*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Irish Blessing — Lee Turner

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
May the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*POSTLUDE

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God and in memory of John Lemen, by Joan Lemen.

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

Attendance
Worship 272, Online Worship 38, Sunday School 205

Gifts *(*Figures for September 13, 2026. These figures are unverified.)*

*Operating Contributions Last Week	$21,226.50
*Operating Contributions Year to Date	$827,146.44
*Operating Needs Year to Date	$857,607.00

Capital Campaign *(Figures for September 13, 2026)*

*Building Contributions Last Week	$2,797.50
*Building Contributions Year to Date	$80,326.37
*Building Campaign Needs Year to Date	$87,533.00

Designated Mission and Ministry Gifts – YTD (Non-Budgeted) $187,790.39

Ways to Give
Scan this QR Code for PushPay online or text 833.245.8417 to give from your phone!



Welcome!

If you are visiting or attend here regularly, we would love to get to know you! Help us connect with you by signing the hospitality pad located in your pew or by scanning the QR code.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Liturgist: Rev. Michael Ritter

Greeters: Wayne & Tina Waters

Ushers: Billy Phillips, Tim McConnell, Leon Fleischauer, Fred Skipper, Pete Knight

PASTORS

Rev. Michael Ritter, Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Dusenbury, Associate Pastor

STAFF

Reagan Lord, Director of Music

Michael Lopez, Organist

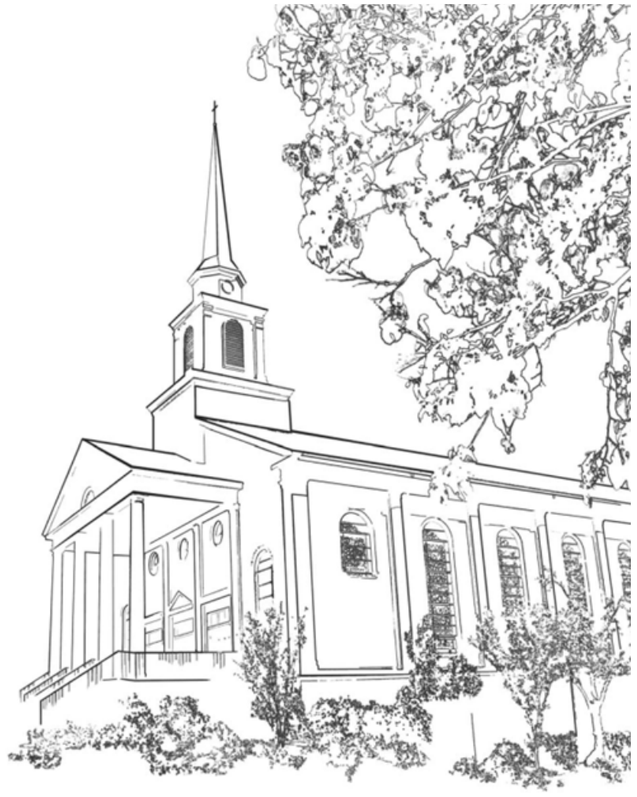
Emily Vick, Director of Christian Education

Kyle Boczkowski, Director of Youth and Recreation Ministries

Our Care Team is here to support our congregation!
If you know of a congregational care need that requires our attention, please let us know. Sunday School Classes and Bethany members are encouraged to reach out. Contact the church office 843.873.1230

Bethany United Methodist Church

Summerville, South Carolina



An Order of Sunday Worship

17th Sunday after Pentecost

The liturgical color for the time after Pentecost is green, representing growth and new life.

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
for the Transformation of the World.

CALL TO WORSHIP

please stand in body or spirit

GATHERING

Please take a moment. Greet people sitting around you.
"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unaware." Hebrews 13:2 (KJV)

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE
Chancel Bells; Michael Blanton, Director
Be At Peace — Michael Blanton

INTROIT
Chancel Choir
Ubi Caritas — Ola Gjeilo
Where charity and love are, God is there.

*HYMN OF PRAISE
UMH 292
What Wonderous Love Is This — Wonderous Love

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
The Apostles' Creed — UMH 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
UMH 70
Glory Be to the Father — Meineke

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.

THE FIRST LESSON
Psalm 145: 1-8
OT 146
Rev. Michael Ritter

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

ANTHEM
Chancel Choir; Heather Seltzer, soprano; Michael Lopez, piano
I Choose Love — Mark Miller

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love. I choose love.

In the midst of war I choose peace.
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to higher ground, I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love. I choose love.

The text for this morning's anthem, *I Choose Love,* is by Lindy Thompson. It is written in response to the murder of the nine people of Emanuel AME Church of Charleston, who chose love when they offered forgiveness in the face of hatred and violence.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

CALL TO PRAYER
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER
Chancel Choir
O Lord Hear My Prayer — Taize

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

DEDICATION

OFFERTORY
Chancel Bells; Michael Blanton, Director
Rondo Passacaglia — Cynthia Dobrinski

*DOXOLOGY
Lasst Uns Erfreuen
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow — UMH 94

(Children are invited to come forward during the singing of the Doxology for Children's Moment)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT
Nikki Brantley

(Children ages K5 thru 2nd grade are dismissed for Children's Church in Room 214. Please remember to attach a Children's Church sticker to your child and pick them up ASAP.)

*THE GOSPEL LESSON
Matthew 20: 1-16
NT 21
Rev. Isaac Dusenbury

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

SERMON
Help Wanted — Rev. Isaac Dusenbury

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN OF INVITATION
They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love — St. Brendan's

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Chorus
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.