



## BETHANY BEACON

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A monthly newsletter of Bethany United Methodist Church, Summerville, South Carolina

**September 2025 Volume 8**

### *From the Pastor*

**James 4:7** Offer yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

One of the greatest stories of the Bible is David and Goliath. It's such a good story, in fact, that the world has come to make common use of it! A prime example of this is when the underdog faces an invincible champion in just about any sport on national television, commentators always seem to make mention of David and Goliath.

Imagine the scene at the time of David. The children of Israel were small compared to the Philistines. And here they are faced with this enormously frightening giant, Goliath, champion of the Philistines.

All the Israelites shook in their sandals, saying, Goliath's too big for us to hit. All but one — young little David. Instead of fearing Goliath's enormity, David saw his size to be an advantage! He said, on the contrary — Goliath is too big to miss! That day, David became a hero for the Israelites and his name would be remembered well — even to this day.

It all depends on our point of view — the way we see our circumstances. We can either walk in doubt, asking, "Can God do this thing?" or walk in faith, proclaiming, "God surely will!"

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We all have some scary Goliaths to face in our lives. You may be facing one right now. The church is also not immune to the Goliaths in life. There are many hurdles that are before us at Bethany. How are we going to face these? Hurdles such as our finances, cooks for Bethany Now, volunteers for Living Christmas Story, crafts for the Market, taking care of our beautiful building, and the future are just a few to name. My belief is — have faith, my friend! In our greatest distresses God wants to show Himself powerful! There is so much we can accomplish through God who strengthens us. We just have to have faith and be bold in our actions.

A funny story was told from a visitor at a zoo about his experience there. "As I stood there," he said, "an attendant entered the cage through a door on the opposite side. He had nothing in his hands but a broom. Carefully closing the door, he proceeded to sweep the floor of the cage." He observed that the worker had no weapon to ward off an attack by the beast. In fact, when he got to the corner of the cage where the wildcat was lying, he poked the animal with the broom. The wildcat hissed at him and then lay down in another corner of the enclosure.

The visitor remarked to the attendant, "You certainly are a brave man."  
"No, I ain't brave," he replied as he continued to sweep.  
"Well, then, that cat must be tame."  
"No," came the reply, "he ain't tame."  
"If you aren't brave and the wildcat isn't tame, then I can't understand why he doesn't attack you."  
The attendant chuckled, then replied with an air of confidence, "Mister, he's old — and he ain't got no teeth."

Such is the devil in our lives when we realize that God is for us! We should be like the attendant. He knew that cat couldn't hurt a fly. Evil will make a big ruckus, fussing and growling all it wants, but we need to keep our eyes focused on our Lord. We can slay the Goliaths together with our God who loves us so!

Are you being growled at today? Are you ready to face the giants in your life? The giants would love nothing more than to make us feel powerless against them — but "they ain't got no teeth" next to our Lord! Let's turn to God and put our trust in Him. If God is for us, who can be against us?! Happy Fall, y'all!!!

## *Bethany NOW*

### ***Threads of Grace***

**Room 119**

**Led by Nancy Wiley**

A welcoming class for anyone interested in knitting or crocheting—whether you're just starting out or have years of experience. You'll learn or build on your skills in a supportive and creative environment. As part of the class, you'll also have the chance to join our Prayer Shawl Team, creating handmade shawls that bring comfort and care to those in need.

### ***Plarning: Crafting with a Purpose***

**4-week class**

**Room 122**

**Led by Janet Crain**

This class introduces you to the creative and eco-friendly art of turning plastic bags into "plarn" (plastic yarn). In this hands-on class, you'll learn how to cut, connect, and crochet or knit plarn into useful items like sleeping mats for those in need. No experience is necessary—just bring your willingness to learn and help the environment while making a difference in your community.

### ***Seven Deadly Sins***

**7 week class**

**Room 118**

**Led by Rev. Isaac Dusenbury**

Join us for a transformative 7-week Bible study, [The Seven Deadly Sins](#), as we explore how God's Word confronts the destructive patterns of pride, envy, anger, sloth, greed, gluttony and lust. Each week offers practical guidance and spiritual insight to help us break free and live in the freedom Christ provides.

Wednesday Nights  
Beginning September 10  
Supper begins at 5 pm  
Children's Activities start at 6 pm  
Classes for others start at 6:15 pm

## **Invitation to Psalms**

### **Friendship Circle Room**

#### **Led by Rev. Michael Ritter**

This course provides a clear and engaging introduction to the Book of Psalms, one of the most treasured books in the Old Testament. It invites participants to explore the Psalms' powerful language, vivid imagery, and deep spiritual themes through thoughtful reading and discussion.

