



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

February 2026 Volume 2

From the Pastor

These last several weeks have been overwhelming in the best kind of way. The cards, gifts, and prayers we've received for "Baby Girl Dusenbury" have left us feeling very loved and grateful. It's hard to believe she'll be arriving so soon, but we're excited to welcome her home!

"Give thanks in all circumstances," says 1 Thessalonians, "for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (5:18). These days I'm giving thanks to God more than ever. And I'm especially thankful for the ways God is working through this church family. Your actions consistently remind me and many others of God's abiding presence. What a blessing it is to serve the people called Bethany UMC!

The baby's due date is set for Friday, February 13. However, we know that sometimes God has other plans. Whenever she does arrive, know that I'll be temporarily stepping back from my pastoral duties in order to be fully present with my family. Parental leave is typically eight weeks in the UMC. I'll certainly be around for Holy Week and Easter, but likely won't be for much of the Lenten season. My joke is that I'm giving up sleep for Lent upon the arrival of this baby, but hopefully God blesses us with a good sleeper!

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from the Pastor continued...

Please know I will miss you all so much during this time. It's never easy for pastors to step away, but rest assured Pastor Michael is beyond ready and capable to carry the extra load for a couple of months. We're blessed by his leadership and will continue to be so.

Although I won't be around campus for a while, this doesn't mean I'll be inaccessible. I'm still your pastor. Feel free to email, text, or call anytime. I'm always good for a prayer if you need one, even though there might be a screaming baby in the background. But as our fearless leader so often reminds us: "We are where we are!" And wherever we are, we know God is with us every step of the way.

Looking ahead, I plan on teaching a four-week BNOW lesson on the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) beginning in April after Easter. Participants will discover how each Gospel presents a unique portrait of Christ: the promised King, the suffering Servant, the compassionate Savior, and the eternal Son of God. Whether you are new to scripture or have been reading it for years, this is an invitation not just to learn about Jesus, but to follow him more fully in everyday life. You'll walk away knowing the key differences and distinguishing features of each Gospel. I'm looking forward to this study and hope you'll be part of it on Wednesday evenings, 6:15-7:30, April 8-29, Room 118.

In the meantime, my family and I covet your continued prayers and support. Thank you times a million for the amazing baby shower and all the other things you've done to help us prepare for this precious arrival. The Dusenburys remain deeply humbled and honored to be on the receiving end of your Christlike love. As we step into this next season, I trust that God will continue to guide and sustain Bethany with the same faithfulness we have seen time and again. Let's continue to be the church God has called us to be.

Sincerely,
Pastor Isaac



Operation Christmas Child- THANK YOU!

Ssssh, if you are very quiet you can hear the laughter and love of children around the world being thankful for the gifts that you gave them through Operation Christmas Child. Even if you are loud and noisy, you can hear the Holy Spirit working in their hearts to feel the love of Jesus. We were amazed, but not surprised at the effort put forth by BUMC. The care and consideration by which each of these boxes were packed was truly a work of love by those who participated. This next year, we will continue to have the event prior to national packing day for OCC, but we will have some opportunities prior. Beside the blessing box cart in the hall outside of the church office, there will be a shelf where you can leave your donations to fill boxes year round. We will also have a "Christmas in July" in order to spread out our Christmas events and take advantage of sales like Amazon Days. You can fill a box or buy bulk supplies for the church to fill multiple boxes. We distributed 319 boxes this past year and are hoping to fill 400 this year. If you have any questions or ideas of how to further this mission, please reach out to Benjie and Kelly Rodgers.

Worship Info

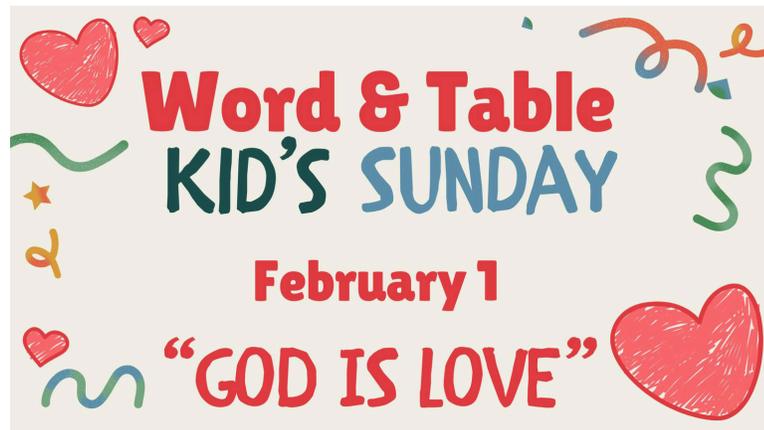
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 17 @ 6pm in the Fellowship Hall

