

Christian sympathies go out to the family and friends of Sharon Chellis, who joined the church triumphant on December 2.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Living Christmas Story

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Living Christmas Story. Those who setup, brought food, directed traffic, drove a tram, helped with costumes, were in the cast, or helped in any way – THANK YOU!!! We had more volunteers helping throughout the process than we have had in years – what a great gift we gave to our community. Over the three nights, we had 488 cast members, 150 crew members and 3,629 visitors.

Angel Tree

Because of your generosity and caring hearts, all 186 angels on our Angel Tree have been "adopted." Thank you for helping make Christmas special this year for these children.

Reminder - Gifts are due by TODAY! Please drop them off at the Business Office. If you run into any problems, please call Linda Guess Bock at 843.303.0132. Thanks again!

Offering Envelopes

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

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.

Festival of Carols

Join us Sunday, Dec. 17 for our annual Festival of Carols during the 8:45am and 11:15am worship services in the Sanctuary. Featuring our music ensembles singing and playing pieces appropriate for this season of joy and anticipation. We hope you will join us for this wonderfully festive time.

Blue Christmas Service

Join us for our Blue Christmas worship service on Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 6pm in Spell Chapel. This is a service of healing and hope during the holiday season.

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!

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.

THIS WEEK...

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

Sunday, December 10

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 11

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
6 PM KidsCare Board Mtg., 215
7 PM Alcoholics Anonymous, Friendship Circle

Tuesday, December 12

8:30 AM YOGA, Gym
10 AM Quilters, Blue House
6 PM Valerie Oldham Celebration of Life, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 13

Advent Service- no BNOW classes

5:30 AM Men's Prayer Group, 215
9 AM Bridge Group, Friendship Circle
5-6 PM BNOW Meal, Fellowship Hall
6:15 PM Advent Worship, Sanctuary

Thursday, December 14

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
7 PM Grace Circle, 125
7 PM Gamblers Anon., 124

Friday, December 15

6:30 AM Men's Devotion Study, 127
9 AM Women's Bible Study, 215
6 PM Walk to Emmaus Gathering, 115

Saturday, December 16

10:30 AM Chancel Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF

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

Second Sunday of Advent

Gathering

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – PEACE

8:45 ~ The Gerwig Family 11:15 ~ The Guess Family

Let us pray: Thank you God for the peace 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 peace 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** O Come, O Come Emmanuel **No. 211**

* **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.

Children's Moment

(8:45 am - At the end of the Children's Moment, children may leave for Children's Church ~ ages K5 thru 2nd grade in **room 214 of the Youth Wing**. Please remember to attach a Children's Church sticker to your child and pick them up ASAP.)

Anthem (8:45) Gesu Bambino Pietro Yon
Rob Taylor, tenor; Michael Lopez, organ
(11:15) What Sweeter Music John Rutter
Chancel Choir; Michael Lopez, organ

First Lesson **Isaiah 40: 1-11** **OT pg. 667**

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 Cradle Hymn Kim Arnesen
Men's Ensemble; Ken Myers, piano

* **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 1: 1-8** **NT Pg. 34**
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.
People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon Cleaning the Heart Rev. Michael Ritter

* **Hymn of Dedication** Life Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates **No. 213**

* **Benediction**

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

* **Chiming of the Trinity**

* **Postlude**

* For those who are able, please stand.

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 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 – Lynda Gildea

Audio/Video Support

Technical Ministries Team

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

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

Gifts (*Figures for December 3, 2023. These figures are unverified.)

*Operating Contributions Last Week.....	48,130.60
*Operating Contributions Year to Date.....	1,689,344.21
*Operating Expense Funding YTD – Deficit (-)/ Surplus (+)....	-206,005.79 -10.87%

Capital Campaign (Figures for December 3, 2023)

*Building Contributions Last Week.....	2,674.00
*Building Contributions Year to Date	118,105.43
*Campaign Goal YTD – Deficit (-)/ Surplus (+)	-45,014.57 -28%

Designated Mission and Ministry Gifts – YTD (Non-Budgeted) 440,452.94

Presence (December 3, 2023)

8 am Spell – 57; Word & Table Worship - 111; Sanctuary Worship- 407
Online Worship – 408; Sunday School - 356

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!

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar greens today are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Lawrence and Delores Kaltenbach and Walter and Marion Hainsworth by Dennis, Margaret and Melissa Kaltenbach.