## **Creative Sewing**

### **Room 127**

#### **Led by Penny Limehouse**

A relaxed and welcoming group for anyone who enjoys crafting, no matter the skill level or project type. Whether you're mending, crafting, or creating something entirely new, bring your work-in-progress and enjoy a time of creativity and connection. This group is all about fellowship—sharing ideas, encouraging one another, and enjoying the joy of making things together.

## **Gym Activities**

### **Gym**

#### **Led by a potpourri of fitness enthusiasts**

Join us each week in the gym for a lively mix of activities designed to keep you moving and connected. A rotating schedule includes yoga, pickleball, volleyball and basketball- perfect for all skill levels. Come for the exercise, stay for the fun and fellowship! Open to adults 19 and up; please no children.

### **September Gym Activities**

Sept. 10 Pickleball

Sept. 17 Yoga

Sept. 24 Basketball

## **Youth (6th – 12th grades) Activities**

6:00-6:45 Youth Choir Practice Spell Chapel

6:15- 7:30 Small Group Youth House

A dynamic youth program that blends small groups, mission projects, and fun events to build faith, friendships, and a heart for serving others.

## **Kids (ages 4 by Sept. 1, 2025 – 5th grade) Activities**

### **6:00 – 6:45**

4-year-olds - Kindergarten

Cherub Choir Practice - Room 233

1st – 2nd Grade

Melody Choir Practice - Sanctuary **or**

Bible Adventures - Room 124

3rd – 5th Grade

Crafting Faith - Art Room 121

### **6:45 – 7:30**

4-year-olds - 2nd Graders

Crafting Faith - Art Rom 121

3rd – 5th Grade

Wesley Choir Practice - Sanctuary **or**

Bible Adventures - Room 124

*All children should be signed into their first activity.*

*Volunteers will walk them to their second activity and children can be picked up promptly at 7:30 pm from there.*

*A nursery is available for children under 4.*

## **Dinner Costs**

\$9 Adults

\$7 Seniors 65 & Older

\$5 Kids 12 & under

\$25 Family Max (immediate family)

## **September Menu**

Sept. 10 Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread

Sept. 17 Taco Bar

Sept. 24 Chicken Bog

# Happy Hearts Luncheon



## Happy Hearts Luncheon

**Friday, September 26**

### Featuring The Charleston Sound Chorus

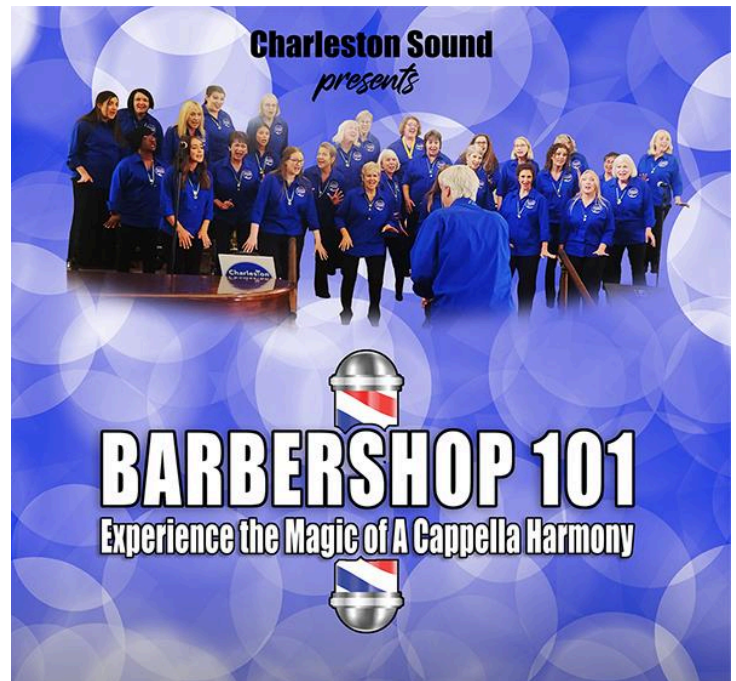
Join us for a dynamic performance by The Charleston Sound Chorus, a female barbershop a cappella ensemble and proud member of Sweet Adelines International. Under the expert direction of David Templeton, they blend exceptional vocal technique with rich musicality to deliver captivating performances complete with costume and makeup.

This program, Barbershop 101, will trace the history of barbershop music from its beginnings at the turn of the 20th century to today. The group will also explain what makes a song barbershop rather than simply a cappella. Lunch will be served at 12 pm and will include a delicious HoneyBaked sandwich, chips, a cookie, and tea—all for just \$8.00.

## Reservations are due by September 21.

To reserve your meal, call Helen at 843.771.3979 (please leave a message with your full name) or email her at [rooneyjrclan@mac.com](mailto:rooneyjrclan@mac.com).

