



Bethesda Presbyterian Church | Aberdeen, NC | March 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends of Bethesda Presbyterian,

This Lenten season has been a difficult one. Many beloved members of our community have passed, marking February with genuine fasting and mourning. While Bethesda continues to pray and grieve with the families of those who now lie at rest, we could all stand for an early Easter message:

In 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, the Apostle Paul writes, "Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human, for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ."

In other words, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is not an isolated event. It is not a one time occurrence. It is not something miraculous that only happens to the Messiah. The Apostle tells us that the Resurrection of Jesus is only the beginning of a new age. His rising is a "first-fruit," Paul says. Like the very first grape to emerge on the vine, the raising of Jesus from the dead is only the sign that more fruit, more life, is to follow. Jesus' resurrection is like the early bloom in late winter. The dark and cold days are surely not over, but the season is about to change. As the Lord rises, so more will rise, more will be "made alive."

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March Birthdays

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This is the promise of Easter: that God will give new life to our brothers and sisters in the faith, and we can have a bold and cheerful confidence in this magnificent promise because God is faithful. We know that because indeed "Christ has been raised from the dead." During the rest of this Lenten-time winter, let us pray that our loved ones rest in peace, lean on one another, and, most of all, keep the eyes of our hearts on this hopeful first-fruit, Jesus Christ, until that great springtime appears and resurrection and new life are in full bloom.

Your brother in the faith,

Rev. David Priddy

- 1 Rowan Priddy
- 3 Sally Noyes
- 6 Chris Lee
- 7 Beth Morgan
- 8 Madelyn Priddy
- 9 Rev. David Priddy
Jeremy Wilson
- 10 Peggy Jacobs
- 11 Jesse Andersen
- 13 Dene Moon
- 15 Grant Martin
- 16 Joyce Robinson
- 17 Vance Crane
Ron Long
- 18 Jasper Ardinger
- 21 Luis Pages
Mimi Pages
- 22 Henry Cunningham
- 23 Jeff Hill
Melinda Gooden
- 28 Tim Wilson
Becky Brown

Holy Week Schedule



- March 24** Palm Sunday Cantata Worship Service 11 am
- March 28** Maundy Thursday Worship Service 7 pm
- March 29** Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7 pm
- March 30** Easter Egg Hunt 2 pm
- March 31** Easter Sunrise Service Bethesda Cemetery 7 am
Easter Breakfast 9 am
Easter Worship with Moore Brass 11 am

Wishing
you
comfort
& peace

Concerns

Please continue to keep the McInnis family in your prayers after the passing of Joyce McInnis, February 15. Joyce's graveside funeral service was held February 19.

We pray for comfort and peace for Kitty Kuzminski and family upon the passing of Kitty's son David, February 25.

Celebrations



New Members

We welcomed
Joe and Amanda Gradzewicz
into fellowship with us at Bethesda on
February 11.

Shrove Tuesday



Looking Ahead

- March 3 Confirmation Class 9:30 am
Worship Service with Communion - no Children's Church 11 am
Family Fun Night 4:30 pm
- March 10 Daylight Savings Time - Move clocks ahead one hour
Confirmation Class 9:30 am
Worship Service 11 am
- March 14 Pastor's Build - Apostles' Build Habitat for Humanity
- March 15 Faith Weaving Friends 5:30 pm
- March 16 Chili & Bingo Night 6-7:30 pm
- March 17 Confirmation Class 9:30 am
Worship Service 11 am
- March 24 Palm Sunday Special Service 11 am
- March 28 Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm
- March 29 Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7 pm
- March 30 Easter Egg Hunt 2 pm
- March 31 Sunrise Service Old Bethesda 7 am
Easter Breakfast 9 am
Easter Worship with Moore Brass and Confirmation 11 am
- April 7 Gifts of Women Sunday
Family Fun Night 4:30 pm
- April 8 Red Cross Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall 10-2:30 pm
- April 19 Faith Weaving Friends 5:30 pm
- April 20 Campus Clean-Up Day
- April 21 Preschool Sunday and Art Show
- April 25-27 Bethesda Apostles' Build Weekend for Habitat for Humanity

Music Notes

March is upon us and with it comes Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. The following services will help us honor those special days. March 24, Palm Sunday, will take us from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem all the way to Calvary. The service will start with the traditional palms and then proceed toward the cross. The handbells will play, the children will sing, and the Chancel Choir will present a Lenten Cantata with your help. On the March 28, there will be a 7 pm service with Communion for Maundy Thursday. A 7 pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service on March 29 is also planned.

Meanwhile, Ashtyn Adams will share with us on March 3, the quartet will be singing one Sunday, and a trio will share on March 17. It is my hope that you will be enriched by the music. We can not speak to everyone every Sunday, but we do strive to vary the different genres (types) of music so that you will be touched sometime.

