Children's Ministries to arrange details. We will not be able to return trees, so make sure you do not want it back.

### Local Missions Sock Drive

Local Missions will continue collecting men's socks until the end of the year. These socks are to be distributed at the warming shelter. Containers with signs will be placed at the entrances/exits for Spell Chapel, the Sanctuary, and the Fellowship Hall. No holy socks please. If you need further information, please contact Barbara Nimocks 843.276.4230 or John Lyons 843.708.9837. Thank you!

### Happy Hearts

There will not be a November meeting. We will meet on December 8 for our Christmas party. The famous host "Chef", Rev. Michael Ritter, will re-create Paula Dean's special Chicken in Wine Sauce to be served over rice, with a vegetable, dessert, and drink for only \$8. To make your reservation, call Dot by **TODAY** at 843.343.5450 or email her at dmprevatte@yahoo.com. The instrumental group, Gloryland Trio, will provide entertainment following lunch. This group consisting of Luke Biggs, Charlie Davis, and Jim Griffin will be leading the singing of Christmas carols and as well as other music. This group has been providing down-home music for church events for years.

### Angel Tree

Make a child's Christmas wish come true! The Angel Tree is now LIVE. Gifts can be dropped off through December 11 in the Business Office. Please scan the QR code to choose a child.



### 2024 Flower Calendar- January Available

Altar flowers are a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one. The 2024 flower calendar is open and **all of January is available**. Please contact Mandy Killiri at mkilliri@bethany-umc.com to reserve a date or sign up on the calendar located in the Sanctuary hallway on the bulletin board.

### Thank You from Global Missions

Praise the Lord! 495 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are on their way to deliver the Gospel message to children around the world. Thank you, Bethany for your generosity and enthusiasm for this mission! Our goal of 323 boxes was crushed because of YOU!

### Birthday Party for Jesus

Join us during the Sunday school hour (10am) on December 17 for a birthday party for Jesus! We will sing Christmas songs, watch a Christmas movie, and of course have a cupcake. Elementary will meet in Room 213 and Preschool will meet in Room 110.

### Offering Envelopes

The 2024 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the upstairs hallway by the Welcome Center. Please pick yours up today!

## THIS WEEK...

Not all activities are included here. Look for the most up-to-date calendar posted throughout the church.

### Sunday, December 3

8 AM WORSHIP, Spell Chapel  
8:45 AM WORSHIP, Sanctuary  
8:45 AM WORD & TABLE, FH  
10 AM Sunday School  
11:15 AM WORSHIP, Sanctuary  
5:30 PM Bethany Youth Ascend

### Monday, December 4

9 AM Adult Pickleball, Gym  
10 AM Plarning/Upcycling, 122  
10:30 AM Spell Dennis Circle, Friendship Circle  
12:30 PM Men's Book Buddies, Youth House  
2 PM Bethany Golf League, Miler  
5:30 PM CDC Board Mtg., Conf. Rm.  
6 PM KidsCare Board Mtg., 215  
7 PM Alcoholics Anonymous, Friendship Circle

### Tuesday, December 5

8:30 AM YOGA, Gym  
10 AM Quilters, Blue House  
10:30 AM Grief Support, Parlor  
5:30 PM Stephen Ministries, Conf Room

### Wednesday, December 6

#### *Advent Service*

5:30 AM Men's Prayer Group, 215  
9 AM Bridge Group, Friendship Circle  
5-6 PM BNOW Meal, Fellowship Hall  
6 PM BNOW Children's Programs  
6:15 PM Advent Worship, Spell  
7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 234

### Thursday, December 7

7 AM Men's Prayer Group, Youth House  
8:30 AM YOGA, Gym  
9 AM Adult Pickleball, Gym  
9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study, 239  
6 PM Handbells, 234  
6:30 PM Stewardship, Conf. Room  
7 PM Gamblers Anon., 124

### Friday, December 8

6:30 AM Men's Devotion Study, 127  
9 AM Women's Bible Study, 215  
12 PM Happy Hearts, Fellowship Hall

### Saturday, December 9

*No Activities Scheduled*

### December 31 Services

On Sunday, December 31 there will be an 8am service in Spell Chapel and a combined 10am service in the Sanctuary. There will be no Sunday School.

### Bethany Kids!

8:45 Children's Church is geared for kids Kindergarten to 2nd grade. However, all kids Kindergarten and up are welcome to come. Kids come into worship with parents and will be escorted to Room 213 where parents can pick up after service, or they can stay for Sunday school. Please make sure you fill out a Children's Church sticker located in the pew.

Preschoolers can be signed into Room 115B at the beginning of 8:45 and 11:15 services.

Sunday school for all age kids is 10-11 am. It is an hour of fun, faith development and fellowship.

If you have questions, you can email, call or text us! Emily Vick 843.343.2506 evick@bethany-umc.com  
Stephanie Mitchum 843.343.8494 smitchum@bethany-umc.com  
Janice Harp 843.607.3493 jharp@bethany-umc.com.

### Recording/Photography

Portions of Worship services are recorded and made available for viewing on our web site. As a worshiper, you will not be identified in the recording/photos unless you are a speaker using our public address system. No close-up shots will be used of the congregation, allowing you privacy in your worship experience. If you wish to not have your image or voice used in our worship video, please notify the church office (843.873.1230), otherwise attendance implies consent.