Doors open at 11 am for coffee and fellowship before lunch. All ages are welcome—bring a friend and enjoy uplifting music, great food, and friendly company!



## Get Connected

### Free Streaming Resources Available to You!

Bethany is excited to provide our members with free access to two incredible streaming platforms filled with Bible studies, devotionals, podcasts, and more —

**RightNow Media** and **Amplify Media**.

To explore Amplify, visit

<https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify> and enter our congregation code: SFGRVP.

To sign up for RightNow Media, go to

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/bethany-umc>.

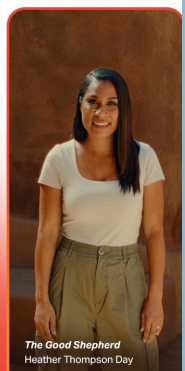
These tools are a great way to grow in your faith anytime, anywhere!



rightnow MEDIA

## A Free Gift from Our Church

Free Access to +25,000 Bible Study Videos—  
Anytime, Anywhere, from Any Device





# Get Connected

## Bethany Gift & Gourmet Market –

**October 19–26**

### Fellowship Hall

It's almost time for one of Bethany's most anticipated traditions—the **Bethany Gift & Gourmet Market!** This year's Market will be open for a full week, offering you more opportunities than ever to shop for unique gifts, delicious homemade food, and one-of-a-kind treasures.

Our talented crafters have been hard at work creating items ranging from Christmas ornaments and handcrafted wooden pieces to handmade doll clothes. You'll also find tables filled with homemade desserts, frozen and refrigerated casseroles, and beloved favorites like June's Chicken Salad, homemade pimento cheese, and sandwich-style chicken salad—all available in bulk.

Be sure to stop by the baked goods tables, where you'll find cakes, pies, cookies, and treats whole and by the slice. It's the perfect chance to stock your freezer with dinner and dessert or pick up thoughtful, homemade gifts for friends and family.

### Market Dates & Hours:

- Friday, Saturday, and both Sundays:  
9 am–2 pm
- Monday–Thursday: 12 pm–6 pm

These new extended hours are designed so that everyone—including those who work during the day—can take part in supporting the Market.

You can start preparing now! If you enjoy crafting, baking, or cooking, begin working on your creations for the Market. Wrap casseroles and baked goods well and place them in the freezer so they'll be ready to share in October. Every contribution makes a difference!

We also need volunteers to help with serving in the kitchen and Market areas. Watch for more details on how you can pitch in.

Every purchase you make supports missions right here in our community, such as Hands of Christ school supplies, as well as many other local agencies. When you shop at the Market, you're not just taking home something special—you're making a difference.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us October 19–26 for the Bethany Gift & Gourmet Market!

**October 19<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>**

# Gift & Gourmet MARKET



**Handmade Crafts • Homemade Casseroles • Baked Goods**

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday - Thursday</b><br>12pm - 6pm | <b>Friday - Sunday</b><br>9am - 2pm |
|--|-------------------------------------|

 **BETHANY UMC**



### Join us for a Fun-Filled Labor Day Picnic!

Bring your family and enjoy an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun at our annual Labor Day Picnic! For just \$5 per person, you'll enjoy a delicious grilled meal with all the fixin's and great entertainment. Beat the heat indoors in the cool A/C of the Fellowship Hall on Labor Day, Monday, **September 1**, starting at 4:30pm.



### Bethany Quilters Open House

The Bethany Quilters invite you to an Open House on Sunday, **September 21**, in Room 235, 15 minutes before and after Sunday School. Come see their beautiful projects, learn more about the services they provide, and enjoy light refreshments.



## Get Connected



### Blessing of the Animals

Bring your furry friend, feathered companion, or scaly critter and join us for our annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, **September 28**, at 3pm in Azalea Park.

This special service is a wonderful way to celebrate God's creatures, give thanks for the pets who bless our lives, and lift up prayers for their health and happiness.

Even if you don't currently have a pet—or if you've participated in past years—we encourage you to be part of this tradition! Dorchester Paws, offers a simple program where you can check a dog out for the day or a few hours. It's a great opportunity to give these dogs a much-needed break from shelter life and share in this joyful community gathering.

So, grab your lawn chair, bring your beloved pet (or a new four-legged friend from Dorchester Paws), and join us for this meaningful afternoon of fellowship and blessing!

# Get Connected

## Women's Retreat 2026 –

### Finding Joy in the Journey

We are thrilled to invite you to a brand-new Women's Retreat for the Bethany community, a weekend designed to refresh your spirit and deepen your faith. Centered around the uplifting theme "Finding Joy in the Journey," this retreat will be a time to pause, reflect, and discover how God's joy is present in every step of our lives.

