



BETHESDA news



BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Mission of Bethesda United Methodist Church
By God's grace, to make disciples of Jesus Christ
through a loving community of faith and service.

Love. Love. Listen. Serve.

DECEMBER

2023

Worship Services

9:00am Connection Service is an informal service which includes a Bible-based message. The casual atmosphere and contemporary praise and worship music will broaden your definition of worship.

10:00am Sunday School classes are available for all ages. Deepen your relationship with Christ & influence in the world by knowing Scripture and giving it authority in your life.

11:00am Traditional Service includes choir anthems, hymns, and a traditional sermon.

Livestream Services are available through Facebook for the 11am service. To worship with us through livestream, go to <https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaumcpowdersville/> and wait for the livestream to start. You do not need a Facebook account to watch.

Past Sermons are available on our website.

*For a child has been born for us,
a son given unto us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6*



Sunday Worship Services

12/3 - First Sunday of Advent

12/10 - Second Sunday of Advent

12/17 - Third Sunday of Advent

12/24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

12/31 - First Sunday after Christmas Day
(John Wesley Covenant Service)



PERC

Piedmont Emergency Relief Center
is in need of the following items:



- Canned vegetables and fruits
(including canned or dried beans, potatoes, and yams)
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Soup
- Oatmeal and Grits
(Packets or small bags or canisters)
- Canned Pasta
(Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, etc.)
- Cereal
- Jelly
- Pancake Mix



Bethesda Youth Group



Merry Christmas! We've arrived at the most wonderful...and busy...time of year!! The Youth Room decorations are up, and you can't help but feel the Christmas spirit! I know this semester has been hectic for many of our students, so I'm excited for them as they inch closer to their holiday break. Our Christmas party date is still being decided in hopes of finding a date that works for everyone. Also on the list is Santahatchie which will be December 27th- 29th. This year we will be helping church members that need odd jobs done around their homes. We are so happy for the opportunity to serve our church family!

Use this link to sign up:

<https://forms.gle/K9zSdpPkaNkHi5kC9>

Please contact me or Marc Bloomer (864-419-2430) to sign up or if you have questions.

Through Him,
Charla

Charla Bloomer
Director of Youth Ministry
charlab@bethesdaumc.org/864-313-0992



December 27- 29th

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas and give thanks to God for the gift of His Son Jesus by helping someone in need! Santahatchie is like Salkehatchie, but instead of traveling, we work right here in our own community serving our church members.

No experience needed!

Register Now by scanning the QR below!

Youth ages 12 by December 27th
& Adult Volunteers Needed!

For more information,
contact Marc Bloomer at (864)419-2430.



Bethesda Children's Ministry



*When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. **Matthew 2:10***

December is here, and we are excited to be able to celebrate Jesus with our church family! Here's a look what we have coming up for the remainder of 2023:

Sunday, December 3, Children's Choir from 3-3:30:

Meet in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 3, Christmas Movie 3:30-5 pm in Room 113, lower level of Education Building:

We will watch "The Star" and have popcorn!

Wednesday, December 6 Children's Choir 6-7 pm:

Meet in the Sanctuary to practice for our December 10 presentation.

Sunday, December 10, Children's Choir "One Starry Night" at 10 am:

Join us at 10 am in the sanctuary for this sweet program at the beginning of the Sunday School hour. All children, those in the program and those attending, will meet in the gym after the program for a celebratory snack.

Sunday, December 10, "Winter Wonderland" from 3:30-5:

Join us in the Bethesda lower parking lot for S'mores, Hot Chocolate, Games, Crafts, and a "sleigh ride" through Mr. Cely's farm! Please park in the upper parking lot, as we will have the bottom lot blocked for safety reasons. All are welcome!

Sunday, December 10, God's Knights 2nd Sunday Dinner and Bible Study 5-6 pm:

God's Knights is for students aged 2nd-5th grade. We will study the Christmas story from the Bible, play a Christmas gift game, and eat lasagna!

