



Our Consolation in Fragile Times

Dear Bethesda Family,

Greetings and grace to you, and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. In Paul’s second letter to the Church at Corinth he uses “consolation,” “comfort,” or “encouragement” numerous times in a few verses.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.”

II Corinthians 1:3-4

Paul faced trying circumstances and his own afflictions, yet he viewed these as purposeful. He goes on to convey these can help “us rely not on ourselves...” In our trying times, we can find consolation in knowing that we are not alone in trying to discern the way ahead. Relying on God does not negate our crucial role in these times of crisis, but rather helps us see our consolation and ultimate hope rests with God.

As some begin to re-gather on Sunday morning for worship, we will be watching closely how events unfold during August with re-openings. Our Merry Hearts preschool will be opening this month. Any further steps we might take as a church are unclear at this time, so please continue to pray for our Session.

My prayer is that we each find the consolation we seek in our lives and families, and be consoled that God is working for good in and through all who are seeking solutions, providing relief, and making sacrifices. Thanks be to God!

I remain, in Christ’s Service,

David L. Hudson

Pastor



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AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1—Tommie Blue,
Avery Jessup
2—Andrew Formanski,
Latasha Harrison,
Sierra Huffman,
Michelle Wilson-Smith
5—David B. Keith,
Cecilia Neill
6—Jamie Clarke,
Terry Hardison
9—Patrick Byers,
Bill Demastus,
Jim Mack,
Sam Ransdell
11—Justin Andersen,
Christian Blue,
Lynn Dworak,
Brenda Huffman
12—Nelson Blue,
Kelly Clark
14—Mona Kahl,
Steve Morgan
15—CJ Dunn
16—Scarlett Roth
Mary Lynn Sutphen
17—Davis Clark,
Nancy Gorba
18—Barb Ficklin,
Mark Jessup
20—Nancy Dearborn,
Cy Israel,
Janet Peele
21—Tucker Martin
22—Moneen Bethea
24—Marilyn Shannon
26—Katie Godin,
Dan Gooden
30—Shaw Ray
31—Ella Clark,
Gloria Crane

July 20, 2020

Dear Bethesda Family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As church services commence this Sunday July 26th in the sanctuary, here are the guidelines that the Session approved to be put in place for the safety of our congregation and staff:

- We will utilize the main door for entrances and side door for exits.
- We require face masks to be worn at all times while in church building. Please bring your own mask. We will have some disposable masks available.
- Everyone who chooses to enter will have their temperature checked by greeters. If your temperature is over 100° you will be asked to go home.
- We will take a picture of main sanctuary and balcony to document attendance.
- All doors will stay open during the service to minimize touch surfaces and increase airflow.
- No nursery/childcare will be provided at this time.
- Ushers will seat people at predetermined areas of church. There will be increased space between congregants (every other row seating and alternate sides). Please sit with your family.
- Hand sanitizer will be at entrances and exits.
- Trash cans will be placed at exit.
- We will not be using hymnals or bibles in the pews, and there will be no paper bulletins. Everything will be on the screen in the front. We encourage you to bring your own bible if you wish to have one during the service.
- It will continue to be a shorter service.
- There will be no choir or singing of hymns. Special music, when scheduled, will come from the choir area at a safe distance from the congregation.
- Drop boxes for offering will be placed at both front and back of church. You may continue to mail your pledges. There will be no offering collection.
- Dismissal will be usher-led to ensure safe distances between people/families exiting at end of service. Please wait to be dis-

missed and exit only through side door.

- Services will be recorded and be put on website for homebound viewing.
- Bathrooms will be unavailable during worship service at this time.

We look forward to safely worshipping with you.