Throughout the weekend, we'll explore important questions together: What helps us claim joy? What keeps us from experiencing joy? Using stories from Scripture, we'll reflect on how God faithfully transforms mourning into joy. Whether you've been feeling weary, hopeful, or somewhere in between, this retreat offers a sacred opportunity for genuine fellowship, meaningful conversations, and spiritual encouragement.

The retreat will be held **February 6–8, 2026** at St. Christopher Camp & Conference Center on Seabrook Island. With time for worship, study, rest, and laughter, it promises to be a life-giving weekend away where you can reconnect with God and with one another.

#### Retreat Details:

- Price includes 4 meals, lodging, and retreat supplies
  - Double Occupancy: \$225
  - Triple Occupancy: \$205
  - Quad Occupancy: \$195
- Early Registration ends December 15 (add \$10 after this date)
- Open to all Bethany women, 18 & up
- If cost is a factor, please contact Emily Vick – we don't want finances to prevent anyone from attending!

**Registration opens September 14.** Look for registration forms and an online link—and don't wait too long, as space is limited!

We can't wait to share this journey with you and discover together the joy God has in store.



## SUNDAY school

### Find Your Place in Sunday School

Sunday School is one of the best ways to grow in faith and in friendship. At Bethany, we have classes for all ages, with nine adult classes ranging in age groups and teaching styles. Sunday School offers the chance to build meaningful connections, study God's Word together, and form lasting friendships. Classes meet every Sunday from 9:45–10:45 am. For more details, please see the Sunday School brochure for information and class locations.

We are excited to announce the launch of a brand-new Sunday School class: Friends in Faith & Fellowship! This class is designed especially for those in the empty nest and beyond stage of life who are seeking meaningful community, spiritual growth, and opportunities to share life together.

The class will meet in Room 236 each Sunday morning. Lessons will be video-based with engaging discussion, offering a balance of teaching and conversation as we explore God's Word and how it applies to everyday life. Sunday School is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen relationships with God and with one another—because faith truly grows best when we walk the journey together.



## Missions



Our Local Missions Team would like to thank each and every one of you who gave so generously to our Hands of Christ Outreach! Because of your donations of book bags, supplies, and monetary gifts, we were able to deliver 56 boxes of supplies to 27 schools in our community! So many book bags were donated that we plan to deliver more to schools in January! What a blessing!

Together, we are living out our call to be the hands and feet of Christ, making a difference in the lives of so many students. May God continue to bless each of you for your generosity and kindness!



**Epworth**  
Children's Home

### Support Epworth on September 14

How Can We Help? Epworth provides care for children and families in our community who have experienced trauma through abuse, neglect, and loss. This care helps break destructive cycles and sets them on a better path. On Sunday, September 14, our congregation will support Epworth by collecting the Annual Epworth Work Day Offering. Your gift—through the envelope in the bulletin or online at [www.epworthsc.org/donate](http://www.epworthsc.org/donate)—partners with Epworth to provide spiritual, educational, emotional, and physical support to the children, youth, and families they serve.

**For more information, visit [www.epworthsc.org](http://www.epworthsc.org).**

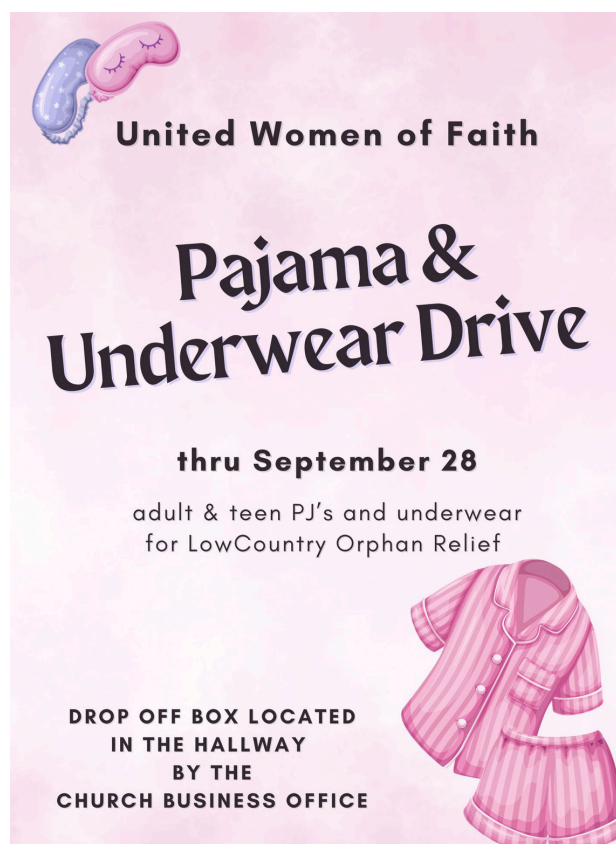


### Katie's Krops Desserts Needed!

We are in need of individually wrapped homemade desserts to be paired with Katie's Krops meals on **September 18** for the hungry in the local area. Please deliver to the Business Office by Thursday, **September 18 no later than 11 am.**



Please scan the QR code to sign up for a spot. Thank you for your help with this ministry.



