

WELCOME, VISITORS! We are happy to have you join us in worship today.

*Please sign the Welcome Card found in the pew pocket
and place in the offering plate or hand to an usher. Thank you!*

NURSERY is available for infants to 3-year-olds during the Sunday School hour and 11:00 service.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY		
TODAY	8:30 am	Informal Worship Service
	9:30 am	Celebration & Fellowship
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Traditional Worship Service
Monday, July 27	6:00 pm	Praise Team
Tuesday, July 28	12:30 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
Wednesday, July 29	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, July 30	9:00 am	Bazaar Workshop
	6:30 pm	Nominations Committee
Sunday, August 2	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship - Communion

Birthdays

7/26 Meghan Whitmore, Brent White
Jenny Farkas, Kimberly Lewis
7/27 Logan Chase
7/28 Afton Leigh Thayer
7/29 Tim Morris
8/1 Loreen Paiva

Anniversaries

7/26 Greg & Lynne Barnes, 51
7/29 Harry & Judy Vaughan, 59
7/30 John & Debra Farrow, 32



BETHANY NEWS – July 26, 2026

Altar flowers are given today by Loreen Paiva in honor of her birthday.

Prayer Request - Paul Kendall is recovering from a fracture wound from a fall. No surgery is planned. Paul is now at The Woodland in Farmville. Cards and notes may be sent in care of:
Rev. Michael Kendall, 802 High St., Farmville, VA 23901.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Gary Loveland, who recently passed away. Gary is the brother-in-law of Abigail Dunston Woodhouse Walker

August Worship Schedule – For the month of August, there will be one Worship Service at 10:00 am with Sunday Schools at 9:00 am. Nursery will be provided for both. Please feel free to contact Pastor John or the Church office if you have any questions.

Helping the Homeless Ministries - This important ministry, supported by Bethany, is in need of volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. The ministry is, also, in need of food and water items (a complete list is located on the bulletin board in the main hallway.) The items can be dropped off at the Helping the Homeless Administrative Office located at 7040 George Washington Memorial Highway in Gloucester, Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. For more information and to volunteer, please contact Pastor Wendy Roundy at 804-792-3699.

Red Cross Blood Drive – Tuesday, July 28th, 12:30 pm – 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. To register for an appointment visit [red cross.org](https://www.redcross.org).

JOY Circle will hold a planning meeting on Monday, August 10th, 10:00 am in the Friendship Class. Come with all your ideas for programs and service projects.



The Administrative Council has approved a \$1,000 gift to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), International Disaster Response and Recovery.

During the month of August, the congregation is asked, also, to make a contribution to UMCOR in support of international disaster relief, like the recent devastating earthquakes in Venezuela. Checks should be payable to Bethany United Methodist, with the designation UMCOR in the memo line. Please feel free to contact the Church office if you have any questions, and thank you for your support of this worthy cause.

COMMEMORATING J. S. BACH, GOD'S CHIEF MUSICIAN

Our organ Meditation this morning may have been the last music ever composed by Johann Sebastian Bach, who died on 28 July 1750 at age 65. From his deathbed the blind musician dictated to his son-in-law, Johann Christoph Altnikol, an organ prelude based upon the chorale (or hymn) *When in the Hour of Utmost Need*. But significantly, Bach changed the words to read as follows:

"Before Thy throne, my God, I stand, Myself, my all, are in Thy hand,
O show me Thine approving face, Nor from Thy so withhold Thy grace."

Moreover, Bach made subtle alterations in the hymn tune so that the first line would contain precisely 14 notes, Using the symbolism of numbers, the composer “autographed” his creation, since *B* is the second letter of the alphabet, *A* the first, *C* the third, and *H* the eighth - the sum of which is 14.

As a young organist looking to impress the world with his phenomenal talent, Bach composed virtuoso showpieces titled *toccata* (meaning "to touch" in Italian), including two in the key of D minor. Our Offertory today, while less famous than the Halloween favorite *Toccata in D Minor*, even more powerfully evokes the imagery of Gothic horror: the relentless galloping motion suggests a musical depletion of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse from the *Revelation of St. John*, Perhaps this interpretation is speculative, yet this *Toccata* seems to invite conjecture. It was nicknamed "*Dorian*" by someone who mistook the lack of B-flat in the key signature as an indication that the music conforms to the ancient Greek Dorian mode!

Our dear, departed friend and choir member Bob Reid especially enjoyed listening to Bach's "*Dorian*" *Toccata*, so we dedicate this performance to his memory.

Rudy Shackelford

Bethany UMC Prayer List	
BETHANY FAMILY	
CANCER/CHEMO: Darlene Bauschatz, Krista Chase, Carol Johnson, Sue Leed, Larry Whitfield GRIEVING: Families of Jennie Lipscomb, Mike Andersen, Scott Andersen, Gary Loveland, Fred Niethamer, Sandy Riggin, Lee Wood HEALTH ISSUES: Linda Booth, David Cecil, Dawn Cluts, Billy Davis, Sandy Fox, Estelle Harris, Pat Hasty, Milton Hudgins, Kathy Jacobs, Paul Kendall, Bonnie Lewis, Dennis Mitchell, Peggy Peterman, Ruth Wallace,Yvonne White, Gretchen Wood RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Darlene Bauschatz, Robert Blackwell, Nile Cecil, Cathy Raines, Cheryl Roane, Bernard Robins	
BETHANY FRIENDS	
HEALTH ISSUES: Opal Brown, Joshua Childers, Shirley Hudgins, Jordan Hunter, Shirley Lewis, David Morris, Pam Mullins, Rick Nichols, Terrie Oliver, Wendy Roundy,Ricky West, Gerri Wilson	
ACTIVE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES	
Kevin Jacobs, Will Neikirk, Jim Minor, Jennifer Arnold Blackburn, All members of the military.	
OTHER PRAYERS	
United States of America; Ukraine; Israel and the Middle East; United Methodist Church	
ASSISTED LIVING	
Gloucester House, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061	Sarah Hillard, Rm 113
Gloucester House, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061	Sharon Cheek, Rm 107
Gloucester House, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061	Patsy Morales, Rm 118
Heron Cove, 7409 Heron Cove Way, Gloucester 23061	Bonnie Lewis, Rm 13
Riverside Mathews, 603 Main St., Mathews, VA 23109	David Cecil, Rm 33B
Sanders Assisted Living, 7407 Walker Ave., Gloucester 23061	Carolyn Scott, Rm 208
Sunrise Senior Living, 2105 Cranbeck Rd., Richmond, VA 23235	Pauline Harris
Walter Reed Convalescent Ctr, PO Box 887, Gloucester 23061	Lavalle Wilson, Rm Botetourt 6

Please note that unless otherwise notified, names will remain on the prayer list for 2 months.
Please notify the Church Office of changes to the prayer list at any time.

