

2021

January

Bethany Beacon

Following the lead of the Moravian Brethren who began having "watch" services in 1733, John Wesley, created watch night services, sometimes calling them *Covenant Renewal Services*. They would typically happen on New Year's Eve to give people an opportunity to look back over the past year, confessing their sins, remembering God's blessings and renewing their commitment to Christ for the new year. Typical services often included prayer, scripture, song, proclamation, and sometimes a Moravian Love Feast, but always included a time of personal covenant. The Wesley Covenant Prayer is a practical description of what Jesus was talking about when he said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

"I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

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Submission for the February Issue is January 15. You may be early and not wait until the deadline to submit your news!

Please email information to: ddominianni@bethany-umc.com

Submissions received after the deadline of the 15th may be held for the following month. Editors reserve the right for submissions to be edited for clarity and space.





You can help support the Ronald McDonald House of Charleston by collecting the little tabs you pull to open soda, soup or other aluminum cans. The funds generated from recycling these help offset the House's expenses. A collection container is located upstairs in the Welcome Center.

Altar flowers are a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one

Flowers are needed for 2021

Contact Donna Crowe 843.873.1230



Sanctuary Music Schedule

January 3, 2021 - Epiphany Sunday

TBA

January 10, 2021 - Baptism of the Lord

TBA

January 17, 2021 - Second Sunday After Epiphany
Festive Dance - George Bizet - transcribed by Kevin
McChesney - Chancel Bells

January 24, 2021 - Third Sunday After Epiphany
"Good Old Gospel Singing" arr. Tom Fettke - Women's
Ensemble

January 31, 2021 - Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
"Blessed Assurance", arr. Mark Hayes - Chamber Singers



Child Development Program

Bethany CDC will be opening on January 4, 2021. We are excited about welcoming our sweet students back into our preschool! The teachers and assistants have been hard at work preparing their classrooms and lessons. It is wonderful to have the CDC halls full of joy and laughter once again!

The CDC still has a few openings in our 4-year-old and kindergarten classes. We are also always looking for substitute teachers who love working with children and sharing God's love with them. Please contact Toni or Mona in the CDC office for more information 843-821-1946.



Bethany Ball Assessments

Registration is OPEN and we are excited to get back out on the hardwood... Visit our website www.bethanygym.sportssignup.com to register today!

The Assessments for this year will follow the schedule below.

Monday
January 4th
6:00- 7:00 PM: Boys 6-8
7:00- 8:00 PM Boys 9-10
8:00- 9:00 PM - Junior Boys

Wednesday
January 6th
6:00- 7:00 PM Girls 6-8
7:00- 8:00 PM Girls 9-10
8:00- 9:00 PM Senior Boys

Thursday
January 7th
6:00-7:00 PM Boys 11-12
7:00- 8:00 PM Girls 11-12
8:00- 9:00 PM Junior and Senior Girls

Leisure Ministries

As you know, our programming at Bethany UMC has been limited since the COVID-19 Pandemic. Due to the high level of virus activity in the local area that continued to exist we continued to delay, postpone and ultimately cancel a number of important programs

We would like to announce that we are planning to restart leisure ministry programs on Monday, January 4, 2021. Please understand that should conditions change, we may be forced to reconsider re-starting to protect the health of our children, staff and families. We will continue to monitor our local public and private schools and follow state and federal advisories as we move forward.

With the re-starting of our programs, we have developed protocols based on guidelines from The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. It is imperative that all parents, children and staff abide by these protocols to protect the health of all children and staff and their families. Adherence to the requirements is not optional and failure to do so may jeopardize your child's status within our programs. We have prepared a waiver of liability for each participating family to sign as a requirement for restarting the program. And that will be sent to you digitally in the near future.

One of the biggest changes to Bethany Ball this season will be the limitations that will be in place in terms of parents and fans attending games and practices. There will be NO spectators allowed in the gym during games or practices to begin the season. We will be finalizing drop-off and pick up protocols and will share them with you all in the next week or so. These protocols have been created in conjunction with DHEC, and will mirror efforts being taken around the state to safely allow for children to get back playing sports. I know for many, Saturdays at Bethany have become an interictal part of your winter schedule and we will certainly miss you all, however we believe controlling our environment gives us the best opportunity to have a safe and successful season.

The skills assessments will be held starting on Monday January 4th and during that week. Practices begin on Monday January 11th, and our 1st games will be on Saturday January 16th.

This decision to restart these ministries brings an excitement to our staff and our church that has been missing since last spring. We miss seeing your children in and around the gym. After many hours of prayer and consideration, we are confident that we can re-open safely and we ask that you continue to support us with your prayers as we march forward.

KidsCare News

KidsCare will re-open on January 4, 2020 to all registered students for the 2020-2021 school year! We have a limited number of spaces available.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!

This news is like a balm to our souls! We have long anticipated this day and are so encouraged by the decision to open our after-school program! We have safety procedures and protocols in place and ask for your prayers for a safe and happy transition back to fulfilling our Mission at KidsCare.

