



Bethesda Presbyterian Church | Aberdeen, NC | April 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear brothers and sisters,

Holy Week is here; we have several services at Bethesda. On Maundy Thursday, we will reflect on Jesus' last meal with his disciples, before his death, and the betrayal that takes place. On Good Friday, we will come to terms with the crucifixion of Christ. On Saturday, the sanctuary will be open for silent prayer in memory of that Sabbath silence after the Lord was buried. Then, on Easter day, we will have a sunrise and regular service celebrating Jesus' resurrection from the tomb.

All of this draws us close to the heart and soul of the Gospel: the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

The hope is not only that we will remember a story that happened a long time ago, even if it is a very important story. The hope, you might say, is that these service will "put us there" or relocate us into what one theologian called "the strange world" of the Bible.

So prepare yourself because you may find yourself. You may find yourself in the impetuosity or perhaps sleepiness of Peter. If you are honest, you may even find a nearness to Judas, Pilate, or the religious leadership that judged Jesus. You may identify with the fickle crowd or with the lone Mary Magdalene.

This Holy Week, wherever you find yourself in the strange world of the Bible, know that Jesus Christ is working, through his Spirit, rooting out the sin in your life and giving you a new sanctified self—one that can go back into our world with the lifegiving love of God.

Christ be with you,

Rev David Priddy

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## Holy Week Schedule



Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm  
Good Friday Service 12 noon  
Prayer Vigil Easter Saturday 7-7  
Sunrise Service 7 am Old Bethesda  
Easter Breakfast 9 am  
Easter Festival Worship 11 am with  
Communion and Moore Brass

# April Birthdays

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Family Promise was hosted by Bethesda March 20 through March 23 at the Family Promise home in Aberdeen.

Each evening Bethesda provided a delicious meal for 3 Moms and 3 children. Beginning at 8:30 PM Bethesda's overnight hosts arrived to spend the night with the families.

Volunteers included Kay Mack, Nancy Dearborn, Brenda Huffman, Terri Combs, Ashley Keith, Jim Donathan, Doreen Wicker, Sarah O'Brien, Tammy Clarke, Laura Byers, Kim Clark and LoJuanna Pages.

Family Promise is our local organization who helps women and children who are experiencing homelessness. If you are interested in helping by providing a meal or staying overnight, please contact LoJuanna Pages at [Lbluepages@gmail.com](mailto:Lbluepages@gmail.com) or 910-638-1866.

Bethesda will host Family Promise again May 29 through June 1.

1 Mary Katherine White  
3 Larry Arnold,  
Gary Moon  
4 Patrick Hardison  
6 Kim Clark  
10 Pam McElreath,  
David Henry Priddy  
12 Elena Roth  
13 Jimmy McElreath  
14 Leslie Champion,  
Anthony Ruvolo,  
Matt Forbis  
17 Gail Cunningham,  
Chris Auman,  
Linda Parke  
21 Ruth Sinclair  
22 Jim Kahl  
23 Mike Cunningham,  
Eleanor Hamme,  
Nancy Clark  
24 Cookie Crowley  
25 Jim Shaffer  
26 Curt Proctor,  
Erin Jessup

# Celebrations & Concerns

## Welcome to the Bethesda Family



Noah Adams and Marilyn Sherwin became members at the March 5 worship service.

We had a luncheon to welcome and celebrate all of our new members in 2023 on March 12.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Bethesda, contact the church office or speak to the Pastor directly.



**it's a BOY!**

**James Henry Driggers**

Born March 28

9 lbs 3 oz, 20.75" long

He is welcomed by proud parents  
Brittany and Travis

and big sisters Nora and Mia

Welcome to the world!

Long-time member, Marion Wiltjer passed away March 29. Please keep her family in your prayers.





# Music Notes

As we leave the season of Lent and enter Holy Week, we have some special services. Palm Sunday brings a service of music and scripture from the triumphant entry to the cross. This service foreshadows Holy Week and presents congregational hymns, a duet, a quartet, a choir anthem and handbells. There will be a Maundy Thursday service at 7 PM and a noon Good Friday service. Then we will celebrate Easter with Moore Brass lending their talents. On April 16 we will have our "Gifts of Women" service. Leslie Champion and company are planning a meaningful service with many different components and participants.

Last I want to remind everyone of the special service to be held on May 21st. The Choir will present "Come to the Table." Please plan to join us for this special communion service at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary. We will celebrate communion together on this last Sunday of the Easter Season. Your choir is working really hard, and it will be a special blessing for all who can attend. There will be a time of fellowship following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you all for your support.

Earlene

## Youth

The youth are excited for spring & being able to do more outdoor activities. We're spending most of our Sunday evenings playing games outside & working on Youth Sunday. May 7 is approaching fast & we're excited to share this service with the congregation.

Ashtyn Adams



# Christian Education



April 2 families with children ages preK through 5th grade met for Family Fun Night including a lesson, dinner, and an egg hunt. We had 50 people in attendance .Next meeting will be May 7.

Faith Weaving Friends is starting up! Kids ages 2nd-5th grade are invited to this once monthly meeting to show how to weave their faith into their everyday lives through lessons and outings. First meeting April 21 from 5-6:30 pm. Meet at the picnic shelter.



Bethesda Youth Group (BYG) continues to meet every Sunday night from 5-7 pm in the Fellowship Hall for ages 6th-12th grades. See more about what we are up to in the Youth Section of this newsletter.

Join us for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday morning at 9:15 and then attend one of our Sunday School classes! We have classes available for all ages. Call the church office for more information.



Our Lenten Evangelism Study didn't quite finish up. We will hold at least two more meetings in the near future. Stay tuned for times and dates.