Donations will be accepted to support Summerville Salkehatchie



BETHANY UNITED METHODIST



Altar flowers

Altar flowers offer a meaningful way to honor or remember a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. Several dates are currently available on our calendar, including **February 8, March 8** (greens), **April 5** (Easter Sunday), and **April 12**.

To reserve a date, please contact Mandy Killiri at mkilliri@bethany-umc.com or 843-873-1230. You may also sign up on the altar flower calendar located on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary hallway.

Ash Wednesday Service

February 18
7 am Spell Chapel
6:15 pm Sanctuary

Ash Wednesday & Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday, February 18, marks the beginning of the Lenten season—a time of reflection, prayer, and renewal. Worship services will be held at 7 am in Spell Chapel and 6:15 pm in the Sanctuary.

Throughout Lent, we invite you to join us each Wednesday evening at 6:15 pm in Spell Chapel, where guest ministers will lead our Lenten worship services. We hope you will make plans to be part of this meaningful season as we journey together in faith.



Bethany is excited to begin a new prayer ministry! We are in the process of creating a designated email address where individuals and Sunday School classes will be able to submit prayer concerns and praises—more details will be shared in the coming weeks.

We are currently forming our Prayer Warriors group. Members will receive praises and prayer requests by email each Monday and are asked to faithfully pray over these needs throughout the week. If you feel called to be part of this important ministry and would like to receive the weekly requests, please contact Mandy Killiri at mkilliri@bethany-umc.com or 843.873.1230. Our hope is to launch this ministry within the next few weeks.

Wednesday
Worship Services
6:15 pm Spell Chapel

February 25: Rev. Rick Rogers-Berry

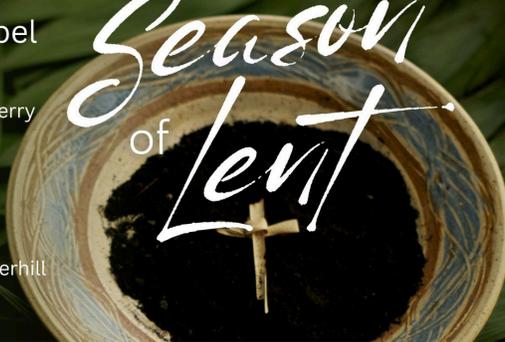
March 4: Rev. Jeffrey Salley

March 11: Rev. Mitch Houston

March 18: John Poole

March 25: Rev. Schoneke Summerhill

The
Season
of
Lent



Missions

Free Tax Assistance at Bethany UMC

Bethany UMC will host AARP Tax-Aide and VITA Tax Services this tax season, offering free federal and state income tax preparation.

AARP Tax-Aide will be available at Bethany UMC (Room 118) from February 2 – April 14, on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 8 am – 4 pm. Appointments can be made by calling 843.900.1342 (please do not call the church).

VITA Tax Services, sponsored by the IRS and Trident Urban League, assists low- to moderate-income taxpayers (under \$70,000/year). Services will be offered at Bethany UMC on Saturdays, 10 am – 2 pm, from January 24 – April 11. To schedule an appointment, contact Blair Stewart at 843.270.3001 or bhsbtb@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8



BETHANY BLOOD DRIVE
BETHANY UMC GYM 8AM-1PM



REGISTER TODAY BY VISITING REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG,
SCAN THE QR CODE OR OR CALL RODNEY 843.709.0953.



Katie's Krops Desserts Needed!

We are in need of 600 individually wrapped homemade desserts to be paired with Katie's Krops meals on **February 19** for the hungry in the local area. Please deliver to the Business Office by Thursday, **February 19** no later than 11 am.



To sign up for a spot, please scan the QR code. Thank you for your help with this ministry.

