



A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends of Bethesda Presbyterian,

I would really like to say, “now that Holy Week is behind us, we can slow down a bit.” Alas this is not the case. Gifts of Women Sunday, Preschool Sunday, several baptisms, Mother’s Day, Pentecost, Father’s Day all these things lie before us in the life of worship at Bethesda.

Nevertheless, in the midst of all this business, it is good to keep an eye on the target this Easter Season (that’s right, Easter isn’t over!). Acts 1:3 tells us,

After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

After His resurrection, Jesus schools the disciples. He gives a presentation on Himself. He takes time to convince them by appearing to them: showing the nail-scars, eating meals, reading Scripture, etc. He does this for 40 days, the same amount of time He spent in the wilderness tempted by the devil.

In short, Easter is a season of concentrating and learning what it means that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. So don’t let the Easter lesson come and go. Sit with it. Let it ruminate. Take it all in. This new life that Jesus is presenting is what the Gospel is all about. That is, this new life is your new life, too.

I pray your Easter went well—and, more than that, continues to go well.

Your brother and pastor,

Rev. David Priddy

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The following sublime poem was written
by the Board of Aberdeen and published in the July 4, 1924 Pilot.

April Birthdays

*Lay me there, O, lay me there,
When the blink is out, now feebler growing.
Where nothing stirs but the rustling air.
The graves with withered leaves are strowing.*

*Lay me there, O, lay me there.
Near to the proud old oaken trees.
Beside the Old Kirk, langsyne, where.
The throngs, now dead, bent reverent knees.
The Shaw, MacNeill, the Blue, the Graeme,
In fulsome congregations thronged
To worship Great Jehovah's name.
And sing His praise in Psalms prolonged.
Silent now the Old Kirk bell; Silent now the reverent choir.*

*That o'er my young heart cast a spell.
As if archangels thrummed the lyre.
The partridge whistles o'er the vale,
Where once fond lovers congregated.
And there poured forth the tender tale,
Of new-born love, of hearts true mated.
Where are those lovers fond and leal ?
Where that concourse of godly men ?
They rest hardby in hallowed weal,
In silent bivouac through the glen.
A calm rests o'er the Kirk-Yard now,
Where bouyant youth were estwhile keeping;
The sky looks down with her bonny brow.
Like mother's watch on her children sleeping.*

*Lay me there, O, lay me there.
Amid the hush of generations;
I want no dirge, but the rustling air,
And rest, sweet rest, sans lamentations.*

Submitted by Shaw Ray, local historian

- 1 Mary Katherine White
- 3 Gary Moon
- 4 Patrick Hardison
- 6 Kim Clark
- 10 David Henry Priddy
- 12 Elena Roth
- 14 Matt Forbis
Leslie Champion
- 17 Gail Cunningham
Chris Auman
Linda Parke
- 20 Joe Gradzewicz
- 21 Ruth Sinclair
- 22 Jim Kahl
- 23 Eleanor Hamme
Nancy Clark
- 24 Cookie Crowley
- 25 Jim Shaffer
- 26 Curt Proctor
Erin Jessup

Celebrations



Music Notes

First, I want to thank all of you at Bethesda for your cards, thoughts, and prayers during my hospitalization. It was a great comfort knowing that you were supporting me through prayer. I am healing and glad to be back. Another big thanks to Reverend Priddy and Julie for their ability to fill in the gaps. I know how lucky I am to be part of their team. Our planning for worship never varies from the central idea of worship. They are an ideal team. Also, thank you to all who stepped in to make each service meaningful.

During March we had a variety of music from both instrumental and vocal selections. I hope they enhanced your worship as they did mine. The children really made Palm Sunday and Easter special and as always Moore Brass brought the triumph of Easter through their music. I want to give a big bravo to the chancel choir for their hard work each Sunday and particularly for the presentation of Calvary's Mountain. The music was presented with accuracy and the emotion that the Passion should bring to us. The children's choir has done an excellent job throughout this season. I am very proud of their growth, emerging musicianship and control of their voices. The Easter Season has seven Sundays, and we will strive to find music to reflect on the meaning of resurrection.

Blessings, Earlene

Looking Ahead

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 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 |

Evangelism

What is Evangelism? According to the Christian dictionary, evangelism is the sharing of the message and teachings of Jesus Christ. It is delivering the message that Jesus Christ is not only the Son of God but also gave his life as a sacrifice for our sins. But how does one share the teachings of Jesus Christ?

According to the church, there are six approaches/styles: direct, intellectual, testimonial, interpersonal, invitational, and service-based.

The **direct approach** involves directly preaching the gospel, often to more than one person. The direct approach is what many picture when they hear the word *evangelism*. Pastor David does this every Sunday, though, many of us have little opportunity to preach the gospel to more than one person.

