ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Services

- 3 pm Sanctuary
- 5 pm Sanctuary
- 7:30 pm Sanctuary
- 11 pm Sanctuary
 All will include Communion
 No Word & Table service

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.

End of Year Giving

The Business Office will be open until noon on Friday, December 29 for your end-of-year giving. If you are mailing it in, please be sure it is postmarked by December 31.

Offering Envelopes

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

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. January 14 & 21 are coming up and still have availability. 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 24

8 AM	WORSHIP, Spell Chapel
8:45 AM	WORSHIP, Sanctuary
8:45 AM	WORD & TABLE, FH
3 PM	WORSHIP, Sanctuary
5 PM	WORSHIP, Sanctuary
7:30 PM	WORSHIP, Sanctuary
11 PM	WORSHIP, Sanctuary

Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Church Office Closed No Activities Scheduled

Wednesday, December 27

5:30 AM	Men's Prayer Group, 215
9 AM	Bridge Group, Friendship
	Circle
4 PM	Safety & Assistance Mtg.,
	Conference Room

Thursday, December 28

III	y December 20
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	Gamblers Anon., 124

Friday, December 29

6:30 AM	Men's Devotion Study, 118
9 AM	Women's Bible Study, 118

Saturday, December 30

No Activities Scheduled

Safety and Assistance Emergency number available on Sunday mornings from 7:30am-12:30pm 843.429.1848.

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



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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

Prelude Come, Thou Expected Jesus arr. Mark Hayes

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – LOVE

8:45 ~ The Brickman Family

Let us pray: Thank you God for the love 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 love 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

Of the Father's Love Begotten

No. 184

* 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

Candlelight Carol Chancel Choir

John Rutter

OT pg. 164

First Lesson Romans 16: 25-37

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

In the Bleak Midwinter Chamber Ensemble

Harold Darke

* 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

Luke 1: 26-38

NT Pg. 57

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

And So This is Christmas

Rev. Michael Ritter

* Hymn of Dedication

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

No. 216

* Benediction

* Benediction Response

Let There Be Peace on Earth

No. 431

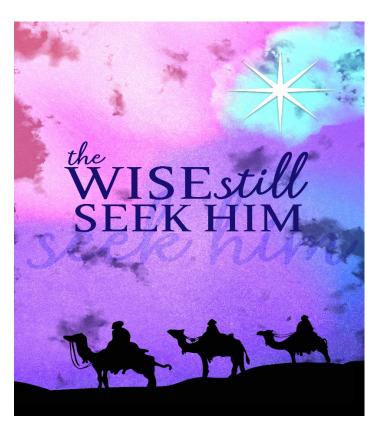
* Chiming of the Trinity

* Postlude

O, Come All Ye Faithful

arr. John Benke

* For those who are able, please stand.



ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar greens are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Julie Nicole Jett by Bob, Pat and Brad Jett.

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 Sehrt, 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 worshipers, please *turn off* cell phones and other electronic devices before the worship service begins. Thank you.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

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

Liturgist

Mary Lynn Harlow

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 17, 2023. These figures are unverified.)

72,290.88 *Operating Contributions Last Week.... *Operating Contributions Year to Date..... 1.814.774.03

*Operating Expense Funding YTD – Deficit (-)/ Surplus (+).... -157,936.97 -8.01%

Capital Campaign (Figures for December 17, 2023)

*Building Contributions Last Week..... 3.298.00 *Building Contributions Year to Date 124,039.33

*Campaign Goal YTD – Deficit (-)/ Surplus (+) -45,738.67 -27%

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

Presence (December 17, 2023)

8 am Spell – 62; Word & Table Worship - 76; Sanctuary Worship - 388 Online Worship – 580; Sunday School - 339

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!