### Bethany Blessing Box – Running Low!

The Blessing Box is a vital resource for our community and relies entirely on donations. Right now, it's running low! Please consider giving a monetary donation, picking up a "buy one, get one" item on your next grocery trip, or sharing extras from your pantry. Donations can be placed in the Blessing Box or dropped off at the church office. Thank you for helping us serve those in need!





# Children's Ministries

BY EMILY VICK

## Be a Part of Something Life-Changing – Join Our Bridges Ministry Team

Our Bridges Special Needs Ministry is one of the most meaningful and impactful parts of our church family. Each week, this ministry opens doors for children with special needs to learn, grow, and experience God's love in ways that meet them right where they are.

We currently offer a class during our 8:30 & 11:00 worship services and during Sunday School, creating safe and welcoming spaces for children to connect and thrive.

In addition, Bridges hosts a monthly Respite Night—a beautiful opportunity to bless families by giving parents some much-needed time to rest and recharge while their children are cared for in a loving, supportive environment.

To keep this vital ministry thriving, we need more helping hands and hearts. Volunteers are needed in the Bridges room during worship, Sunday School, and Respite Nights. The requirements are simple: no special training is needed—just a love for children and a patient, compassionate heart.

This is your chance to make a true difference, not only in the lives of these amazing kids, but also in the lives of their families. Imagine the joy of knowing you helped a child feel included, or gave a parent the gift of peace and rest.

We invite you to prayerfully consider stepping into this ministry. Your time and kindness can have an eternal impact. If you would like to join the Bridges team or learn more, please reach out to **Jennifer Horres at 843.425.2260.**

Together, we can continue to be a church that builds bridges of love, hope, and inclusion.

## One More Kindergarten Sunday School Teacher Urgently Needed

Our Kindergarten Sunday School class is overflowing with energy, curiosity, and joy—and we need one more teacher to help nurture these precious children in their faith journey.

You won't be alone! The Kindergarten group is a team of four, serving on a rotating schedule so you are not teaching every week. All lessons and supplies are fully prepared for you—all you need to bring is your love for children and your willingness to share God's Word.

This is a wonderful opportunity to make a lasting difference in the lives of our youngest learners. Just imagine the impact of helping a child take their very first steps in faith!

We need to fill this role as soon as possible so our team is complete. If you have questions or feel God nudging you to serve, please contact Emily Vick today.

Together, we can provide the love, care, and teaching our children deserve.



# Children's Ministries

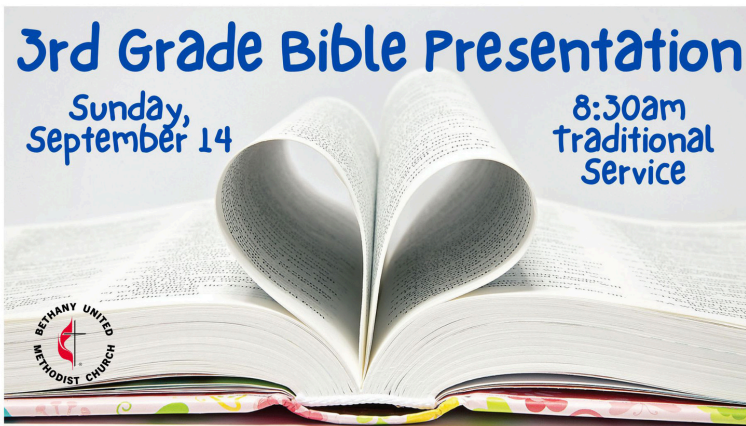
## Third Grade Bible Presentation –

3rd Graders and their families are invited to join us for a special bible presentation. A special Sunday School class will follow the service giving the kids an introduction to their Bible and tips for using it everyday.

**Sunday, September 14**

**8:30 Traditional service**

Please use the link below or contact Emily Vick at [evick@bethany-umc.com](mailto:evick@bethany-umc.com) if you would like to participate. <https://bethanyumc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/540/responses/new>



## Mark Your Calendars

- **October 26** – All three choirs sing at the 8:30 worship service
- **December 10** – Melody and Wesley Choirs sing at the Advent Service
- **December 24** – All three choirs sing at the 5:00 Christmas Eve service
- Word & Table worship dates will be added soon



Being part of a choir is about so much more than singing—it's about praising God, learning the joy of worship, and making lasting memories. We would love for your child to be a part of this wonderful ministry. For more information about joining the Children's Choirs, please contact Reagan Lord or Barbara Bassett.