In Christ's Service,

David L. Hudson

Pastor

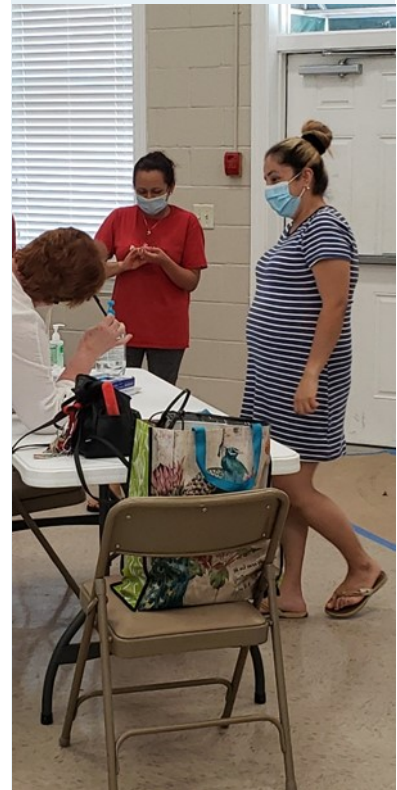
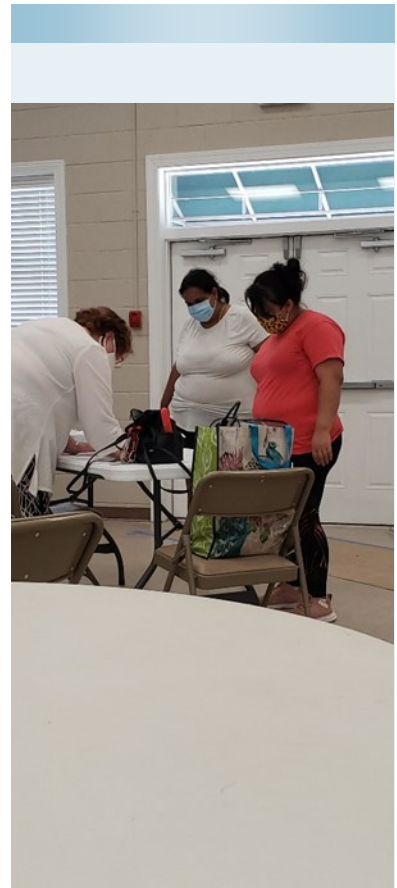


Community Assisted Language Learning Program (CALL)

Since the pandemic began and schools and business have shut down, Bethesda and Community Presbyterian have been working together to ensure that the vulnerable families from the CALL program have someone looking out for them.

Every 2-3 weeks we have been handing out food and money from the fellowship hall. Community Presbyterian has an ongoing program to collect food and donations. Bethesda supplements where necessary, helps put together the bags, provides the space for pick-up, and helps with distribution. The families are notified of a date and time and all social distancing and COVID requirements are followed during the pick-up window.

On July 25th we gave out food to more than 20 families and were able to give each family \$100. If you would like to help support this effort, you can donate non-perishable food items or money at any time by dropping them by the church. Please indicate that it is for the CALL program.



DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

If you don't have an email on file with us or if any of your contact information has changed, please send your updates to the church email: bethesdapres@ncrrbiz.com

BYG kids: if you have your own emails, please let us know. We'd love to send things to you as well as your parents!



American Red Cross

Bethesda will be hosting a blood drive on Thursday, September 10th. Stay tuned for more information and how to sign up to donate!

MUSIC NOTES

As abbreviated worship at Bethesda has commenced and school will be starting, we are still in uncertain times. Stay tuned for updates on Chancel Choir, Children's Choir and Handbells. Thank you for your patience and understanding as things look so different.



Nancy Arnold

Music Director

poplarno@icloud.com

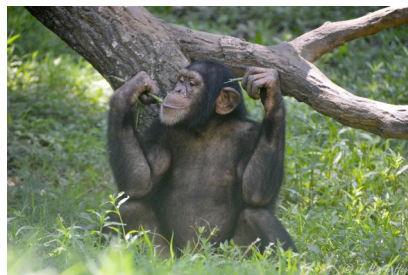
910.315.9379

Thank you to Earlene McLamb and Larry Arnold for the patriotic organ and piano duet on the 4th of July weekend, Tim Wilson for his solo on July 12, and to Kim Clark for the horn solo on July 19.

Thanks Larry Arnold for providing a piano solo on July 26.