United Women of Faith



Please donate new or gently used boys' pants (sizes 6–12) and children's clothing **through February 22**. Drop off items in the hallway collection box. Thank you for your generosity!



Oyster Roast
\$60
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21
4-7PM



PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT SUMMERVILLE SALKEHATCHIE

THE BARN ON BUTTERNUT
631 BUTTERNUT RD SUMMERVILLE
ADULTS ONLY, PLEASE

OYSTERS, HOTDOGS
AND CHICKENBOG

Ministry Spotlight

Recreation at Bethany: Building Community Through Play

Recreation is an important part of life at Bethany, offering opportunities for fellowship, fitness, and fun for all ages. Whether you're looking for friendly competition, a way to stay active, or a place for your children to grow in confidence and skills, there's something for everyone.

Adult Recreation Opportunities

Adults can stay active and connected through several weekly offerings. Our **golf league** meets on Mondays, providing a relaxed and enjoyable way to spend time together on the course. **Volleyball** is offered on Sundays, welcoming players of all skill levels for energetic games and great fellowship. For those seeking strength, balance, and flexibility, **yoga classes** meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. **Pickleball**, a favorite among many, is available on Mondays and Thursdays, offering a combination of fun, movement, and community.

Kids & Youth Sports

Bethany also offers a variety of sports opportunities for children and youth throughout the year. A **girls volleyball** league is available in both the fall and spring, while **co-ed basketball** leagues for all ages take place during the winter months. During the summer, we host **sports camps** for volleyball and basketball, led by experienced area coaches. These camps are organized by age level and are a great way for kids to get extra coaching, build skills, and stay active.

Exercise Room

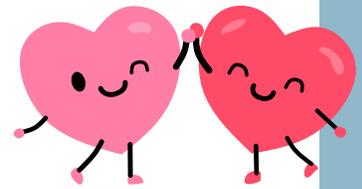
In addition to organized activities, Bethany members are welcome to use our exercise room, which includes treadmills, elliptical machines, free weights, and a weight machine—a convenient option for maintaining personal fitness on your own schedule.

Recreation at Bethany is about more than just sports—it's about connection, encouragement, and caring for the bodies God has given us. We invite you and your family to get involved and find your place to play, move, and grow together.



Children's Ministries

Happy Hearts



Vacation Bible School is Coming! – June 15–19

We are excited to begin planning for Vacation Bible School 2026, happening June 15–19! This year's theme is Snowball Mountain Challenge, where children will explore what it means to rely on God's strength in every situation. Our guiding verse for the week comes from Philippians 4:13:

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

Together, we'll help kids discover how to find their strength in God, even when life feels challenging.

To make this week possible, we will need around 150 volunteers serving in all areas—from leaders and helpers to decorations, snacks, music, crafts, and behind-the-scenes support. VBS is truly a whole-church effort, and there is a place for everyone to serve.

Coming soon, you'll see a decorations table where you can pick up simple projects to work on at home, along with our Amazon wishlist. In the past two years, you have generously provided everything on our wishlist, and that support has made an incredible difference in helping us create a meaningful and welcoming experience for our children. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness.

More details and sign-ups will be available soon. We can't wait to see how God will work through our church family as we prepare for Snowball Mountain Challenge!



Bethany Happy Hearts invites you to its next luncheon meeting on **Friday, February 27**, at 12 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be Connie Froman Davis.

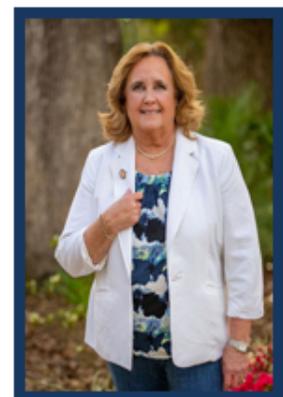
Connie lives in Summerville, South Carolina, and retired from the United States Air Force after nearly 25 years of service in a wide range of roles. Following her military career, she worked with two sheriff's offices and taught Homeland Security courses at Colorado State University and Trident Technical College. She retired from civilian work in 2016 and now enjoys volunteering, reading, spending time at the beach, and traveling the world.

Connie holds a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from the University of South Carolina, a master's degree in human relations from Webster University, a graduate certificate in homeland defense from the University of Colorado–Colorado Springs, and a master's degree in criminal justice from Charleston Southern University. *Death Writes Itself* is her first novel.