## Help Us Shape the Future!

At Bethany, we believe our children are not only the future of the church—they are a vital part of the church today. Our Children's Ministries Team (CMT) plays a key role in making ministry with kids meaningful, fun, and faith-filled.

The CMT is made up of volunteers who work alongside our Children's Ministries staff to plan, organize, and serve at events throughout the year. From weekly Sunday School to special events like Fall Festival, Vacation Bible School, and more, this team helps bring our vision for children's ministry to life.

We are looking for new voices, fresh ideas, and willing hands to join us in this important work. Whether you're gifted in planning, teaching, decorating, or simply loving kids well, there is a place for you on the team.

Our next meeting will be **Sunday, September 7** at 4 pm in the Conference Room. We'd love for you to come and see how you can be part of creating joyful, faith-growing experiences for our children.

Together, let's make Children's Ministries exciting and impactful for every child who walks through our doors!



**Children's Sabbath**

**Sunday, October 26, 2025**

## Lift Every Voice – Join Our Children's Choirs!

Music is one of the most beautiful ways children can worship, grow in faith, and share their gifts with others. At Bethany, our Children's Choirs are a joyful part of church life, helping kids learn the importance of music in worship while building confidence, friendships, and a love for singing.

We have a choir for every age:

- **Cherub Choir** – for 4-year-olds & Kindergarteners
- **Melody Choir** – for 1st & 2nd graders
- **Wesley Choir** – for 3rd–5th graders

Choir practices are held on **Wednesday evenings**, and each group has exciting opportunities to lead in worship this fall and winter.



## Faith Over Fear: Embracing New Beginnings with Courage and Compassion

As the school year begins to find its rhythm, September greets us with a flurry of movement—morning routines, afternoons at KidsCare, and evenings spent rushing to practices, rehearsals, and family dinners. For many of our children, especially our precious Kindergarteners and those new to KidsCare or Dorchester District Two schools, this season can feel overwhelming. There are moments of anxiety, quiet tears, and the understandable discomfort that comes with stepping into something unfamiliar.

But in these tender moments, we are reminded of a powerful truth: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."* — Proverbs 3:5

This verse anchors us. It encourages us to set aside our limited perspective and instead place our trust in the One who sees the full picture. When we lean into God's promises, we are equipped to extend grace, patience, and comfort—not just to our students, but to each other.

Starting something new is never easy. Think back to a time when you faced the unknown new job, a big move, becoming a parent, or simply entering a room where you didn't know anyone. Remember how it felt? The nerves, the questions, the what ifs? And yet, somehow, with courage and God's steady hand, you made it through.

That same God walks beside each of our children today. Let us cover our school community in prayer this month:

**For our students** – that they may be filled with courage, that they feel safe and seen, and that they are reminded daily that they are not alone.

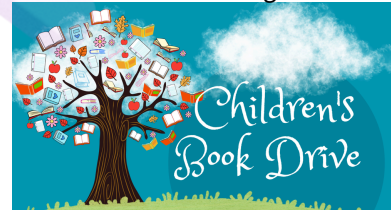
**For our teachers and administrators** – for renewed strength, wisdom, and a sense of purpose in every interaction.

**For our KidsCare staff and volunteers** – that they would be instruments of peace, joy, and patience as they guide little hearts each day.

**For our parents and guardians** – that they would find encouragement and community as they walk this journey alongside their children.

## Help Us Grow Our KidsCare Library

Reading is such a vital part of a child's development, and at KidsCare, we strive to foster a love for books and learning in every student. We are currently seeking gently used short chapter books to add to our library for our more experienced readers. If you have books at home that your children have outgrown, consider blessing another child by donating them to our collection. Every book is a new adventure waiting to be discovered.



## Scarecrows on the Square: Jonah's Journey

We're excited to share that KidsCare is once again participating in the beloved Scarecrows on the Square event in Hutchinson Square this October! Our theme this year is: "God had a plan for Jonah — He has one for you, too." This story reminds us that no matter where we go or what we face, God's plans are always greater than our own. It's a joy to bring this message to our community in such a fun and creative way. All proceeds from this event go towards the JSL of Summerville's School Supply Fund, supporting Dorchester School Districts 2 and 4. What a blessing to both celebrate and give back.

