

# **BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Monthly Newsletter 2023 Vol 12*

## Bethany Advent Services

December 6th—Advent worship in Spell Chapel—Rev. Michael Ritter Preaching

December 13th—Advent Worship. in Sanctuary—Rev. Michael Ritter Preaching  
& Children's Choir Singing

December 20th—Blue Christmas Worship in Spell Chapel—Rev. Mark Barnes  
Preaching

## Bethany Christmas Eve Services

### **Morning Services    Evening Services**

8:00am	Spell	3:00pm	Sanctuary
8:45am	Word & Table	5:00pm	Sanctuary
8:45am	Sanctuary	7:30pm	Sanctuary
NO 11:15am service		11:00pm	Sanctuary



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A festive banner for a "Happy Hearts Christmas Party". The top features a repeating pattern of red and white Christmas trees and circular designs. The main text is in a bold, red, serif font: "Happy Hearts", "No November Meeting", and "Christmas Party - December 8th". Below this, in a smaller red font, is the text: "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 \$8.00. To make your reservation, call Dot by December 3 at 843.343.5450 or email her at dmprevatte@yahoo.com." Another line of text says: "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 other music. This group has been providing down-home music for church events for years." At the bottom, it says "ALL AGES ARE INVITED."

***A BIG THANK YOU from the Local Missions Committee.....***

goes to everyone who helped in any way with the Thanksgiving Food Bags and Turkeys that we provided for 415 families in our area. And a ***SPECIAL THANKS*** goes to the youth and leaders of our youth ministry ASCEND for packing all 415 bags!! The Food Bags were distributed by our DD2 schools’ guidance counselors and the non-profit organization Hearts for Summerville, all to families who needed help with their Thanksgiving dinner. So whether you contributed money, picked up canned goods and turkeys, packed bags, or helped with the distribution process, your efforts helped our church bless so many people. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with our community.

## Dear Bethany Family,

I'm writing this in mid November, and very thankful to be able to do it. October and November have been very challenging times in the lives of the people who live at 204 Sweetspire Lane.

In early October, Tom became very ill very quickly. After two emergent admissions in October and numerous visits to specialists, it appears he is on the mend with the help of highly intelligent doctors and high dose steroids. We are very very thankful.

Then in early November, I was transported to MUSC Trauma Center via EMS after hitting a truck that ran a stop sign. I was released home later that evening with only bruises and soreness. My new car appears to be a total loss. Again we are very thankful.

Also in October and November, some of our dear friends passed from their life here on earth to their heavenly home. We served alongside these Saints, seeking their wisdom to guide us on our journey. We will be forever grateful for their leadership in our lives.

The challenges we've experienced in October and November 2023 have impressed upon us two things: ***Always Be Ready and Love One Another.***

### ***Always Be Ready***

Life can change in the blink of an eye. From a sudden life altering illness to a serious motor vehicle accident, we are acutely aware of the detours in life. We don't know what tomorrow holds, but we know that God does. He has a plan. We have a choice. Always choose God first when you're choosing your team! You'll never lose and you'll ***Always Be Ready.***

### Secondly, Jesus' Greatest Commandment- ***Love One Another***

Love one another, while you can, where you can, when you can, as often as you can. Love one another with your whole being. **Tell** them you love them. Speak words of love to others. Don't wait until it's too late. **Show** them you love them with random acts of kindness. It can be as simple as a hug or as involved as a visit or a meal. Just let somebody know you love them and you care. Be Jesus for them. It matters. Always choose to ***Love One Another.***

We know what it is to receive love, and we know we don't deserve it....Jesus' sacrificial love on the cross for us as sinners; Bethany's love for The Thurman's in our time of need. You Bethany, help to keep us ready at all times with worship, outreach, and fellowship. You strengthen our faith with your witness and love.

We are thankful for your cards, flowers, visits, calls and the food and homemade goodies; we are most appreciative of your prayers. We do not believe that we could have made it without those "knocks on God's Door". Bethany United Methodist Church, You are important to us, and we love you!!!!



