

Worship on the Lord's Day		
February 18, 2024	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent	Eleven O'clock
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
MINISTRY OF FRIENDSHIP -		PREPARE TO WORSHIP
PRELUDE	Prelude on "Cleansing Fountain"	James Mansfield
*CALL TO WORSHIP		
<div><div>Leader:</div><div>Happy are they who have learned to worship God.</div><div>People:</div><div>Happy are those who walk in His presence.</div><div>Leader:</div><div>In His name they shall rejoice all the day.</div><div>People:</div><div>His righteousness shall lift them up forever.</div><div>Leader:</div><div>Let us worship and rejoice!</div></div>		
*INVOCATION		
*HYMN OF PRAISE	My Hope is Built on Nothing Less	379
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION		
Offered a feast at grace's table, God of the covenant, we choose to gorge ourselves on greed. Invited to live in your house, we move into death's fear-infested house. Though you promise to be with us, we toss you aside, chasing after those who will abandon us at the first chance. But you will not let us be devoured by sin, Gracious God, but you will gather us under the shelter of your love. You do so in order to give us that peace which heals us, that wonder which surprises us, and that faith which enables us to let go of the present to walk into the covenant of grace made possible through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.		
-SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION-		
*ASSURANCE OF PARDON/GLORIA PATRI		
<div>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. A-men A-men.</div>		
*PASSING THE PEACE	The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you!	
FIRST READING	1 Peter 3:18–22	
TIME FOR THE CHILDREN	Rev. Dr. Derek S. Marotta	
PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER	Congregational Response	
PRAYER RESPONSE		
<div>Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.</div>		
SOUNDS OF GRACE	The Man on the Middle Cross	
SCRIPTURE READINGS	Genesis 9::8-17	

SERMON	"Loyalty to the Covenant"	Rev. Dr. Derek S. Marotta
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH		
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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.		
GIVING OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S WORK		
Offertory	Cross of Sorrow	Franz Schubert
*Doxology		
<div>Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.</div>		
Prayer of Dedication		
*CLOSING HYMN		
Standing on the Promises		
1. Standing on the promises of Christ, my King! Thro' eternal ages let His praises ring; "Glory in the highest!" I will shout and sing, Standing on the promises of God. Refrain: Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God, my Savior, Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.		
2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail, When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, By the living Word of God I shall prevail, Standing on the promises of God. (refrain)		
3. Standing on the promises, I now can see Perfect, present cleansing in blood for me; Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free, Standing on the promises of God. (refrain)		
4. Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord, Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord, Overcoming daily with the Spirit's Sword, Standing on the promises of God. (refrain)		
POSTLUDE	Beneath the Cross	Donald Lee Moore
"Consider the loyalty of God to you. How have you experienced this in your faith?"		
*BENEDICTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE		
<div>God will take care of you, thro' every day, o'er all the way. He will take care of you; God will take care of you.</div>		
*Please stand, if able		
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## Remember in Prayer

### At Bethesda

Ruth Rawdon  
Anita Ferguson Buffolino- cancer surgery  
Frank Allen  
Jonathan Lauckner- surgery 10/26/23  
Margaret Moore  
Hildegard Bell  
Cecelia Alexander- knee replacement surgery  
Peggy Adkins- kidney removal surgery

Bill Dover  
Eddie Allan Smith  
Ricky & Debbie Simpson and family  
Gene Cornwell (Mack)  
Stacy Meek  
Janice Meeks (CDC) health issues  
Eddie Smith  
Dorothy Williamson- back surgery 1/19/24

**Death-** Family and friends of Samuel L. Baker, (Patt Lauckner’s brother-in-law) 2-5-24

### **At Bethesda Child Development Center**

Cynthia Jackson, Dawn Westmoreland, Esther Bailey, Natalie Ashe, Shelby Ashe, Jamie Baker, Catherine Goodband, Madison Hartis, Emily Hopkins, Elizabeth Martin, Janice Meeks

### **In the Military**

Chase Davis, Zoe De Anda, Pierce Dewey, Sabrina Dollar, Sully Foy, Nicholas McAteer, Gage Orr, Michael Wilkerson