Sunday, December 17- Sunday School at 9:30, One Worship at 10:30, Christmas Luncheon at 11:30:

This will be a special day! The choir's Cantata will be wonderful. And you won't want to miss our covered dish luncheon...and Santa's workshop!

Sunday, December 17 3-4 pm: Nativity Practice:

Children are invited to participate in a nativity in the Christmas Eve candlelight service at 5 pm on 12/24. We will meet in the Sanctuary for a short practice on 12/17 at 3 pm. Costumes are provided! Check out the sign-up genius and let me know if you need more info!

[Bethesda: Christmas Eve Nativity \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)

Sunday, December 24, Sunday School 9:30 am, One Worship at 10:30, Christmas Eve Service at 5 pm:

Children are invited to participate in the nativity scene at 5 pm.

Saturday, December 30, 11 am-1 pm in the FLC:

Children's New Years Eve party! We will have lunch, games and crafts to bring in 2024!

Sunday, December 31: One service at 10:30 am:

We will not have Sunday School or Sunday afternoon activities.

We hope that your family will be able to take part of some of these opportunities, and we pray that we will all be able to share in the joy of this special season. Let me know what questions you have and see you at church!

Erin Hiller

Director of Children's Ministry

erinhiller@bethesdaumc.org





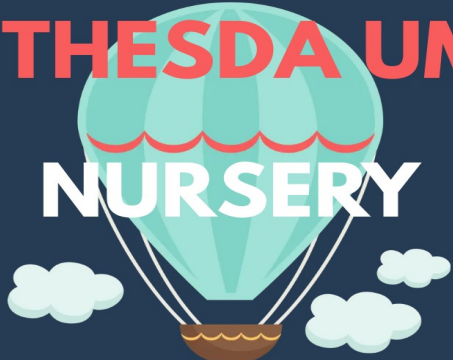
CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY SOON?

RENT OUR YARD SIGN & HELP SUPPORT OUTREACH PROJECTS IN OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES LIKE BETHESDAHATCHIE & VBS! SIGN IS DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME & PICKED UP THE NEXT DAY FOR \$20. CONTACT ERIN HILLER FOR MORE INFORMATION AT ERINHILLER@BETHESDAUMC.ORG.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

BETHESDA UMC

NURSERY



SCAN TO VOLUNTEER



PLEASE CONTACT ERIN HILLER FOR INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS

864-380-0299
erinhiller@bethesdaumc.org

Bethesda Children's Choir Presents



ONE STARRY NIGHT

10 DECEMBER

Join us at 10 am in the sanctuary for this sweet program. Sunday School will have plenty of time to meet after!

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Happy New Year!



12/24 at 5 PM

Christmas Eve Nativity


- Practice at 3 pm on 12/17
- Service at 5 PM on 12/24
- All children are invited to participate
- Costumes provided
- email Erin - erinhiller@bethesdaumc.org

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Realm is a cloud-based church management software solution that we use for our accounting & membership needs. You can manage your giving and print your giving statement at anytime.

WAYS TO JOIN

1. Contact the office
2. Text bethesdaumc to 73256
3. Scan the QR Code
4. Click the link




<https://onrealm.org/bethesdaumcsc>


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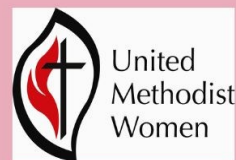
android chromecast iPhone & iPad Roku Apple TV firetv



All are invited to join the
Powdersville Garden Club

We meet 9-11am on the first Tuesday
of the month in the dining room.

Merry Christmas!



The United Methodist Women invite all ladies to join them!

The purpose of the UMW is to help women develop spiritually, to experience supportive fellowship with other women and to engage in mission to women, children and youth around the world.

The Mary-Martha Evening Circle meets in the parlor
at 7pm on the third Monday of each month.



SAM - Super Adult Ministry
sponsors exercise every
Tuesday & Thursday morning at 9am
in Class Rm 207/208.