If you would love to learn more about KidsCare—whether it's how to enroll a student, become a part of our team, or volunteer your time and talents, we would love to hear from you! Partnering with families and our church community is at the heart of what we do, and we are always excited to welcome new faces into our KidsCare family. Please don't hesitate to reach out:

Makala Boczkowski - Director

Debra Trimeloni - Assistant Director

Phone: 854-429-1842

Email: [Kidscare@bethany-umc.com](mailto:Kidscare@bethany-umc.com)

Together, we are planting seeds of faith, courage, and compassion—one child at a time.





September will be an exciting month at Bethany CDC! God has blessed our school ministry with wonderful teachers, students, and families. The children are enjoying the new school year! They are making new friends and learning many new things. This month we will start having art classes, music classes and chapel. We will have our CDC parent night, fall pictures, and our kindergarten class will take their first field trip of the year.

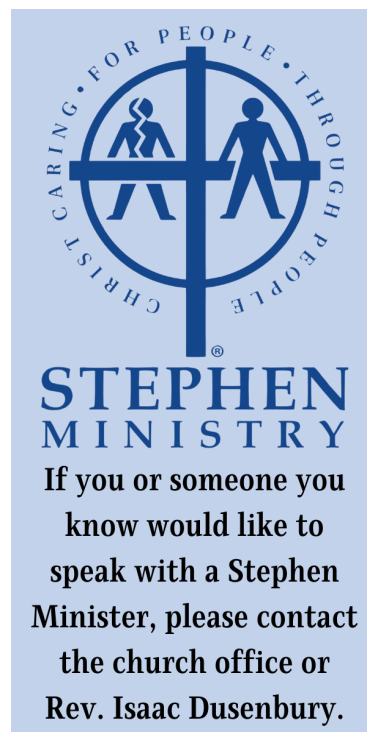
As we go through our days in the CDC, we are guided by the words of Jesus: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35. It is truly an honor to care for every child in our program and to share the love of Jesus with them. If you would like to learn more about our preschool or kindergarten program, please contact Toni Pinkard in the CDC office at 843-821-1946 or [tpinkard@bethany-umc.com](mailto:tpinkard@bethany-umc.com).



## *Stephen Ministries*

### **Become a Stephen Minister! A Call to Care**

What motivates you to pursue Stephen Ministry training? Make a difference, extend help, or seize the opportunity to learn? If these reasons resonate with you, kindly submit your application today! You may obtain the forms from the church kiosks or call Pastor Isaac at 843.873.1230 or text or call Brenda Byrd at 912.674.8314.





# Ministry Spotlight

Beginning this month, Bethany will feature a monthly “Ministry Spotlight” to highlight the many ways our church serves and connects with people of all ages. With so many wonderful ministries, missions, and programs happening at Bethany, we don’t want you to miss out on opportunities to grow, serve, and be part of our community.

This month’s spotlight shines on Adult Activities—a ministry offering fellowship, fun, and meaningful connections for adults of all ages. Church life is about more than Sunday mornings—it’s also about building friendships, finding joy, and sharing life together.

At Bethany, we have a variety of adult groups and activities designed to help you connect with others outside of classes and studies. Whether you enjoy food, music, crafts, games, or service, there’s a place for you!

**Happy Hearts – Gather on the 4th Friday of each month** for a delicious lunch and delightful entertainment.

From musical acts to speakers—even a strolling accordion player—you never know what’s in store! Cost is just \$8, and reservations are due by the Sunday prior. RSVP to Helen Rooney at 843.771.3979 or [rooneyjrclan@mac.com](mailto:rooneyjrclan@mac.com).

**Men of Bethany – Men’s group meets the 3rd Monday** of each month for a hearty steak dinner (\$15), fellowship, and mission opportunities. It’s a great way to connect with other men while serving together. Contact Rodney McKanna at [chiefnoid1@aol.com](mailto:chiefnoid1@aol.com) for details.

**United Women of Faith** – Connecting and nurturing women through spiritual growth, mission, education, and fellowship. Bethany has five circles meeting on various days and times each month. For information, contact Joan Naugle at [joannaugle3@gmail.com](mailto:joannaugle3@gmail.com).

## **Quilting Group – Meeting every Tuesday**

from 9am–1pm in Room 235, this group creates beautiful quilts for the Gift & Gourmet Market and also works on commissioned pieces. For a nominal cost, they can put together a quilt for you, with all proceeds supporting Bethany missions. Be sure to check out their work at this year’s Market!

## **Bridge Group – Meets every Wednesday at 8:30 am**

in the Friendship Circle Room. Players of all abilities are welcome—they’ll even teach you the game! Come for fun, fellowship, and a few tasty treats.

**Creative Sewing** – If you love crafting of any kind, this group is for you! Bring your projects—sewing, knitting, cross-stitch, or crafts—and enjoy time together. They meet on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm in Room 127, working on items for the Market, group creations, or personal projects.