The Happy Hearts Luncheon is open to anyone who would like to attend; however, reservations are required. If you register and are unable to attend, you will still be responsible for the cost unless you call to cancel.

To make **reservations** for the February 27 luncheon, please respond to the luncheon email or contact Dot Prevatte at 843.343.5450 or dmprevatte@yahoo.com by **Sunday, February 22**.

Lunch will include Baker's Barbecue, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls, dessert, and tea for \$10.



Wednesday Night
Bethany NOW

Schedule

5-6pm Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

6 – 7:30 pm Kids Activities

6:15 – 7:30 pm Youth and Adult Activities

Adult activities

Feb. 4 & 11 - Regular Classes

Feb. 18 – Ash Wednesday Service 6:15 pm Sanctuary

Children will have their regular schedule

Feb. 25 – March 25 Lenten Worship 6:15 pm Spell Chapel

Children will have their regular schedule

April 1 – Holy Week, No BNOW

April 8-29 - Regular Classes

Youth (6th – 12th grades) Activities

6-6:45 pm Youth Choir Practice Spell Chapel

6:15- 7:30 pm Faith & Fellowship Youth House

Kids (ages 4 by Sept. 1, 2024 – 5th grade) Activities

6–6:45: 4-year-olds - Kindergarteners

Cherub Choir Practice Room 233

1st – 2nd Graders

Melody Choir Practice Sanctuary

Or Bible Adventures Room 124

A class to help with bible skills (finding verses, knowing the books of the Bible, etc.) and to learn about worship elements.

3rd – 5th Graders

Crafting Faith Art Room 121

A brief bible study with an Arts & Crafts component led by the amazing Mrs. Sharon. They will focus on the Beatitudes for the entire session, and complete crafts that reinforce the lesson.

6:45 – 7:30 4-year-olds – 2nd Graders

Crafting Faith Art Rom 121

A brief bible study with an Arts & Crafts component led by the amazing Mrs. Sharon. They will focus on the Beatitudes for the entire session, and complete crafts that reinforce the lesson.

3rd – 5th Graders Wesley Choir Practice Sanctuary
 Or Bible Adventures Room 124

A class to help with bible skills (finding verses, knowing the books of the Bible, etc.) and to learn about worship elements.

All children should be signed into their first activity. They will be walked by volunteers to their second activity and can be picked up promptly at 7:30 pm from there.

Dinner Costs

\$9 Adults

\$7 Seniors 65 & Older

\$5 Kids 12 & under

\$25 Family Max (immediate family)

Menus

Feb. 4 - Lasagna, salad, garlic bread, dessert
 Hosted by Searchers Sunday School class.

Feb. 11- Open

Feb. 18 - Chinese themed

Hosted by Living Word Sunday School

Feb. 25 - TBD

Hosted by UWF Board

If you or a group you're involved with would like to help prepare, serve, or clean up after a meal, please reach out to Emily Vick. We will be relying entirely on volunteers to serve in every area of Bethany NOW, and your support is essential to making this program a success. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Get Connected



Men of Bethany Monthly Meeting

You're invited to join the Men of Bethany for their monthly meal and meeting, held on the third Monday of each month at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This gathering is open to men of all ages and offers a great time of fellowship and connection. Bring a friend and enjoy a delicious meal and meaningful time together—you won't want to miss it! For questions, to help prepare the meal, or to reserve your spot, contact Rodney at 843.709.0953, or sign up in your Sunday School classroom.



John Wesley Heritage Trip

Interested in the John Wesley Heritage Trip to England in October 2026? It's not too late to join the group! If you'd like more details or have questions, please reach out to Pastor Michael.



Mah Jongg is coming to Bethany! 中

If you love the game, grab your NMJL card and join the fun.

New to Mah Jongg or a little rusty? No worries at all—we'll have a beginner table and extra cards available to help you get started. We'll meet on the first and third Mondays of each month, beginning February 2, from 10 am - 1 pm in the Friendship Circle Room.

Upcoming dates include:

February 2 & 16

March 2 & 16

April 6 & 20 (and continuing on the same schedule)

Come enjoy great fellowship, friendly competition, and lots of fun—everyone is welcome!

