

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Christmas Eve Worship Services**

*Bethany UMC will celebrate the birth of our Messiah with five Christmas Eve worship services this year.*

**Please register online at [www.bethany-umc.com](http://www.bethany-umc.com).**

- 3 P.M. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary:  
Holy Communion will be served.
- 5 P.M. Candlelight Worship in the Sanctuary: For families with young children. Children will be singing.  
Communion will **NOT** be served.
- 7:30 P.M. Traditional Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary:  
Holy Communion will be served.
- 7:30 P.M. Contemporary Candlelight Service in the Fellowship Hall:  
Includes music by the Word and Table Praise Band.  
Holy Communion will be served.
- 11 P.M. Candlelight Worship in the Sanctuary:  
This candlelight worship service, which concludes at midnight, is the most formal and ceremonial of the Christmas Eve services.  
Holy Communion will be served.

### **Christmas Office Hours**

The church office will be closed for the Christmas Holidays on Thursday Dec. 24, Friday Dec. 25, and Friday, Jan. 1.

### **Combined Service Sunday Dec. 27**

There will be one combined service on Sunday, Dec. 27 at 10am in the Sanctuary. Reservations are encouraged by going online [www.bethany-umc.com](http://www.bethany-umc.com).

### **End of Year Giving**

The last day the church office will be open to receive your year-end offerings to be credited in 2020 is Thursday, Dec. 31. If you prefer to mail your year-end offering, please make certain that your letter is postmarked no later than Dec. 31. For further information about giving or offering envelopes please contact Mary Dove Murray or Ann Gill at 843.873.1230.

### **Offering Envelopes**

Offering envelopes are ready for pick up in the hallway near the kitchen. Please help us be a good steward of our finances by picking your envelopes up today.

### **Camp Meeting Sundays in January**

Bethany will hold a series of Camp Meetings throughout the month of January. Camp Meetings will be held periodically in recognition of the United Methodist Church's tradition that dates back to the 1800's. Worship services during Camp Meetings are informal and less ceremonial than usual, so lose the tie and come as you are on Camp Meeting Sundays.

### **Stephen Ministry**

If you are hurting, in need of a hand to hold on to or talk thru an issue or problem we are a Stephen Ministry Church and have Stephen Ministers ready to be with you. Contact Denis Tsukalas 843.871.0381 or Mary Kay Wrenn 843.323.2130 or 843.821.3123.

### **Recording/Photography**

Portions of Worship services are recorded and made available for viewing on our web site. As a worshiper, you will not be identified in the recording/photos unless you are a speaker using our public address system. No close-up shots will be used of the congregation, allowing you privacy in your worship experience. If you wish to not have your image or voice used in our worship video, please notify Debbie Dominianni (843.873.1230, [ddominianni@bethany-umc.com](mailto:ddominianni@bethany-umc.com)), otherwise attendance implies consent.

### **Emergency Phone**

A minister is on call for pastoral emergencies after normal business hours during the week, as well as on weekends and holidays. If you have an emergency for which you need pastoral care, call the church emergency number, **843.425.1069**.

### **Wifi Access**

If you would like to connect to Wi-Fi while on church property, please use the guest connection and password [guest2015](#).

### **Text to Give Option**

It's easier than ever to give now! Simply text: [bethanyumc](text:bethanyumc) to 77977. This is a safe and convenient way to give!

### **RightNow Media**

Don't forget you have access to tons of video resources - Bible studies, movies, TV shows and more - on RightNow Media. To sign up, simply text Rightnow Bethany message to 41411.

# BETHANY

## United Methodist Church

December 20, 2020  
8:45 and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services



Rev. Mitch Houston, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Narcie Jeter, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Mark Barnes, Minister of Congregational Care  
Rev. Josephine Locklair, Spell Chapel  
Rev. James Alewine, Pastor Emeritus  
Ms. Emily Vick, Creative Ministries Director  
Ms. Stephanie Mitchum, Children's Program Director  
Mr. Mike Jeter, Youth Director  
Ms. Barbara Bassett, Interim Director of Music Ministries  
Mr. Michael López, Organist

*118 West Third South Street*  
*Summerville, SC 29483*  
*[www.bethany-umc.com](http://www.bethany-umc.com)*  
*843.873.1230*

***We are a Stephen Ministry Church, a Safe Sanctuaries Congregation and a Welcoming Church.***

**CALLED TO CARE**

December 20, 2020  
**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Gathering**

As the congregation gathers, please take a moment to wave to people sitting around you who you may not know. Hebrews 13:2 (KJV) says, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unaware."

**Prelude**      *Sing We Now of Christmas*      Kevin McChesney  
Chancel Bells

As the prelude begins, let us turn our thoughts and hearts to God in prayer and prepare for worship.

**Welcome and Parish Concerns**

**Hymn in Procession**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? Refrain

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. Refrain

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath - LOVE**

8:45 ~ Debbie Runyon and Michelle Larson  
10:30 ~ Amber Stein and Michael Blanton

Today we light the candle of LOVE. God so loved the world he gave his Son. God's gift of LOVE brings us hope, peace, joy and salvation. May the LOVE of the Christ child born in Bethlehem bless you this day. Amen.

**Congregational Response**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**Call to Prayer**

Minister: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**  
Minister: Let us pray.

**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.*

**Offering Prayer**

**The Scripture Lesson**      Matthew 1:18-25  
Minister: The word of God for the people of God.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**      *The First Noel*      arr. Cathy Moglebust  
Chancel Bells

**Sermon**      "Joseph"      Rev. Mitch Houston

**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 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.

**Hymn of Dedication**

*Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes; I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

**Blessing of the People**

**Postlude**      *Toccata Jubiloso*      Gerald Peterson

**WELCOME**

We welcome all guests to our service today. If you would like more information about Bethany or becoming a member of our church, please contact Jack Sehr, Membership Director, at [jsehr@bethany-umc.com](mailto:jsehr@bethany-umc.com) or 843.873.1230, ext. 1837.

**CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

In order to not distract your fellow worshipers, please **silence** cell phones and other electronic devices before the worship service begins. Thank you.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The altar greens today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Kirk Jordan by his wife, Barbara.

**SERVING THIS SUNDAY**

**Ushers**

**8:45** ~ Team Leader: Rett Fowler, Jerry Bateman, Kevin Carter, William DeLong, Rick Farthing, Gene Smith, David Zoellner, Ben Perkins  
**10:30** ~ Team Leader: Roger Swick; Tim Shepherd, Mary K. Shepherd, Henry Thompson, Gil Hager, Chris English, Michelle English, Terry and Debbie Parkman

**Audio/Video Support**

Technical Ministries Team

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

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

**Gifts** (\*Figures for Dec. 13, 2020. These figures are unverified.)

*Budget Contributions .....	\$ 55,657.86
*Budget Funds Contributed to Date.....	1,637,378.05
*Non-Budgeted Mission and Ministry Gifts to Date .....	7,106.10

**Capital Campaign** (\*Figures for Dec. 13, 2020)

*Capital Campaign Contributions .....	4,875.94
*Total Campaign Gifts Year to Date .....	134,711.97

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