

Christian sympathies go out to the family and friends of Sandy Hicky, who joined the church triumphant on December 26, 2023.

Christian sympathies go out to the family and friends of Olin McCurry, who joined the church triumphant on December 27, 2023.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Hours

The church office will be closed Monday, January 1 and Tuesday, January 2. Have a safe and Happy New Year!

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 quickly approaching, and those dates are still open. 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.

Wednesday Night BNOW

Bethany NOW, our Wednesday Night program, includes food, fellowship and fun for all ages. We will **resume on Jan. 11** with adult and children's classes and an exciting dinner menu!

January Happy Hearts

The speaker for the January Happy Hearts meeting is Lieutenant Colonel Joe Tallon (Retired) who served over 37 years in the US Army from 1969 to 2007. Joe has written the book, *100 Days in Vietnam: A Memoir of Love, War and Survival* that tells of the day-to-day life of a first lieutenant in combat. This book is based on the letters Joe sent to his wife, Martha Anne, during his time in Vietnam.

The meal, served at 12pm, will be meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, assorted desserts, and tea for \$8. Reservations are due in by January 21.

Note the change in making reservation: Register online at happyhearts@bethany-umc.com or call 843.771.3979.

THIS WEEK...

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

Sunday, December 31

8 AM WORSHIP, Spell Chapel
10 AM WORSHIP, Sanctuary
5:30 PM Youth Ascend, Fell. Hall

Monday, January 1

Happy New Year! Office Closed

7 PM Alcoholics Anonymous, 115

Tuesday, January 2

Church Office Closed

8:30 AM Yoga, Gym
10 AM Quilters, Blue House
10:30 AM Grief Support, Parlor
7 PM Gamblers Anonymous,
Friendship Circle

Wednesday, January 3

5:30 AM Men's Prayer Group, 215
9 AM Bridge Club, 118
4 PM Safety & Asst., Conf. Room
7 PM Chancel Choir, 234

Thursday, January 4

7 AM Men's Prayer Group, YH
8:30 AM Yoga, Gym
9 AM Adult Pickleball, Gym
9:30 AM Faithful Friends Ladies
Bible Study, 239
6 PM Handbells, 234
6:30 PM Stewardship Mtg.,
Conference Room
6:30 PM Worship Council, 127
7 PM Gamblers Anon., 124

Friday, January 5

6:30 AM Men's Devotion Study, 127
9 AM Ladies Bible Study, 118

Saturday, January 6

No Activities Scheduled

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 website. 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

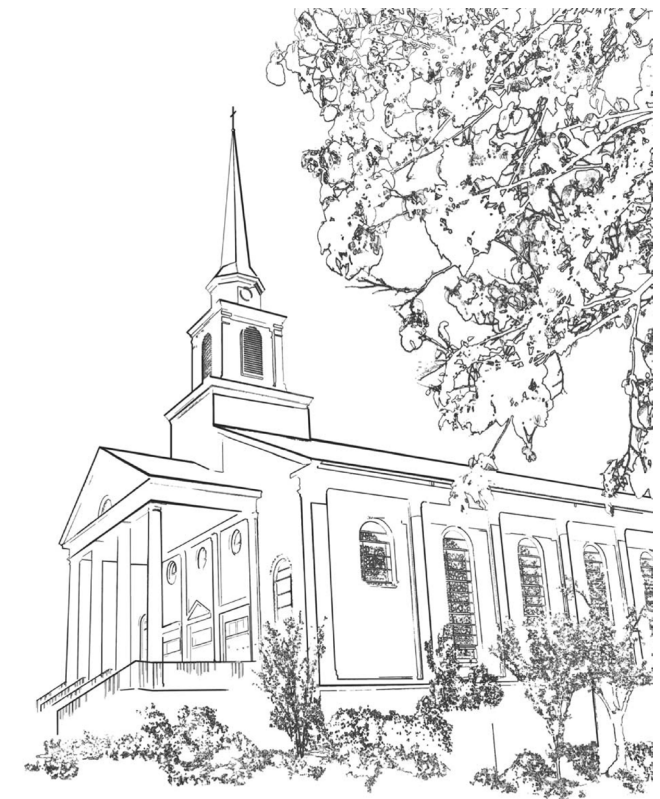
A minister is on call for pastoral emergencies after normal business hours during the week, as well as on weekends and holidays. If you have an emergency for which you need pastoral care, call the church emergency number, **843.425.1069**.

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

December 31, 2023
10am Worship Service

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

First Sunday after Christmas

Gathering

As the congregation gathers, please take a moment to speak to people sitting around you whom you may not know. Hebrews 13:2 (KJV) says, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unaware."

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

* **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** Go, Tell It on the Mountain **No. 251**

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

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* **Gloria Patri** **No. 70**

Anthem Jesus Christ the Apple Tree Elizabeth Poston
Barbara Bassett, Shelby Krallman, Maurice Burgess, Michael Lopez

First Lesson **Isaiah 61:10-62:3** **OT Pg. 692**

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

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 Lo. How a Rose E'er Blooming arr. Mark Hayes
Michael Lopez, 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** **Luke 2: 22-35** **NT Pg. 59**

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon The Defining Moment Rev. Michael Ritter

* **Hymn of Dedication** Angels from the Realms of Glory **No. 220**

* Benediction

* **Benediction Response** Irish Blessing L. Turner

May the road rise to meet you, May the wind blow at your back, May the sun shine warmly on your face, May the rain fall softly on your field; And until we meet again, until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.

* Chiming of the Trinity

* Postlude

* For those who are able, please stand.



ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jim Ellis - from Cassie, Jack and Kaelyn Ellis.

WELCOME

We welcome all guests to our service today. If you are visiting with us, please allow us to further greet you 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 Sehart, Membership Director, at jsehart@bethany-umc.com.

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

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

Liturgist

Mrs. Linda Huffman

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 24, 2023. These figures are unverified.)

*Operating Contributions Last Week.....	66,166.47
*Operating Contributions Year to Date.....	1,880,940.50
*Operating Expense Funding YTD – Deficit (-)/ Surplus (+)....	-130,450.50 -6.49%

Capital Campaign (Figures for December 24, 2023)

*Building Contributions Last Week.....	7,532.00
*Building Contributions Year to Date	131,571.33
*Campaign Goal YTD – Deficit (-)/ Surplus (+)	-41,535.67 -24%

Designated Mission and Ministry Gifts – YTD (Non-Budgeted)... 452,170.68

Presence (December 24, 2023)

8am Spell – 98; Word & Table Worship - 111; Combined Sanctuary Worship- 202
Christmas Eve evening services- 3pm 324; 5pm 430; 7:30pm 322; 11pm 172
Online Worship (all services) – 2,867; Sunday School - 0

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!