Get Connected

Thank you

Thank you to our incredible Welcome Desk volunteers!

Your time, kindness, and dedication mean more than you know.

By greeting visitors with a smile and faithfully answering phones, you are often the first glimpse of Christ's love that others experience at Bethany. We are so grateful for the many ways you help our church feel like home.

Our amazing Welcome Center volunteers were treated to a luncheon as a small token of appreciation for the countless hours and dedication they give at the front desk in the Welcome Center. We are so grateful for their warm smiles, helpful hearts, and faithful service. They are truly loved and deeply appreciated.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

If you or someone you know would like to speak with a Stephen Minister, please contact the church office or Rev. Isaac Dusenbury.

Stephen Ministry: Care When You Need It Most

Bethany's Stephen Ministry offers confidential, one-on-one Christian care for those experiencing life's challenges—grief, illness, loneliness, relationship struggles, or other difficult seasons. Our trained Stephen Ministers are caring listeners who walk alongside individuals with compassion, prayer, and support. You don't have to go through it alone. If you or someone you know could benefit from this ministry, please know that all conversations are held in strict confidence. To learn more or to request care, contact Pastor Isaac.

Grief Support

FIRST & THIRD
WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
IN THE PARLOR
10:30 AM

REACH OUT TO CHRISTINA IF YOU ARE INTERESTED 609.513.4971

Youth Ascend



Souper Bowl of Caring – Help Us Tackle Hunger!

This Super Bowl Sunday, the Bethany ASCEND Youth Group is collecting donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring, benefiting Hearts of Summerville.

After the worship services, our youth will be stationed at the exits with soup pots, ready to collect loose change, cash, and any donations you'd like to give.

Every dollar raised will go directly to helping those in need right here in our community for Hearts of Summerville! Let's team up to make a difference.



Confirmation Classes Begin February 22

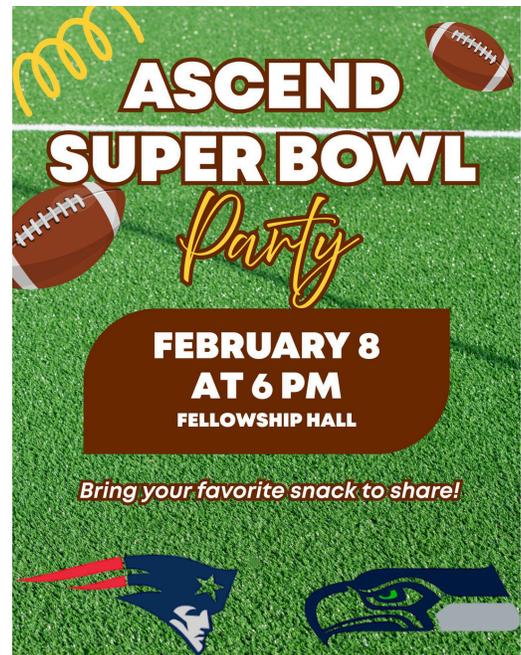
Parent Meeting February 8 at 4pm

Scan QR Code for details or
call Kyle 843.469.5917



ASCEND Super Bowl Party!

Bring a friend and join us for an exciting Super Bowl Sunday celebration on February 8 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a night filled with fun, football, and fellowship. Don't miss out on the game, great company, and plenty of excitement!



Youth Ascend

All 6th–12th graders are invited to join us for Youth ASCEND every Sunday from 5:30–7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We'll share a meal together, then split into middle school and high school groups for meaningful discussions.

It's the perfect way to connect with friends, grow in your faith, and have fun! We can't wait to see you—be sure to bring a friend!

Youth Ascend

TVR Retreat and Ski Trip

The Youth ASCEND annual trip to TVR in January was a wonderful success! It was a meaningful time of fellowship where new friendships were formed, faith was strengthened through worship, and everyone enjoyed skiing and tubing. We are deeply grateful for our dedicated volunteers and thankful for the incredible group of students who make Youth ASCEND such a joy.



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Summerville, SC
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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

Church Office: 843.873.1230 Office Fax: 843.873.1937
Gym Office: 843.873.7261 Child Development Center: 843.821.1946
Emergency Number: If you have an emergency for which you need pastoral care at
night, on weekends, or holidays, call 843.425.1069.