No matter your interest, there’s a group waiting to welcome you. Take a step beyond Sunday morning worship and discover the joy of friendship, creativity, and community here at Bethany!



# Youth Ascend

BY KYLE BOCZKOWSKI

This past month, Student Ministries kicked off the new school year with a splash at our Kickoff Bash—a wet and wild night filled with laughter, community, and a little friendly competition. Students enjoyed an obstacle course and dunk tank, which even saw brave appearances from Pastors Ritter and Dusenbury, along with several of our youth leaders. A huge thank you goes out to our incredible “Dad Crew” for manning the grill and to all the volunteers who helped make the night such a memorable success.

We also hosted our annual Parent Panel, giving parents a chance to connect with ministry leaders and hear more about what’s ahead this year. Meanwhile, students jumped right into our first two ASCEND Sunday Nights of the season, where we’ve begun a four-week series tackling the topic of friendships—a subject that speaks directly into the everyday lives of our middle and high school students.

To wrap up August, we took a group to the U.S. National Whitewater Rafting Center in Charlotte, NC, which was a highlight for many and a powerful way to grow closer together as a community.

Looking ahead, September is shaping up to be one of our busiest and most exciting months yet! We’ve got trips planned to Topgolf and Carowinds, plus three more great nights of ASCEND. Our ministry is experiencing not only growth in numbers but also a sense of spiritual revival.

If your student hasn’t been involved recently—or if they’ve never been part of Student Ministries before—now is the perfect time to jump in! We’d love to see them experience the fun, faith, and friendships God is building here.





# Recreational Ministries

BY KYLE BOCZKOWSKI

Fall is in full swing here at Bethany, and our Recreation Ministry is buzzing with activity!

Our Fall Volleyball season is underway, and we are thrilled to share that nearly 90 girls are participating this year—a new record for the program! Coach Abby Whitworth is once again leading the way, supported by an energetic team of college students who bring excitement and encouragement each week. Players practice one evening during the week and gather on Saturday mornings for games. It's a joy to see so many students learning, growing, and competing in such a positive environment.

Meanwhile, our weekly golf outing continues to be a great time of fellowship and fun. We meet on Mondays at 3pm at Summerville Country Club. If you'd like to join, simply arrive by 2:30 pm to sign up and be paired with a group. The cost to play is \$22, and all skill levels are welcome.

Looking ahead, we're especially excited to announce our first-ever Member-Guest Golf Tournament on Saturday, November 15 at Summerville Country Club. Each Bethany member will have the opportunity to play alongside a guest. The day will include door prizes, fellowship, and awards for both low gross and low net teams. This tournament is not only a chance to enjoy the game but also a wonderful opportunity to invite someone outside of our church family to experience the fun and community of Bethany.

We're also thrilled to share that Bethany Now will include Recreation opportunities this fall! On a rotating schedule, we'll offer Yoga, Basketball, and Volleyball (check the BNOW schedule for details). And don't forget—our workout room, which has been upgraded over the last year, is always open to Bethany members for use throughout the week.

And finally, a big date to mark on your calendar—Bethany Basketball registration will open the week of Labor Day for members. Keep an eye out for a churchwide email with all the details.

Thank you to everyone who participates, volunteers, and supports our recreation programs. These opportunities for fellowship and activity are such a blessing to our Bethany family and community!



The flyer features a background image of a golf course with trees. At the top right is the Summerville Country Club logo. A large white circle in the center contains the text "BETHANY MEMBER GUEST GOLF TOURNAMENT" in orange. Below this, a circular photo shows three men standing together, one holding a sign that says "BETHANY". Text below the photo reads: "Two Person Teams", "One Bethany Member and One Guest", "18 Holes - Captains Choice and Best Ball", "Net and Gross Winners", and "Lunch and Awards After Golf". A white golf ball is positioned below the photo. At the bottom, a yellow banner states "COST IS \$200 PER TEAM". To the right of the banner is a QR code. Text at the bottom right says: "SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15TH", "TEE TIMES WILL BEGIN AT 7:30 AM", "SUMMERVILLE COUNTRY CLUB", and "More Information or to Register Scan QR Code or Call Kyle 843-469-5917".

**BETHANY MEMBER GUEST GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Two Person Teams**  
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The Bethany Beacon is published monthly by Bethany United Methodist Church.

Articles, story ideas, questions, comments, news or photos may be sent to Communications at mkilliri@bethany-umc.com. Please email your address changes or if you would like to be removed from the Bethany Beacon Newsletter mailing list. Submissions are due the 15th of each month.

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**Office Hours:**

Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 AM to 5 PM

Friday 8:30 AM to Noon

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