### Emergency Phone

A minister is on call for pastoral emergencies after normal business hours during the week, as well as on weekends and holidays. If you have an emergency for which you need pastoral care, call the church emergency number, **843.425.1069**.

# BETHANY

## United Methodist Church



## Advent

Rev. Michael Ritter, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Mark Barnes, Minister of Congregational Care  
Rev. James Alewine, Pastor Emeritus  
Mrs. Emily Vick, Director of Christian Education  
Mrs. Stephanie Mitchum, Children's Program Director  
Mr. Kyle Boczkowski, Leisure Ministries and Youth Director  
Dr. Robert Taylor, Director of Music Ministries  
Mr. Michael Lopez, Organist

118 West Third South Street, Summerville, SC 29483

www.bethany-umc.com

843.873.1230

**We are a Stephen Ministry Church, a Safe Sanctuaries  
Congregation and a Welcoming Church.**

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Love and follow Jesus, invite others on the journey,  
joyfully serve in Jesus' name.

CALLED TO CARE

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## *First Sunday of Advent*

**Gathering**

**Chiming of the Trinity**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Invocation**

**Prelude**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath – HOPE**

8:45 ~ The Sergeant Family      11:15 ~ The Burdette Family

*Let us pray: Thank you God for the hope you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.*

\* **Call to Worship**      Sanctuary      J. Thompson and R. Scruggs  
*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true; with Thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

\* **Opening Hymn**      People, Look East      **No. 202**

\* **Affirmation of Faith**      THE APOSTLES' CREED      **No. 881**

\* **Gloria Patri**      **No. 70**  
*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**Anthem**      A Savior From On High      Stephen Paulus  
 Chancel Choir

**First Lesson**      1 Corinthians 1: 3-9      **NT pg. 166**

**Call to Prayer**  
 Leader: The Lord be with you.  
 People: *And also with you.*

**Congregational Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**  
*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**Offertory**      See Amid The Winter's Snow      Dan Forrest  
 Women's Ensemble

\* **Doxology**      **No. 95**  
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\* **Second Lesson**      **Mark 13: 24-37**      **NT Pg. 50**  
 Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.  
 People: *Thanks be to God.*

**Sermon**      Getting Ready      Rev. Michael Ritter

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**      **No. 12**  
*Gluten-free option available upon request.*  
**(No Children's Church on Communion Sunday.)**

\* **Hymn of Dedication**      Come, Thou Expected Jesus      **No. 196**

\* **Benediction**

\* **Benediction Response**      Let There Be Peace on Earth      **No. 431**

\* **Chiming of the Trinity**

\* **Postlude**

\* For those who are able, please stand.

### ALTAR FLOWERS

*The altar greens today are given to the Glory of God with gratitude for this season of anticipation and in loving memory of Gary Bailey from Jennifer Bailey.*

## WELCOME

*We welcome all guests to our service today. If you are visiting with us, please allow us to further acknowledge your presence by signing the attendance registration pad when it is passed to you. A nursery is available for infants and toddlers in our Child Development Center on the first floor. An usher will be happy to give you directions. Also, please ask about our Sunday School hour at 10 a.m. with classes for all ages. Join us for complimentary coffee from 8:45 to 10:00 a.m. every Sunday outside the Fellowship Hall, near the kitchen. If you would like more information about Bethany or becoming a member of our church, please contact Jack Sehr, Membership Director, at [jsehrt@bethany-umc.com](mailto:jsehrt@bethany-umc.com) or 843.873.1230.*

## HEARING DEVICES AND CELL PHONES

Hearing devices are available for our members and guests who are hearing impaired. If you need help hearing the worship service, please ask an usher for a hearing device. In order to not distract your fellow worshippers, please **turn off** cell phones and other electronic devices before the worship service begins. Thank you.

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY

### Ushers

8:45 ~ Team Leader: Rett Fowler, Jerry Bateman, Kevin Carter, William DeLong, Rick Farthing, Gene Smith, David Zoellner, Ben Perkins

11:15 ~ Team Leader: Henry Thompson, Gil Hager, Chris English, Michelle English, Hoa Pham, Michelle Pham, Bruce Bohon, Ellen Bohon, Sarah Warren

### Liturgist

8:45 & 11:15 am – Allison Edens

### Communion Servers

8:45 am – Bill and Janice Onusko      11:15 am – David and Becky Powell

Audio/Video Support      Technical Ministries Team

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Stewardship is being loyal to your commitment through presence, prayers, service and gifts.

### Gifts (\*Figures for November 26, 2023. These figures are unverified.)

*Operating Contributions Last Week.....	18,445.20
*Operating Contributions Year to Date.....	1,641,213.61
*Operating Expense Funding YTD – Deficit (-)/ Surplus (+)....	-215,455.39 -11.60%

### Capital Campaign (Figures for November 26, 2023)

*Building Contributions Last Week.....	1,389.50
*Building Contributions Year to Date .....	115,431.43
*Campaign Goal YTD – Deficit (-)/ Surplus (+) .....	-44,359.57 -28%

Designated Mission and Ministry Gifts – YTD (Non-Budgeted) 440,908.17

### Presence (November 26, 2023)

8 am Spell – 53; Word & Table Worship – 92; Sanctuary Worship- 344  
 Online Worship – 449; Sunday School - 329

### Scan to Give Option

It's easier than ever to give now! Simply scan this QR Code and you will be directed to PushPay, our online giving platform.



You can also text 833.245.8417 and give right from your phone!