Volunteers are still needed to provide special music each Sunday. Please call me at 944-9378 or call the church office 944-1319 to schedule.

BYG GRADUATE ADVENTURE



Thank you to Henry "The Henster" Hogan for taking our recent BYG graduates to the zoo on one last Henster Adventure before college! Jimmy Gorba, Katie Formanski, and Ella Clark got to go behind the scenes at the NC Zoo in Asheboro and see some pretty cool animals up close and personal. Next time you see Jimmy, Katie, or Ella, ask them about the chubby unicorns. :)



HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY

I hope this finds you all well. Have you had the opportunity to look at the information on www.Ready.gov yet? If not, I encourage you to do so. There is a lot of excellent information on the site ready for you to use.

This month we will discuss your family's emergency communication plan. One thing to consider is designating three meeting places should your family be separated after an event. The meeting place should be known by all family members and becomes the place to meet to ensure everyone is safe. The first location should be if something happens within your house or neighborhood – such as a fire. This could be the mailbox, a particular tree, or a neighbor's yard. The second place you want to determine would be outside of your neighborhood, but close by if family members are not able to return to the neighborhood. This could be the church parking lot or a local school. Lastly, pick a place to meet outside of the town limits in case the local area is affected. It will likely be easier to exit than to enter the area. Again, remember to pick a place familiar to all the family members. It is a good idea to practice these plans.

If a disaster or serious event occurs, phone lines will be tied up or down. Texting will likely work better than calling. Talk to your family members and set up a group text where everyone can check-in to say that they are safe or to update their status. It is also a good idea to pick a friend or family member outside of the local area for everyone to check in with should all the local phone lines/cell towers be down. This person can serve as a point of contact when family members are unable to get in touch with each other. Have a list of important phone numbers written out for each family member in the event their cell phone runs out of battery or does not work. Keep this list in your wallet, purse, or backpack.

I hope you are all working on building your emergency kits! Please let me know if you have any questions or need help making your plans.

I also want to say a quick thank you to all of you who have taken time to write or call and welcome me into my new position. Your kind words are so appreciated. Take care and stay safe!

Julie Formanski
Church Administrator
Emergency Disaster Management Professional

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Bethesda will be part of a Habitat for Humanity home build Saturday, October 24th in Hoke County.

We are looking for 12 individuals ages 16 and up to volunteer, but you must be 18 or older to use power tools.

Our assigned hours are 8am-1pm. Anyone wishing to ride in the church van down will meet at church at 7:15am and plan to return around 1:30pm.

All skill levels needed; no experience necessary!

Please call the church office to reserve your spot today!





FOOD DRIVE

We are collecting nonperishable food items as well as monetary donations that will go toward continuing to ensure our Community Assisted Language Learning (CALL) program families are cared for during these uncertain times.

Specifically requested are donations of beans, corn, fruit, mac'n cheese, spaghetti sauce, and tuna.

Drop your donations at church anytime – please indicate they are for CALL. The next food distribution is August 8th.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

After a discussion with our SW Presbyterian Women Communicator, I met with Pastor David and contacted each of our Bethesda PWCT members to receive their suggestions on our circle meetings beginning in September. The consensus of the team is for each circle to decide what is desired and what is best for each of their members. Location and safety should be a deciding factor.

Please contact each circle member to help make your decision. If you are not meeting, we urge you to find a way convenient for you to continue your lessons and Bible studies.

Please contact me if I can answer any question or be of assistance to you. I would appreciate knowing your plans by the end of August. Thank you.

I pray your health, caring, and Faith remain strong during these trying times. Love, prayer, and blessings to each of you and your families.

-Sandra Tracy, Moderator

WHY I AM GRATEFUL I CHOSE BETHESDA AS MY CHURCH HOME, BY CONNIE MONDS

Years ago, Frank McNeil sat with John and me at Aberdeen Lions Club meetings. He would always invite us to visit his church. He was such a blessing and encouragement to me during the time I was Treasurer of the club. Since John's family is Presbyterian we decided to visit. I am so glad we did.