### **In the Community and Beyond**

Dorothy Hazard (LaRayne’s sister-in-law)	Hildegard and Jim Bell’s granddaughter, lupus
Larry Rockholt (Carolyn’s son)	Johnny Rockholt (Faye’s son)
Cherish Clark Walker (Krystal’s friend) cancer	Rick Stallard (Josh’s father)
Dale Wray & mother, Peggy (Krystal’s friends)	Rachel Ann Taylor (Pat’s 3 yr. old granddaughter)leukemia
Noah Smith, Sr. (Pacia’s dad) Hospice	Brittany, Wes & Whitley Teter (Linda’s granddaughter)
Ron Saboley(Jackie’s husband) unable to have surgery	Dolores Lynn (Tara’s aunt- Iowa) new heart problem
Penelope Lowder (Rocky’s niece) surgery	Dennis Duncan (Debbie Fulmer’s dad) memory issues
Joanne Cox (Debbie Fulmer’s aunt) cancer	Dwight Little (cirrhosis liver, stroke)Leslie’s coworker br.
Cheryl Hughes- health issues	Tommy Harper (Sarah Childers’ dad)
James David (David Chambers’ grandson)	Griffin (11 yr. old friend of Marotta’s nephew Axton)
Sue Hopkins (Emily’s (CDC) mother-in-law)	Peggy Neal (JoEllen’s mom) narrowing/blockages
Rose Locklair (Peggy, Faye, Ruth & Mack’s sister) Hospice	
Nikki Thompson (Alberta’s daughter) colon cancer	Trey Privette (Walker family) glioblastoma
Jackie Johnson Saboley (hip surgery)	David (Bobby Fulmer’s friend) awaiting liver transplant
Christina Dixon (Shannon’s friend) breast cancer	

**Bethesda Global Mission Partners:** The Matias Family in Brazil and Tito Palacios in Guatemala

**Plastic Recycling-** We will continue to collect plastics for our 4<sup>th</sup> bench.

**Sunday Worship is available on the YouTube channel on our website. [www.bethesdapres.org](http://www.bethesdapres.org) Check the Bethesda website for updates, information, and family resources.**

**Please help replenish our "Blessing Box” and Food Pantry.** Suggested items are non-perishable food items - peanut butter, jelly, canned meat or pasta items, spaghetti sauce, pasta, small cereal boxes, etc. A basket is available weekly in the vestibule for **donations**. There is also a basket in the Fellowship Hall for those who wish to make contributions at the **Wednesday** Night Dinners. These items are used to fill the “Blessing Box”, distributed to people who request help through the Bethesda Benevolence Fund, and delivered regularly to local food distribution organizations. Thank you for your contributions to this ministry.

The **Bethesda CDC is looking for Teacher Assistants for our program**—Applicants must be 18 years old with a high school diploma. Applicants must be available **Monday-Friday** until 5:45. Experience driving a 15 passenger bus for school pickup would be a plus! For more information please contact the daycare at **803–328–0149 and ask for Cindy or Dawn**.

### **How Do I Contact My Pastor?**

**Rev. Dr. Derek S. Marotta** is available in the church office Monday – Thursday between 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. His telephone number for the **Manse is 803-328-9338. His cell phone number is 724-221-4491.** His email address is **[jdmarotta75@gmail.com](mailto:jdmarotta75@gmail.com) and his blog is [revmarotta.blogspot](http://revmarotta.blogspot).**

### **FEBRUARY USHERS**

Mark Boyd, Stacy Russell, Laura Merritt

<u>The BPC Calendar</u>		
Sunday	9:45 am 11:00 am  5:30 pm 6:00 pm	Sunday School Worship Congregational Meeting after Worship Pickleball- Family Life Center Session Meeting
Monday	11:00 - 1:30 pm 6:30 pm	Community Lunches Hand Chimes- Ladies Parlor
Tuesday	10:30 am 11:00 – 1:30 pm	TTT Bethelwoods Community Lunches
Wednesday	11:00 – 1:30 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Community Lunches Choir Wednesday Dinner- Fellowship Hall Sounds of Grace rehearsal
Thursday	11:00 – 1:30 pm 1:00 pm 3:00 pm 3:30 pm	Community Lunches Thursday Bible Study- Fellowship Hall CDC Chapel- Rev. Marotta- Sanctuary CDC Chapel- Rev. Marotta- CDC
Friday	Church Office Closed- Secretary on Vacation 11:00 – 1:30 pm Community Lunches	
Saturday	11:00 – 1:00 pm Family Fun Day Follow Up Event	

**February 18, 2024**  
Let us remember our baptism, a sign and seal of the covenant of grace. Upon entering this covenant we take upon ourselves the name of Jesus Christ and stand as a witness for God. It is “an appeal to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” Let us consider our loyalty to the covenant by remembering our baptism.