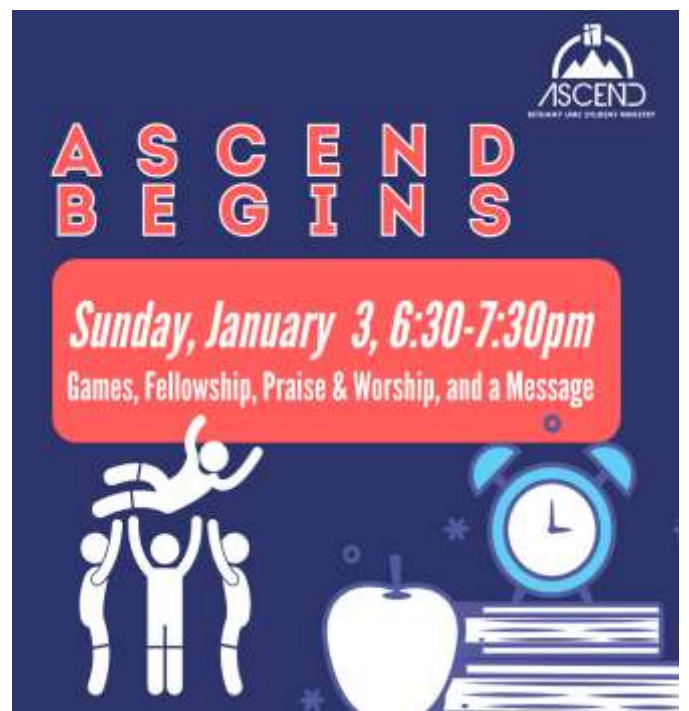
If you or someone you know is in need of quality Christian after school care, please call us for more information. At (854)429-1842 Or email us at kidscare@bethany-umc.com.



The Living Christmas Story

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Living Christmas Story in any way! From those who brought in snacks to those who helped with taking sets down Saturday night, it took the entire congregation to make it happen. Over 3900 people were able to drive through and experience the Greatest Story Ever Told! What a huge success. Many, many thanks to the new LCS Team that put in countless hours over the past few months – they are an amazing group of people. We are already discussing plans for next year!!





Missions

Thank You Note from Alston Middle School from our **Thanksgiving Bags**.



We provided **Katie's Krops'** desserts on December 3rd and 17th. Thank you to all who have baked and taken! Be on the look out for the January 7th and 21st sign ups!



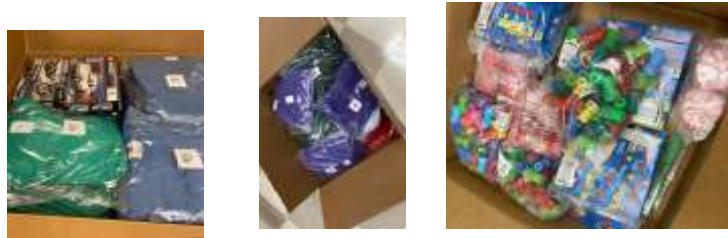
The Susannah Smith Elliott Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution which meets at Bethany had a food drive for our **Blessing Box** at their Christmas meeting on December 5th.



Thank you to all who take an angel from our virtual tree! We increased our number for the **Angel Tree**, but you really stepped up as a congregation! Thanks to Debbie Jones who coordinated it and all her helpers that wrapped presents and gave them out.



We got an urgent request from **Palmetto Behavioral Health**. The group who usually adopts them for Christmas dropped out at the last minute but thanks to a generous gift from a family and the Sam Wood Sunday School class the local missions committee was able to provide Christmas story coloring books, crayons, puzzles, stampers, sweatshirts of different sizes and colors, socks, gloves, sketch pads, colored pencils, and Legos for 60 kids. They have 64 beds but usually have 60 during Christmas. Palmetto Behavioral Health is a psychiatric residential treatment facility and they serve ages 7 – 18.



Moments with Seniors which is led by Marcia McElheny brought Christmas presents to the residents of Hallmark Healthcare and sang Christmas carols on December 18th at Cypress Place Assisted Living Community.



We dropped off another load of can tabs at the Ronald McDonald House. **The Ronald McDonald House** provides a “Home-away-from-home” where families stay while their children undergo extensive medical treatment. To learn more about where we take our tabs, go to rmhcharleston.org.



Bethany has given almost \$93,000.00 in 2020 to mission organizations not counting individual giving, Sunday School class, United Methodist Women & Men, the many cans and food supplied to the Blessing Box, or the amazing Angel Tree giving. Thank you for all you do to participate and give to our mission activities at Bethany!

Bethany United Methodist Church

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Room Request

If you have a standing room reservation, please submit your request by visiting our website at:

www.bethany-umc.com or contact Ann Gill at
agill@bethany-umc.com

Bethany

Beacon is published monthly by Bethany United Methodist Church. Articles, story ideas, questions, comments, news or photos may be sent to the Communications Team at ddominianni@bethany-umc.com. Please email your address changes or if you would like to be removed from the Bethany Beacon Newsletter mailing list.

Upcoming deadlines: Submissions are due the 15th of each month

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Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 AM. to 5 P.M.,

Friday 8:30 A.M. to Noon,

Church Office: 843.873.1230

Office Fax: 843.873.1937

Gym Office: 843.873.7261

Child Dev. 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.