# Presbyterian Women

Our circles continue to meet monthly; if you'd like more information about joining a circle, contact the church office. We have been busy preparing for Gifts of Women Sunday. We will be leading the worship service on April 16 and will dedicate the banner we made at our banner workshop led by Jane Long. Our PW Birthday Offering campaign will be starting soon. We will have a luncheon on May 7. Thank you for all of your participation and support of the Presbyterian Women's programs.

Sincerely,

Leslie Champion

Bethesda Presbyterian's Women's Moderator



## Community Events

**The North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society's Spring Tour** will be held this year on Friday and Saturday, April 14-15 at Montreat, Warren Wilson College, and Asheville. On Friday we will explore the resources of the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat and stay at Assembly Inn. Saturday we'll visit the beautiful Warren Wilson College (Presbyterian) and the historic (1794) First Presbyterian Church in Asheville. Registration \$25. Assembly Inn (828-419-9844) must be booked by April 1 using the ID number 482875. For details and to register for the meeting, go to [www.ncphsociety.org](http://www.ncphsociety.org) or call Don McLeod at 910-695-5550.



# Event Photos

## March Family fun Night Photos



## Sonshine Club

We had 28 people for lunch and fellowship at the Olive Garden , March 8.  
Next outing April 12 at Outback Steakhouse 11:30. RSVP to the church office.



## Preschool Sunday

Our Merry Hearts Preschool children blessed us by participating in worship on March 26. We had over 200 people in attendance, many who stayed for lunch and the art display in the afternoon.



# Volunteer Initiatives



## Feminine Hygiene Products Donation Drive

### Items to be Collected

Pads  
Tampons  
Wipes  
Deodorant  
Underwear

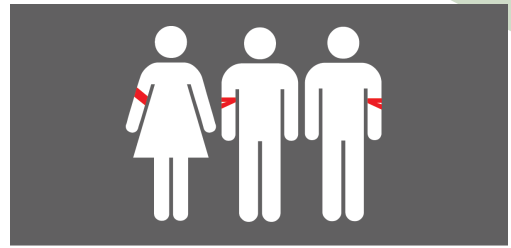
All items must be unopened and unused

Youth member Trinity Andersen is collecting feminine hygiene products to place in area schools for her Girl Scout project.

You may give items directly to Trinity, drop them off in the church office, or place them in the indicated bin in the breezeway.



Team Bethesda had a good showing for our weekend Habitat for Humanity Apostles' Build. Thank you to everyone who participated but especially to **Jeff Hill** and **Cy Israel** who came out every day! If you'd like to help with the build, there are still volunteer opportunities available nearly every weekend. Go to: <https://sandhillshabitat.volunteerhub.com> to sign up and register today.



**Help save a life.**

Schedule your blood donation appointment today.



Next blood drive April 7, 12-4:30 pm

Register at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

sponsor code: BPC



## FILL THE FREEZER

Help us keep our freezer full with food immediately available for families with new babies, people with illness or recovering from surgery, bereaved families, or others in need.

### What To Make:

- Soups
- Casseroles
- Breakfast Foods
- Other items that can be kept frozen

**Put in a disposable container.**

### Label with:

- Name of item
- Date made
- Ingredient List

Place in freezer outside church kitchen

For recipes or suggested items, contact the church office



# Evangelism Update

In order for us to glorify God and enjoy Him forever we must know God intimately. We must know His character, His promises, and His commandments. We must know His mighty love for each of us. We must know His Word.

In PHILIPPIANS 3:7-8 Paul wrote, “But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.”

We were created to worship God and in PSALM 42:1-2 the Psalmist wrote, “As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God, when shall I come and appear before God?”

Through Jesus Christ we are reconciled to God and we can have that intimate relationship with God that our souls pant for. The good news of Easter morning changed the world and it changes us when we read God’s Word and know what God did for us through the death and resurrection of His perfect Son.

Encourage one another to read and study the Word of God daily.

Kay Mack

## LECTIONARY PASSAGES

<b>Palm Passion Sunday, April 2</b> First Reading Isaiah 50:4-9 Psalm 31 Second Reading Philippians 2:5-11 Gospel Matthew 21:1-11	<b>Wednesday of Holy Week, April 5</b> First Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Second Reading Hebrews 12:1-3 Gospel John 13:21-32	<b>Easter Sunday, April 9</b> First Reading Jeremiah 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Second Reading Acts 10:34-43 Gospel Matthew 28:1-10
<b>Monday of Holy Week, April 3</b> First Reading Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Second Reading Hebrews 9:11-15 Gospel John 12:1-11	<b>Maundy Thursday, April 6</b> First Reading Exodus 12:1-4 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Second Reading 1 Cor 11:23-26 Gospel John 13:1-17, 31b-35	<b>Sunday, April 16</b> First Reading Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 Second Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9 Gospel John 20:19-31
<b>Tuesday of Holy Week, April 4</b> First Reading Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 271:1-14 Second Reading 1 Cor 1:18-31 Gospel John 12:20-36	<b>Good Friday, April 7</b> First Reading Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Second Reading Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 Gospel John 18:1-19:42	<b>Sunday April 23</b> First Reading Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4 Second Reading 1 Peter 1:17-23 Gospel Luke 24:13-35



## CARTOON OF THE MONTH



 **Bethesda**  
Presbyterian Church  
**1002 N. Sandhills Blvd.**  
**Aberdeen, NC 28315**

<https://bethesdapres.church>

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

910-944-1319

[bethesdapres@ncrrbiz.com](mailto:bethesdapres@ncrrbiz.com)

### Sunday Schedule

9:15 Light fellowship breakfast

10:00 Sunday School for all ages

11:00 Worship Service

5:00 pm Youth Group