**Life of the Church**  
**WELCOME TO BETHESDA PRESBYTERIAN!** We are glad you’re here. We hope all here will feel at home, strengthened in your faith, and that the Lord will be honored as we worship Him and respond in discipleship. If you have special needs, questions about Bethesda, need assistance, or need nursery services, please see one of our Ushers. If you are a guest who has been attending who is interested in becoming a member, we would love for you to see an Usher to discuss what it means to be a Presbyterian and a member of our church. Bethesda is a congregation of the **PCUSA**.

**2024 FLOWER CHART** is in the Narthex- sign up to place flowers in Sanctuary for Sunday morning worship and, if you wish info in the bulletin on that Sunday, notify Pat at **803-328-1360** or email [bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net) by the previous Tuesday.

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the **Glory of God and for celebration of Black History month and Heart month by Alberta Anthony.**

**Thank you note**  
Our Bethesda family and friends have been a blessing to Edward and me during my recent surgery and rehab. I am home and doing much better. Your many cards, calls, offers of food and transportation, and loving support are helping to speed the healing. We are thankful and hope to be back worshipping with you very soon. **Dorothy Williamson**

Today, **February 18<sup>th</sup>** we will hold our **annual congregational meeting** immediately following the worship service. At that time the 2023 Annual Congregational Report will be presented. In addition, the congregation will elect four members from the congregation to serve on the Elder Nominating Committee. This committee, with prayer and discernment, will seek to find three faithful individuals who are called by God to serve on the Session as the class of 2027. A brief meeting of the Corporation will also be held immediately after the congregational meeting. The President of the Corporation for Bethesda will present the Annual Corporation Report.

The **Session** will meet today at 6:00 pm in the Session Room.

**Choir** will meet this week at 5:30 pm on Wednesday. **Wednesday Dinner** at 6:30 pm.

**Thursday Bible Study** will meet at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Church Office will be closed on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Secretary will be on vacation. Please leave a message **803-328-1360** or email [bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net)

There will be a plate upfront for people to donate for the **Flower Fund**.

The Session requests that worshipers refrain from bringing beverages into the sanctuary. Bottled water and cough drops are available in the narthex for an emergent need.

On Sunday, February 25 will be the first **Bible Buddies Class** in the Fellowship Hall at 3:00 pm. This is for children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and below.

**Third Tuesday** Together (TTT) this month (**Feb 20<sup>th</sup>**) will meet at Lake Lodge (922 W Mt Gallant Rd) at 10:30 a.m. We will enjoy a devotional, fellowship, and early lunch. Then, head over to Bush n Vine to meet Samuel Hall, who will talk about their farming process, including helpful tips for growing your own garden, and a Q&A. Please call the Bethelwoods Office at **(803) 366-3722** or email [anne@bethelwoods.org](mailto:anne@bethelwoods.org) to register for this month's event. The cost for TTT is \$14 dollars, which covers the cost of lunch and our kitchen staff. Hope to see you there!

We are excited to announce that our GriefShare seminar support group will begin **March 3**. Our group meets in the ladies’ parlor each week. We will meet on **Sundays from 4:00-5:30 p.m.** GriefShare is a 13 week video seminar series that features some of the nation’s foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. The video seminars are combined with support group discussion of the materials presented during the video. After watching the video, we spend time talking to each other and supporting each other through our grief journey. Please feel free to share this information with anyone you know who might benefit from this seminar. For more information, feel free to contact Karen Percival at (803)517-2268, or call the church office at (803)328-1360.

**Plentiful Harvest Kitchen** – Covenant Presbyterian Church – Our next two dates to serve are March 10 and May 26.

**SESSION**

**Class of 2024**  
Alberta Anthony  
Mark Boyd  
Cheryl Forlines  
Johnny Walker

**Class of 2025**  
Debbie Fulmer  
Jim Percival  
Stacy Russell

**Class of 2026**  
Steve Childers  
Laura Merritt  
Linda Messer

*John Nettles, Clerk of Session*

*Todd Russell, Treasurer*  
*[bethesdatreasurer@comporium.net](mailto:bethesdatreasurer@comporium.net)*



*On-line*  
*Ministry support*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Superintendent..... Esther Bailey  
Assistant ..... Adam Cole

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE**

Morning (First Thursday of the month 10:00 am – Fellowship Hall)..... Carol Hope

**STAFF**

Pastor..... Rev. Dr. Derek S. Marotta

Director of Christian Education..... Laura Merritt  
*[lsmerritt@gmail.com](mailto:lsmerritt@gmail.com)*

Director of Music..... LaRayne Hall  
*[larayneha@gmail.com](mailto:larayneha@gmail.com)*

Secretary/Bookkeeper..... Pat Jones  
*[bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net)*

Sexton..... Donna Hagler