Von and Tom Thurman

# Child Development Center

Christmas time is truly the most wonderful time of the year at Bethany CDC! The teachers and staff cannot wait to share all the joy of the Christmas season with our students! The children will learn about the birth of Jesus and visit the animals and sets of the Living Christmas Story. They'll sing Christmas carols and make gifts for their families. Our kindergarten class will visit Timrod Library to listen to holiday stories. Our annual Christmas Program will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The children have been working hard to prepare for the program and they are excited to share their special songs with family and friends. The love and joy in their little voices is more precious than any gift under the tree.



Registration for the 2024/2025 school year begins in January. Our registration calendar is below. If you have any questions about registration, we would be happy to talk with you! Please call the CDC office at 843-821-1946.

## Bethany CDC Registration Calendar for the 2024/2025 School Year

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| January 3, 2024  | Registration forms available for In House families   |
| January 10, 2024 | In House families may mail registration forms<br>Registration forms available for Bethany Members      |
| January 16, 2024 | Bethany Members may mail registration forms  |
| January 17, 2024 | Families on the Wait List may pick up registration forms   |
| January 23, 2024 | Families on the Wait List may mail registration forms<br>General public may pick up registration forms |
| January 29, 2024 | General public may mail registration forms   |



**These are memorials from October 9<sup>th</sup> to November 21<sup>st</sup>.**

## **MEMORIALS**

### **In Memory of Marti Johnson (Epworth)**

By Ann Gill  
By Tony & Brenda Frye  
By Donald & Mary Neubauer  
By Mona Gilbert  
By "The Bagel Girls"  
By James & Anita Gibson  
By Bill & Sandy Beers  
By Ron & Lynthia Piccione  
By Ollie Lesch  
By Jennifer Bailey  
By David & Linda Huffman  
By George & Karen Howard (**Music Needs**)  
By The Bethany Stephen Ministers  
By Annette Goins

### **In Memory of Ed Hickey (Local Missions)**

By Tony & Brenda Frye  
By Mona Gilbert  
By Ann Gill  
By Gil & Sandy Hager

### **In Memory of Stephen B. Buddin (Spell Chapel)**

By William Buddin  
By Claire Palmer  
By Mona Gilbert  
By Laurence & Donna Clair  
By Margaret B. Martin  
By Lisa Kemp Williams

By the Monday Night Social Club  
By George & Martha Minson  
By Harriet Grayson Brummett  
By Eleanor Grayson  
By Happy & Cindy Finucan  
By Elizabeth Brewer  
By Tom & Pam Jeffries  
By Billy & Beth Phillips  
By Catherine Stamey  
By Tony & Brenda Frye  
By Libby Goodnight & Family  
By Cleveland & Lydia Hiott  
By John & Katherine Sutton  
By Robert & Linda Long  
By Alice D. King  
By Betsy Moore

### **In Memory of Karen Phinney Vido (Childrens Ministry)**

By Mona Gilbert  
By Ann Gill

### **In Memory of May Gunter**

By Ann Gill (**Operating**)

### **In Memory of Martha Mason**

By Ann Gill (**Operating**)

### **In Memory of Cecil E. Buddin (Spell Chapel)**

By Lisa Kemp Williams

### **In Memory of Beverly Kinsey Ritter (Epworth)**

By Ron & Lynthia Piccione

## **MEMORIALS continued**

### **In Memory of Larry Bailey**

By Ann Gill (**Operating**)

By Ricky & Barbara Waring (**Memorials**)

By Claire Palmer (**Spell Chapel**)

By Happy & Cindy Finucan (**Memorials**)

By Carolyn Powers (**Memorials**)

### **In Memory of Rev. Bill Caldwell (Memorial)**

By Juliana Caldwell

### **In Memory of Dr. James E. Wynn, Sr. (Memorials)**

By Joyce S. Wynn

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## ***Grief Support Group***

How do you understand grief when your heart is broken by the death of a loved one? To survive and live forward, those who grieve must find answers. We are offering a support group for those who are grieving the death of a loved one and are in need of a community to share the loneliness of grief of all types. Scriptural wisdom will be used to explore the issues of grief and offer spiritual encouragement for a life of renewed hope and joy. The group will also offer some specific coping strategies to guide the way back to fullness of life. If you are grieving the death of a loved one, please join us on the journey through grief.