We offer strength, aerobic, stretch &
Tai chi exercise classes. We now have
an elliptical & stationary bike for use
by anyone. Keeping active is the key
to good health!

Please feel free to attend &
participate as you are able.
Exercise promotes brain & body health.

Contact Betsy Zaglin (864-363-2843)
or betsyzaglin@yahoo.com

Did You Know?

Honorarium/Memorial donations honor those who serve
and who have faithfully served Bethesda during their lifetime.

As you honor our special servants, you can also support
God's work at Bethesda by marking your envelope or check memo,
"General Fund in honor/memory of" and name of the person to be
honored/remembered. Donating to the
general fund allows Bethesda UMC flexibility in using your
donation to support day-to-day church activities and obligations as
needed. Undesignated/unmarked Honorarium/Memorials will be as-
signed to the Building Fund.

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Did you know?.....

That if you are an IRA owner and age 70 ½ or over you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to Bethesda United Methodist Church that also qualifies as your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)?

You can choose to contribute/distribute **up to \$ 100,000 or \$ 200,000** for couples when both qualify, each year?

The QCD is not reported on your income tax return as taxable income, but you also do not receive a charitable deduction.

Since most folks cannot itemize now with the higher standard deduction – the deduction rule is not an issue. But as far as not reporting taxable income for the QCD, that can be really important.

Often the RMD that is taxable (and can be avoided with this method) causes additional negative effects on your tax return. Examples are taxability of up to 85% of your Social Security Benefits and tax rates for any Capital Gains and Qualified Dividends that are reported on your return.

What should you do? **Act soon!**

Ask your tax preparer to determine if this could help you save on your income taxes for 2023 and how much you could potentially save.

If you want to make the QCD, contact your financial advisor or the custodian of your IRA to make the request. This must be a direct transfer from the IRA to the Church in order to qualify.

Should you have questions about this idea, how to report the QCD on your tax return so it is not taxed or how to work with your financial advisor or IRA to make the QCD, feel free to call Renita Owens at 864-420-8405. Please leave a message and she will get back to you as soon as possible.

December Birthday Blessings

1– Wilton Raad, Brent Ebert, Jack Galgay
2– Hanne Massie, Cassidy Wagner
3– Frank Baker, Penny Wesley,
4– Danny Evans
5– Mary Jo King
6– June Fowler, Phillip Stout
7– Jean James, Mike Faulkner
9– Robin Johnson, Brandon New
10– Kyleigh Haire
12– Bob Nisbet, Marie Mitchell
13– Chris Reller, Megan Ryon
16– David Parisi
17– David Spoon, Hannah Holcombe,
Stephanie Smith

18– Lynn Hicks, Charles Holcombe, William Walls,
Michael Walls, Tasha Owens
19– Ray Evette
20– Prissy Holcombe
21– Jill Tompkins
22– David Sudbeck, Kevin Clarey, Sue Stout,
Jim Carroll
23– Tracy Davis
24– Caroline Walls
25– Tallie Blackwell, Frances Brooks
27– Kaycie Richardson, Wyatt Walls
28– Marie Unikas
29– Jimmy McGarity, Jan Anderson, Sam Stanfield

MEMORIALS

In Memory of John Harrison III

Kathy McCurdy
June Bilka
Ed & Sarah Corbin
Mike & Barbara Holmes
Peggy & Jay Simpson
Linda Jones
Harry & Mary Helen Ragland

In Memory of John & Yvonne Harrison

Mark & Paula Raymond

In Memory of Cassar & Helen Cook

Dennis & Linda Cook

In Memory of Jack & Wilma Groce

Dennis & Linda Cook

In Memory of Roger Jaudon

Irene Cely Class

In Memory of Tammy Rackley

Dan & Katy Driscoll



THE BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHANCEL CHOIR

presents

“CAROLS: A CANTATA FOR CONGREGATION AND CHOIR”

by Heather Sorenson

Sunday, December 17, 2023

10:30 AM

followed by

Churchwide Christmas Lunch
Family Life Center

Members are asked to bring generous portions of sides and desserts.