I have met so many wonderful people. I especially have loved my Jesse Wimberley Sunday School class. Our teacher is always so well prepared and we all miss and love each other so much. I miss having our Bible studies together. I feel so much love in that class; prayerfully we will return soon.

On July 13th I had emergency surgery for an issue with my intestines. Since surgery is dangerous for seniors, the doctors wanted to see if the issue would resolve on its own. It did not. After surgery I remained in the hospital for ten days. I am now home and doing so much better; thanks be to God! The doctor says that I am one tough woman!

This time that we are in quarantined reminds me of another time in my life. My brother and I were born 13 months apart and were very close. We even looked like twins with cotton-top curly hair. When I was in the fourth grade, and he in the third, he contracted polio and was quarantined at REX hospital. I was broken-hearted during this time. We could only see him through a window. My whole family would cry because of our separation. This went on for months until one day the quarantine was lifted and he was able to come home. This was such a happy day! There was so much love shared among our family.

I know this will be the same when this pandemic finally comes to an end and we are able to be together once more.

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We will be so happy and be able to share the love that we have missed during these many months. I will again be able to bring Nancy a flower for her to wear in her hair during choir practice, we will have Sunday school, we will be able to worship and praise without restriction, we will be able to have face-to-face conversations and share stories and thoughts as we once did.

Until that day, I will eat my 4 pints of homemade peach ice cream from Doris Moon and continue to be grateful for all of my Bethesda friends who have become family, who call and check on me and send cards and well-wishes. To my wonderfully supportive husband John, my brother was right, you are a wonderful, nice, Christian, faithful, and loyal man; I am so blessed to have you. We are happy to call Bethesda our church home where so much love is shown in so many ways.

May God bless each one of you until we meet again,
Connie Monds

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

We are excited to welcome Julie Formanski as our new church administrator! Julie has been on board for a month now. She and her family have been attending Bethesda for seven years and she most recently completed her MA in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution from UNCG in May. For the last semester of her degree program she assisted the Food Assistance Program, CALL, taught the high school Sunday school group, and worked on community development, conflict resolution and peace building skills with the preschool kids at Merry Hearts. Please stop by and see her during office hours.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We are collecting school supplies for our CALL families as well as any other children in need from Aberdeen Elementary.

Supplies needed include backpacks, rulers, 1½" binder, 1 pack of 24ct Ticonderoga Pencils, 1 pack of color pencils, 1 pack of 24ct crayons, glue sticks, black dry erase markers, highlighters, packs of index cards, pencil pouch, 1 pack of 8 or 10 tab/section dividers, marble composition notebooks, headphones, color 3-prong folders, wide ruled filler paper, 100 page spiral notebooks, scissors, and hand sanitizer.

You can drop donations by the church during office hours or leave them in the covered breezeway.

**SCHOOL
SUPPLIES DRIVE**



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Jim and Kay Mack on the birth of a new granddaughter! Elizabeth Logan Haney ("Eliza") was born July 27th to parents Lauren and Brian Haney. She joins her brother Oliver who is two years old.

SYMPATHIES

- To the Auman family upon the death of Andy's nephew Justin Kane.
- To Mona Kahl upon the death of her son-in-law Larry Horton.
- To the Sheppard family upon the death of Jim. Jim passed away July 23rd at the age of 96.

Lectionary Passages for August 2020

Jokes of the Month

Jesus can wash away
sin... but you've still got
to wash your hands!

"Wash hands. Don't
touch face."

- Hygenesis 24:7

And remember...

Social distancing

will not stop love.

Sunday, August 2

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 23

Exodus 1:8-2, 10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 9

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-23

Sunday, August 30

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Sunday, August 16

Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

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www.bethesdapres.church
[Facebook.com/bethesdapres](https://www.facebook.com/bethesdapres)

Phone: 910-944-1319
E-mail: bethesdapres@ncrrbiz.com



To:

Sunday Schedule

9:00 Prayer Time in the Chapel
9:15 Fellowship Breakfast
9:45 Music in the Chapel
10:00 Sunday School (all ages)
11:00 Worship Service
5:00 Youth Group