The **apologetic approach** usually focuses on intellectual persuasion by defending a belief using logical arguments and evidence. This approach often appeals to history, science, or other relevant issues that are important to the audience or hearer's intellectual background. This is akin to Paul's approach to the Athenians in Act 17.

Many of us use the **testimonial approach**, focusing on telling a personal story. Using this approach with the **relational approach**, evangelism and discipleship happening through building a personal relationship, usually presents a stronger argument. Sharing a personal story of how Jesus changed one's life or why one became a Christian shows that one really cares; thus, making them more receptive to hearing about the gospel.

Many Christian families practice the **invitational approach**, sharing the gospel by inviting friends, family, etc. to come to church. Bringing a friend to Bethesda is one of the most natural approaches to evangelical outreach - the Bethesda Church and Bethesda Church family sells itself.

The **service approach** is simple: *Live as you Preach*. Always remembering that people are watching how we live and how we choose to spend our time and resources. Sometimes acts of service speak louder than words, demonstrating our love of Jesus Christ and our genuine concern for the well-beings of others.

The Evangelism Committee

BYG

As spring has started coming, the youth have been enjoying the nicer weather & getting to have recreation time outside to start youth group each week. We have started discussing ideas for youth Sunday which will be May 19th. We welcome any high school seniors who have been part of Bethesda at any point to do a senior moment if they would like.

We do still need some volunteers to provide dinner for the rest of the school year. If you are interested, please let me know. We are so grateful to be part of a congregation that is so supportive of their youth.

Happy Spring!

Ashtyn

Easter Egg Hunt Photos



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.


Open Donation
Together we can make a better future

Your paragraph text





DONATE NOW

We're Accepting :

- **CANNED** Fruit
- **Wet Wipes**
- **Bottle water**

Thank You so much if you choose to donate it really does make a difference in people's lives. Donations will be accepted in a box outside the office.
Have a great rest of your day!

Bethesda continues to collect nonperishable foods of all kinds to give to those who are food insecure. We also have freezer space to keep donated hamburger meat, hot dogs, bread/buns, etc. In addition to the homeless outreach initiative, Bethesda serves many people within the community who need help feeding their families. Items to make meals are especially useful. Canned/packaged fruits, vegetables, protein sources such as tuna, canned chicken, and beans are needed. Please consider buying a little extra to donate on your next shopping trip.

Presbyterian Women

The women of Bethesda have been busy. In early March we had our 2nd pillowcase workshop. The finished pillowcases have been joyfully received by residents of Friend to Friend, Bethany House, Bethesda House, and Adult and Teen Challenge. The ladies have decided we like this mission so much we thought we should give ourselves a name. We're the "Bethesda's Christian Crafters". I would like to mention we do need fabric or donations for fabric. Please consider either giving to our mission or joining us at our next event. We don't have an exact date for our next event but it will be sometime in June or early July. Bring a friend and remember you don't have to know how to use a sewing machine. There are a lot of jobs that don't need prior skills.

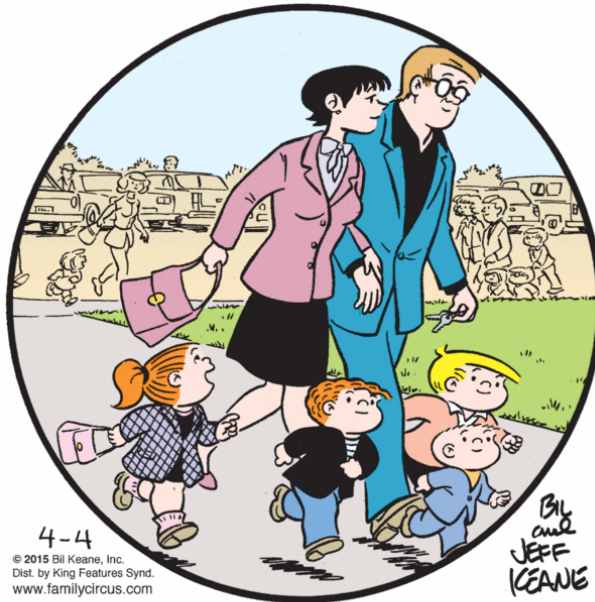
Gifts of Women Sunday will be the 7th of April. Hope to see you there. Our spring mission fund, The Birthday Offering will come up in May. On May 19th we'll conclude our campaign with a covered dish luncheon following the worship service.

Peace be with you,

Leslie Champion, Women's Moderator



Cartoon of the Month



“I like it when everyone in church sings about that Ollie Louya guy.”



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<https://bethesdapres.church>

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Sunday Schedule

9:15 Light fellowship breakfast

10:00 Sunday School for all ages

11:00 Worship Service

5:00 pm Youth Group