On December 17th the Bethesda Chancel Choir will present an exciting and joyous Christmas Cantata: “Carols: A Cantata for Congregation and Choir”. This year the congregation will be asked to join us as we sing some of our most treasured Christmas Carols. Christmas is the season of joy and what better way to express joy than through singing? Nothing warms our hearts more than the familiar carols and songs of the season. What a glorious day as every voice in the sanctuary will be united as one as we raise our voices high to worship and honor the birth of our blessed Savior and King, Jesus Christ.

A Meditation on Holidays and Thankfulness

Hannah Peirce

Often, I have heard the sentiment that Christmas has become too commercialized and that people are forgetting the meaning of Christmas. I have met people who refuse to celebrate Christmas, focusing instead on Thanksgiving as "the holiday meant for thanking God." As I pondered on this recently, I realized that most holidays we celebrate revolve in some way around being thankful to God. Easter is a holiday thanking God for the sacrifice of His Son and the gift of our salvation. Thanksgiving is an expression of thankfulness for the harvest God has given us. On Christmas, we give thanks for the gift of His Son, the hope that came with Him, and we give gifts to show our thankfulness for our family and community. Even non-Christian holidays at their root are celebrations of a gift He has given us. On New Year's Eve, we remember the gifts He gave us in the last year and look forward to the gift of a new year. On Valentine's Day, we celebrate His gift of love and marriage. On Mother's and Father's Day, we celebrate the gift of parenthood. On the Fourth of July, we celebrate God's gift of freedom. On wedding anniversaries, we celebrate the bond of marriage, a picture of God's faithfulness and love for us. And on birthdays, we celebrate God's gift of life. As I move through 2024, I want to be more thankful and to remember that each celebration is an opportunity to reflect on and to thank God for a gift he has given to me.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. James 1:17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? Luke 11:13

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

That every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God. Ecclesiastes 3:13



MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY

Powdersville Family Practice

**Parked at Bethesda United Methodist Church
516 Piedmont Rd Easley, SC 29642**

Eligibility...

- Females ages 40 and older who are due for the annual screening mammogram
- Females who are ages 35-40 and are needing their baseline mammogram
- 2D and 3D Mammography available
- Patients must be able to walk up the coach stairs and must be able to stand unassisted
- Patients MUST bring photo ID and insurance card to appointment

pearlie harris
Center for Breast Health

2024 DATES

Mar 05

Apr 16

Jun 18

Aug 13

Nov 12

**To schedule call:
864-675-4875**

***Tell the scheduler that
you would like to be
scheduled on the Mobile
at Powdersville Family
Practice at Bethesda.**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
516 PIEDMONT ROAD
EASLEY, SC 29642-9376



www.bethesdaumc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Ph: 864-269-1139



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CHURCH STAFF

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Judy Grant: Choir Director, jcegrant131@gmail.com

Erin Hiller: Director of Children's Ministries, erinhiller@bethesdaumc.org

Hannah Peirce: Administrative Secretary, mariem@bethesdaumc.org

Vera Stanfield: Organist, verasmusic31@gmail.com

CHURCH LEADERS

Church Council: Bill Baker, bill.baker@furman.edu

Board of Trustees: Keith Hiller, khiller@prattindustries.com

Finance Committee: Renita Owens, renitax.6@gmail.com

Lay Leader: Bradley Gantt, blgantt@charter.net

Staff Parish Relations: Judy Caldwell, jpcaldwell@charter.net

SAM Senior Adult Ministry Leader: Betsy Zaglin, Betsyzaglin@yahoo.com

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United Methodist Women: Margaret Baker, mcb5274@gmail.com

Rev. Mike Cox, Retired Minister

Rev. Murray Snow, Retired Minister