*Meeting Dates: December 5th & 19th, 2023*

*Time: 10:30am*

*Location: Church Parlor*

*For more information contact Jan Walker, 843-259-8342*

*or Pastor Mark Barnes, 843-873-1230*



## ***Gift & Gourmet Market***

Thank you to all who crafted, baked, cooked, shopped, and worked in the Market. We raised over \$32,000 that, after expenses, will be donated to community organizations.

Praise The Lord! 489 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 during this first year of this mission.

Our goal of 323 boxes was crushed because of YOU!

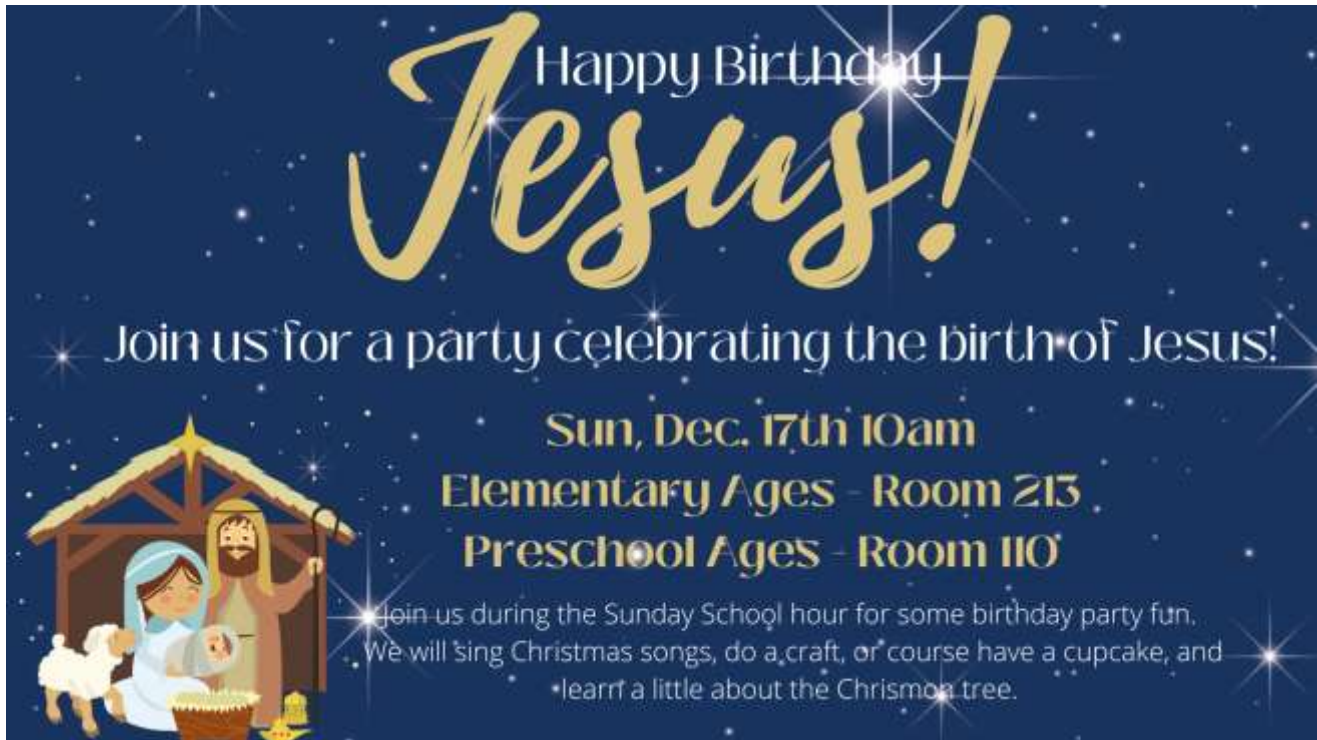
Thank you from the Global Missions committee!



