

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter 2024 Vol 1

Maybe you have heard these words before: as the ball drops, as the world turns, like the sand in the hourglass – these are the days of our lives. Many of us have heard these words spoken to us in a variety of ways. Simply put, they are words that remind us to live for today. We are not promised tomorrow. Psalm 90:12 says, “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

A few years ago, Laurie, Dow, Emma and I were in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, enjoying the New Year’s Eve celebration. The New Year was upon us. We were outside our hotel watching the fireworks overhead, trying to stay warm. Also on that night, I watched thousands of people bundled up in freezing New York weather to witness a few short seconds during which a descending ball of light announces the arrival of a New Year. Those hardy people endured the freezing air to mark the passage of time, but even more, because they were anticipating a “new beginning!” Saying goodbye to a year gone by, whether that was a good year or not, they were now looking forward to making a fresh start!

One thing given equally to every person, rich or poor – is time. In 2023, each of us lived 365 days, 8,760 hours and 525,600 minutes. How did you spend it? Reflecting over 2023, I am astounded how quickly the year seemed to pass – almost like the proverbial blink of an eye. Even though the year brought many disappointments, it also brought some happy times as well. Looking back over the year has caused me to ask, am I really carefully managing my time...the one commodity I “spend”, that I can never buy back?

The psalmist expresses a timely request on our behalf...“Teach us to number our days”, so that every one of them truly counts for the Lord! We can’t change the past, but we can always improve our time management in the year to come. With so much work to be done, let’s apply our hearts to wisdom, and use our time wisely! 2024 promises to be an exciting year at Bethany UMC. How are you going to spend it? Sitting out in the cold watching time go by or by embracing every moment and listening to the call of our God? May each of you have a Happy New Year!

A Personal Note

The Ritter Family would like to express a sincere thank you to all of you for your kind gifts and well wishes over the Christmas season. Your kindness and generosity are deeply appreciated. We truly love you all!

Michael, Laurie, Dow, and Emma

Care Teams and Stephen Ministers,

As you all know, it's been a demanding season of need for all of our caring ministries at Bethany, and I want to thank you all for the important work you do. There is no more important work for God's kingdom than extending his hand of love, care, and kindness to those who are hurting and in need of comfort. Your ministry of presence and provision and your service is deeply appreciated. The tasks you do may seem simple, but they are essential. You are making a difference.

Perhaps this has been a difficult time for some of you as well, either for your own losses or the fatigue that can come with working to meet so many needs. I'm sure you, like me, have sometimes felt the need of comfort in your own soul. I want you to know that you are always in my prayers, that you would feel God's comfort and lean on His strength as you minister to others. We can't always depend on our own strength, but we can always depend on Him.

My heartfelt thanks and continued prayers.
Mark Pastor of Congregational Care

Music Ministry

This Christmas has come and gone, and the musical offerings at Bethany went splendidly. We are so blessed at Bethany to have so many immensely talented singers and instrumentalists.

Our children's & youth choirs presented their program on December 13th to a full house.

We presented our Festival of Carols twice on December 17, and then celebrated Jesus' birth through music on five services on Christmas Eve.

Now that we are past Epiphany, we now turn our focus to Lent, and of course Holy Week.

Thank you to all of you for supporting all of our music ministry participants. They work very hard, and bless us all every single day. I am so blessed to be part of the Bethany spiritual community.

With gratitude

Rob Taylor

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Kids Care

January gives us another New Year full of Resolutions, New Beginnings, and New Experiences. For us at KidsCare it brings new opportunities to reach children. Bring them to Christ and teach them about His love, provision, and promises! We are excited to begin a new year with the expectation of having a newness in our hearts that gives our children a glimpse of what it means to be washed clean and made anew! We look forward to the rest of the current school year, spring break camp, and summer camp days! We remain faithful to God's call to "train them up in the way they should go and when they are old, they shall not depart from it!" Proverbs 22:6 This is our tireless journey as we are called according to His Purpose.

KidsCare currently has some openings for the second semester of the current school year. Contact us today!

Director of KidsCare Makala Boczkowski
Assistant Director of KidsCare Debra Trimeloni
KidsCare@bethany-umc.com/(854)-429-1842



Bethany Quilters

Bethany Quilters have continued to be busy completing numerous quilts this year helping us to contribute \$1,200 to local missions and activities at Bethany UMC.

We are now ready to add quilts to our list in 2024. Should you or someone you know be interested in having a quilt top hand quilted, contact Betsy Grubb at 843-875-1690 for information.

We welcome hand quilters to join us on Tuesdays 10-2 in the blue house across from Bethany's welcome center. Bring your sewing bag and a lunch and enjoy some quilter's fellowship while making tiny stitches!

