

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Let There Be Peace on Earth

UMH, 431

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*POSTLUDE

Julianne Louise Brantley will receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism today.
She is the beloved daughter of Matthew and Nikki Brantley and sister to Davis.
Her proud grandparents are Lisa and Bruce Anderson, Ronnie Dennis, and Karen and Dean Brantley.

The altar greens today are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of
Lawrence and Delores Kaltenbach and Walter and Marion Hainsworth by
Dennis, Margaret and Melissa Kaltenbach.

Stewardship is being loyal to your commitment through prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Attendance
Worship 326 Online Worship 51, Sunday School 160

Gifts (*Figures for December 7, 2025. These figures are unverified.)	
*Operating Contributions Last Week.....	\$30,388.00
*Operating Contributions Year to Date.....	\$986,616.47
*Operating Expense Funding YTD-Deficit(-)/Surplus(+)	-\$1,088,500.00
	-9.36%

Capital Campaign (Figures for December 7, 2025)	
*Building Contributions Last Week.....	\$1,339.65
*Building Contributions Year to Date	\$95,505.00

Designated Mission and Ministry Gifts – YTD (Non-Budgeted).....	248,549.74
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Ways to Give

Church Contact Information

(843) 873-1230 After Hours Emergency
118 W 3rd South Street (843) 425-1069
Summerville, SC, 29483

Follow us on Facebook!

Follow us on Instagram!

Visit our Website!

Welcome!

We are pleased you joined us in worship.
If you are looking for a church home,
please speak with a member of our clergy or staff.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Liturgist: Linda Huffman

Greeters: Shirley Scully and Linda Payne

Ushers: Henry Thompson, David Zoellner, Wayne Waters,
Dick Prevette, Julie Parrish, Kyle Boczkowski



PASTORS

Rev. Michael Ritter, Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Dusenbury, Associate Pastor

STAFF

Reagan Lord, Director of Music

Michael Lopez, Organist

Emily Vick, Director of Christian Education

Kyle Boczkowski, Director of Youth and Recreation Ministries

Our Care Team is here to support our congregation!
If you know of a congregational care need that requires our attention,
please let us know. Sunday School Classes and Bethany members are
encouraged to reach out. Contact the church office 843.873.1230
or the after hours emergency phone at 843.425.1069.

Bethany United Methodist Church

Summerville, South Carolina



An Order of Sunday Worship

3rd Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 14, 2025

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
for the Transformation of the World.

CALL TO WORSHIP		
<i>The liturgical color for Advent in purple, preparing for the birth of Christ.</i>		
<i>*please stand in body or spirit</i>		
GATHERING		
CHIMING OF THE TRINITY		
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
PRELUDE		
*HYMN OF PRAISE	REGENT SQUARE	UMH 220
<i>Angels from the Realms of Glory</i>		
*THE APOSTLES' CREED	UMH 881	
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.		
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.		
*GLORIA PATRI	MEINEKE	UMH 70
<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>		
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.		
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH	WADE FAMILY	
Two candles burn, one for HOPE and one for PEACE. Today we light the third candle, the candle of JOY. This should be the easy one, because JOY is all around us--in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations--or our memories--push JOY to the side? JOY is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but JOY is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to JOY, trusting that God has already planted it in us...all we need to do is give it care and offer to share.		

Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.		
Rejoice in God always. For God has created you with the capacity for joy. Trust in God's good will for all of creation and open yourself to God’s gentle, transforming love.		
CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	VENI EMMANUEL	
<i>O Come, O Come</i> Emmanuel	UMH, 211	
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.		
SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISTM - JULIANNE LOUISE BRANTLEY		UMH, 39
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	ISAIAH 35: 1-10	OT 663 LINDA HUFFMAN
This is the word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.		
PRAYER AND PRAISE		
CALL TO PRAYER		
The Lord be with you. And also with you.		
CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER	PAUL MANZ	
<i>E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come</i> CHANCEL CHOIR		
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER		
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.		

DEDICATION		
OFFERTORY	HOWARD DARKE	
<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i> HEATHER SELTZER, SOPRANO; MAURICE BURGESS, TENOR CHANCEL CHOIR		
*DOXOLOGY	LASST UNS ERFREUEN	UMH 94
<i>Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow</i> <i>(Children are invited to come forward during the singing of the Doxology for Children’s Moment)</i>		
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!		
PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD		
*HYMN OF PREPARATION	CAROL	UMH 218
<i>It Came Upon a Midnight Clear</i>		
*GOSPEL LESSON	MATTHEW 11: 2-11	NT 11 REV. MICHAEL RITTER
This is the word of God, for the people of God. Thanks be to God.		
SERMON	<i>I Have My Doubts</i>	REV. MICHAEL RITTER
SENDING FORTH		
*HYMN OF INVITATION	GLORIA	UMH 238
<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>		
*BENEDICTION		