# **New Years Eve Morning Worship**

**On December 31st, we will gather  
for two services,  
8am in Spell Chapel and a  
combined 10am in the Sanctuary**

## ***Children's Ministry***



### ***Sunday, December 24:***

*Children's Church and Children's Sunday School will be taking a break this day. We hope that our wonderful volunteers enjoy Christmas Eve with their families.*

### ***Bethany Kids at BNOW***

December 6: Regular Schedule

December 13: Melody & Wesley Choirs will be singing at the 6:15 Advent Worship Service

This session of Bethany NOW will end on December 13. We will start up again on January 10.





# ANGEL TREE SIGN UP 2023

## KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!



GOOD NEWS!!!

OVER HALF THE ANGELS ON OUR ANGEL TREE HAVE BEEN SELECTED! BUT THERE ARE STILL APPROXIMATELY 75 ANGELS ON THE TREE THAT NEED SOMEONE TO HELP MAKE THEIR CHRISTMAS MERRY, SO PLEASE CONSIDER CLICKING ON THE LINK BELOW TO SIGN UP.  
THANK YOU!

GIFTS ARE TO BE RETURNED TO THE BETHANY BUSINESS OFFICE NOVEMBER 29TH-10TH, BUT NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS WISH COME TRUE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL LINDA GUESS BOCK AT 843-303-0132

## 2024 Flower Calendar

Altar flowers are a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one.

The 2024 Flower Calendar is now open.

Please contact Mandy Killiri at [mkilliri@bethany-umc.com](mailto:mkilliri@bethany-umc.com) or 843.873.1230 to reserve a date.

There is also a signup calendar located in the Sanctuary hallway on the bulletin board.



## Katie's Krops Desserts

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.

**The dates from September-February are as follows:**

October 5th, November 2nd, & December 14th  
2024 - January 18th & February 22nd

## BETHANY UNITY PRAYER

Gracious Heavenly Father,

We come to You, acknowledging that Bethany is Your church. You have brought together people who love You and Your church with a desire to serve together in Your Kingdome. Give us a spirit of humility, gentleness, and patience. Help us be united in thought and purpose. WE seek the Holy Spirit to enable us to see our sin and suffering caused by our division. Unite us in seeking Your perfect will for Bethany.

In Your Holy Name we pray.  
Amen



# ASCEND



*High Schoolers Only*  
**SKI TRIP**  
ENJOY A WEEKEND FULL OF FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

**FEBRUARY 16-19**  
Presidents Day Weekend -  
Depart Friday after school and return Monday afternoon

**AT TEEN VALLEY RANCH**

*\*More details coming soon.*

WWW.ASCENDSTUDENTMINISTRIES.ORG

Bethany United Methodist Church

# ASCEND SUNDAYS

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

ASCEND is the youth ministries of Bethany United Methodist Church. All middle and high school students are invited to join us in an evening of fellowship, games, youth led praise and worship, a message geared towards teenagers, and then age appropriate small groups.

ASCEND also has several retreats, events, and mission opportunities throughout the year! To learn more about what ASCEND has to offer visit [www.ascendstudentministries.org](http://www.ascendstudentministries.org).



[ascendstudentministries.org](http://ascendstudentministries.org)



Time to **LIVE....** Time to **GIVE....** Time to **Renew Your Purpose!**

Lighten your burdens. Open up and talk out your worries, so you can find joy in each day.

**CALL** for your personal Stephen Minister.

Combine your caring and empathy with active listening skills to help a hurting person. APPLY for the Stephen Ministry Training - next class starts in January.

*For info, CONTACT: Women:*

*Leah Martin 404-408-5457*

*or Sue Malphrus 843-345-9116*



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

*Men: Denis Tsukalas 843-729-5348 or*

*Mark Barnes 843-873-2130*

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

**US POSTAGE PAID**  
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**NON-PROFIT**  
**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](http://www.bethany-umc.com)** or contact Ann Gill at  
**[agill@bethany-umc.com](mailto: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](http://www.bethany-umc.com)

[www.bethanygym.com](http://www.bethanygym.com)

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[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.