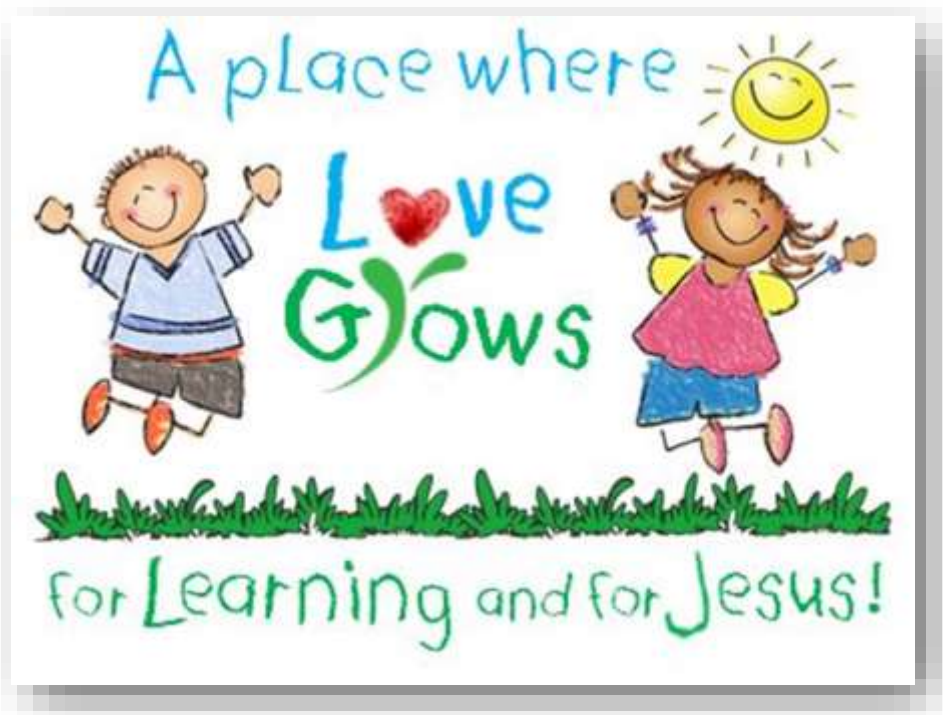


Child Development Center



Do you have children or grandchildren going into preschool/ kindergarten? We would love to tell you more about the programs we offer at Bethany Child Development Center! Our mission is to provide a high-quality early childhood program in a safe and nurturing environment which promotes the physical, social, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual development of young children. Bethany CDC's play-based program offers small class sizes in a warm, nurturing Christian environment. Our teachers care about every child and they work hard to create exciting learning activities that are appropriate for the children's age and developmental level. We offer music classes, art classes, chapel time, and more for children ages 2 – kindergarten.

Registration for the 2024/2025 school year is underway now! If you have any questions, please call the CDC office at 843-821-1946. We would be happy to talk with you!



Safety and Assistance

The emergency number for the Control Room has changed. The new number is: 843-429-1848

Thank you, Gus Holladay

Happy Hearts

January 26th, Reservations for Lunch Due by January 21st

Guest Speaker - Joseph F. Tallon

Our speaker this month 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.

Joe is a native Charlestonian who graduated in 1969 in the first graduating class at the Baptist College at Charleston. By the end of the summer of 1969, he had been drafted into the U.S. Army. After his tour in Vietnam and his recovery, Joe earned a Master's Degree in Education in Secondary Education & Supervision from The Citadel. Joe's primary duty in Vietnam was to fly an OV-1D Mohawk. The Mohawk is a plane that uses infrared and SLAR (Side Looking Airborne Radar). His purpose was to detect troop movements and convoys.

Joe's love for his wife Martha Anne is shown in the book since he wrote love letters to her almost every day he was in Vietnam. These letters became the foundation of the book and provided an accurate account of exactly what happened each day. The book also deals with Joe's recovery from multiple wounds and the quest to get his Purple Heart and the one for his observer, Daniel Richards. It took 36 years to get Joe's medals and another 5 years to get Daniel's medals. Joe considers this his final mission for the US Army. This book was written by Joe and his older son Matthew. It has won numerous national awards including a Silver Medal for Memoirs from the Military Writers Society of America and an International Book Award 2021 Finalist for Military History.

The meal, served at 12:00 noon, will consist of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, assorted desserts, and tea for \$8.00. To make your reservation, register online at happyhearts@bethany-umc.com or call 843-771-3979.

(Note the change in making reservation!)

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME.



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.

Next date is January 11, 2024

The upcoming 2024 dates are as follows:

January 11th, February 15th, March 21st, April 18th, May 9th, June 13th, July 18th, August 22nd, September 19th, October 17th, November 14th, December 12th

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

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.



ascendstudentministries.org

The Living Christmas Story

Thank you to all who participated in the Living Christmas Story! From those who constructed the sets, to donating food, to being a part of the cast – and everything in between – it was a success because of YOU. This year we had around 400 cast members, 135 crew, and 3,629 visitors! What a blessing to our community! Look for next year’s dates to come out soon!

The committee devoted countless hours to making this years Living Christmas Story a huge success. Thank you to the following committee members:

Co-chairs: Travis Wheeler & Seth Woolwine

Sets: Ben Brabham

Props: Rebecca Dunlap

Costumes: Minde Wheeler

Casting: Elizabeth Phillips & Ann Gill

Security: Matt Bates

Traffic: Chuck Lewis & Shane Kersting

Food: Karen Eubanks

Animals: Jennifer Horres

Trams: Gus Holladay

Plants: Cori Woolwine

At -Large: Greg Horres, Melanie McClure,

Billy Hay

Staff Liaison: Emily Vick



Missions Possible

Save the Date March 4 th– 10th

**R ally
I n
S ervice
E veryone!**

Ezra 10:4 Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it.

Missions Possible Week

- Service projects throughout the week.
- Saturday morning Volunteer Extravaganza with large projects for the community.
- Saturday night 7-9pm dance to support missions
- Sunday
 - * Jeff McIntyre with Camp Nathanael will speak at 8:45 and 11:15 worship
 - * Mission Fair 10-11 in Fellowship Hall

Children's Ministries—What we are teaching.



What's your dream job? Do you want to be a pilot or astronaut? A teacher or musician? There are so many incredible jobs for us to pick from! God has given each of us special talents and skills that can help us discover what we want to do. But God gives us another job, too. It's the chance for us to follow God right now! In this four-week series from the Gospels, we'll read about Jesus starting out his ministry and how he invited his followers — and us — to **listen to God's voice, trust Jesus knows us, trust God's plans for us, and include people who aren't like us.**

To find out more,
scan this code!





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

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Room Request

If you have a standing room reservation, please submit your request by visiting our website at:

www.bethany-umc.com or contact Ann Gill at
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

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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.