Blessings,

Earlene

Presbyterian Women

On Feb.17, 13 women met to sew pillowcases which were delivered to multiple local shelters. If you'd like to participate in the next event it will be on Saturday March 2, 9-12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. We do need additional sewing machines. If you have one that would be great! If not, come anyway. There are a lot of other tasks that need to be done.

The Gifts of Women Service will be held Sunday, April 7. Rev. Priddy will be delivering our sermon, but we're looking for women volunteers to usher, greet, acolyte, and read scripture. If you've never done this before please consider volunteering; it is a rewarding service.

Our Birthday offering campaign will begin the first of May. It will conclude with a covered dish luncheon on Sun. May 19th.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 910-220-1616.

Peace,

Leslie Champion, Women's Moderator

Events

Our Merry Hearts Preschool teachers and some members attended CPR and First Aid training at the Aberdeen Fire Department recently. We appreciate their help and support.



Saturday, March 16

6-7:30 pm

In the Fellowship Hall

Sign up to bring:
your favorite chili in a crockpot,
cornbread, or
cookies

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

Drinks will be provided

If you'd like to help with recreation for the night,
contact Kelly Jacobs



BYG

BYG would like to thank everyone for making the Souper Bowl of Caring a great success. We really appreciate everyone being so willing to contribute & help those in need. The youth will continue to help make bags to have ready when needed. We are so blessed to be part of such a loving church.

Ashtyn

Sunday School

The Youth Sunday School class is finishing up Luke's letter to Theophilus. We are reading and studying chapters 21-24. These 4 chapters, are more intense than the other chapters written by Luke. We read what Jesus says about his second coming, Jesus praying for his disciples not to be "sifted" or tempted, Judas and his betrayal, and how Peter goes from being a denier to a leader. We read about Jesus' betrayal, arrest, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Satan makes his appearance to try and destroy Jesus and all that he stands for. The last time we saw him, he was tempting Jesus and left for his opportune time.

Luke gives some details that are missed because we overlook them. I recommend that you read the entire book of Luke, but since we are in the season of Lent and getting ready to celebrate Easter, especially read chapters 21-24, and pay attention to what Luke is trying to tell Theophilus, and now, us. I will give you a spoiler, the ending is wonderful and a great hope for us, but not so much for Satan.

This is the longest book in the New Testament, with 24 chapters. Luke gives some vivid and detailed information to read and study. Each week we read the scriptures aloud and learn a little. We end up having some interesting discussions as well.

What is next up? We will be going back to the Old Testament, and per their request, the book of **Daniel**.

Keep Your Light Shining!!!

Henster

Vacation Bible School



It's Almost Here... Vacation Bible School 2024!!

Mark your calendar and get ready to dive into an amazing undersea adventure where kids will experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God.

At Scuba VBS, kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about!

DATES: Monday, June 10th - Friday, June 14th

TIME: 5 pm - 7:15 pm, dinner will be served

WHERE: Bethesda Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

With music, crafts, and games, it is a week a of fun you don't want to miss!

REGISTER NOW - Go to <https://bethesdapres.church>

Opportunities & Initiatives

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



Our Fill the Freezer Initiative has been going very well. We have had a greater need for food from the community lately and the freezer could use a restock. Please consider making and bringing a meal soon.

If you have a friend or family member in need of a meal, please utilize this ministry. You may come during office hours and pick up something to take to someone in need.

Call the church office for more information.

TACKLE HUNGER
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH, 2024



The Homeless Outreach Committee is so thankful for Bethesda's generous spirit. Thanks to Ashtyn and the youth for a fabulous Souperbowl of Caring drive that filled the pantry. We are blessed with such a generous church family.
Thank You.

Remember, you may donate to the food pantry or place food in the freezer anytime throughout the year.

History Corner

by: Shaw Ray

May 3, 1929 - The Week's News In Aberdeen

Mrs. Pleasants Honored on the Occasion of Her Birthday

Outstanding among the several events of Aberdeen for some time was the surprise birthday party given in honor of Mrs. Charles E. Pleasants, Sr; Wednesday afternoon, April 24, at the historic Old Bethesda Church. Mrs. Pleasants bears the distinction of being the oldest active member of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen. Mrs. V. R. Gaston made an opening prayer followed by an address of welcome by Mrs. Robert Page, after which the auxiliary was invited to assemble under the spacious old oak trees in the church grove. A delicious picnic followed with ice cream and a cake bearing sixteen tiny pink candles. While Mrs. Pleasants cut the cake, surrounded by the other members of the auxiliary, Kodak pictures were made, each member hoping to obtain one as a souvenir of this very enjoyable occasion. There were about forty five members present.

Note: Belle Pleasants was 74 years old at the time of this printing in 1929; she lived to be 91.



1002 N. Sandhills Blvd.

Aberdeen, NC 28315

<https://bethesdapres.church>

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910-944-1319

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

