

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
	9:30 am	Celebration & Fellowship
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Traditional Worship
Monday, September 28	6:30 pm	Praise Team
Tuesday, September 29	11:00 am	Worship & Arts Committee
	6:30 pm	United Methodist Men
Wednesday, September 30	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, October 1	9:00 am	Bazaar Workshop
	7:00 pm	York River Concert Band
Friday, October 2	9:00 am	HMAG
Sunday, October 3	8:30 am	Informal Worship (Communion)
	9:30 am	Celebration & Fellowship
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Traditional Worship (Communion)

Birthdays

9/28 Tina Coleman, Jason Hogge

9/29 Emily Coleman, Judy Vaughan

9/30 Sam Uhler

10/1 Molly Vaughan, Callen Tilley

10/2 Julia Perkins, Sabrina Davis, Alexis Davis

10/3 Decatur Hogge, Barbara Blais, Barbara Summerford, Isaac West

Anniversaries

9/29 Troy & Melissa Andersen, 25

9/30 Scott & Ruth Stilianos, 31

10/3 Ed & Bain Schultz, 34



BETHANY NEWS – September 27, 2026

Aller Flowers are given today by Darne Sawyer.

Prayer Request – Please keep Barb Holtry in your prayers as she is in Walter Reed with pneumonia.

Pastor's Sunday School - Sundays, 9:45 am, Mary Lotsey Room.

There are still spaces left for the new cohort of pastor's Sunday School. Those who would like to know more about it can speak to Pastor John at 804-384-3521 or email him at johnchoi@vaumc.org

JOY Circle – Our speaker on October 5th, 2:00 pm, will be Wendy Roundy, CEO of Helping the Homeless Ministries. Wendy will be talking about her experiences and how we can support the ministry. All are welcome to attend in the Friendship Class. Our service project for October will be focused on this ministry. We are asking the congregation to donate large cans of vegetables that will be used for preparing meals for the food bus. Our goal is to collect 30, #10 cans during the month. Monetary donations may be also given to Judy Burner or Gwen Wesson. Thank you for helping.



United Methodist Men – Our next meeting is this Tuesday, September 29th, 6:30 pm at Nick's. Our speaker will be our very own Loreen Paiva representing the National Alliance on Mental Illness Mid Tidewater.

The **Worship & Arts Committee** will meet on Tuesday, September 29th at 11:00 am.

Drop-in Blessing of the Pets -Saturday, October 10th, 2:00-4:00 pm at Susanna Wesley UMC.

All animals are welcome provided they are under their owner's control.

Sponsored by Bellamy, Susanna Wesley and Bethany United Methodist Churches.

Faith Promise Campaign - The Finance Committee has begun developing **Bethany United Methodist Church’s 2027 budget**. An important part of this process is our **Faith Promise Campaign**, which helps the Finance Committee estimate the financial resources that will be available to support the ministries and operations of our church in the coming year.

Faith Promises are allocated to the **General Fund** and help support the routine operating expenses necessary to provide effective ministry to our congregation and community. These expenses include utilities, general maintenance, insurance, salaries, advertising, supplies, and other operating costs. As we prepare for 2027, we ask each member and family to prayerfully consider their **General Fund Faith Promise for 2027**. Your commitment provides the Finance Committee with valuable information as we develop a responsible budget and plan for Bethany’s ministries in the year ahead. The **2027 Faith Promise Campaign will begin on the first Sunday in September and conclude at the end of October**. Thank you for your continued faithfulness, generosity, and commitment to the ministries of Bethany United Methodist Church.



GERSHWIN AND THE ART OF MUSICAL FUSION

It is hard to believe that George Gershwin would have been 128 years old on Saturday, September 26th! He still seems very much a “living” composer, such is the power of his artistic personality and his enduring legacy to American music. Part of his staying power was a mastery of musical *fusion*, the art of blending disparate styles, genres, and even cultures to create novel forms of beauty and expression.

Artistic cross-pollination is hardly a new phenomenon. Renaissance composers Johannes Ockeghem and Josquin des Prez, for example, often based their musical settings of the Catholic Mass on popular tunes such as *L’Homme armé (“The Armed Man”)*, thereby blurring the distinction between “sacred” and “secular.” In the Baroque period, Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frideric Handel routinely repurposed concert music for worship and synthesized German, French, and Italian styles in their vocal and instrumental works.

Fast-forward to the late 19th century, and we find Czech composer Antonin Dvořák visiting America and writing his *Ninth Symphony, “From the New World.”* The *Largo* (or slow) movement features a poignant English Horn melody often mistaken for a Negro spiritual. It was later arranged as the song *Goin’ Home*, made famous by bass-baritone Paul Robeson. Dvořák advised his American students to base their works not on European models, from Beethoven to Wagner, but rather on Indian, African-American, and other indigenous sources.

George Gershwin, whose sympathies did not exclude Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Debussy, or Stravinsky, wrote of a “Machine Age America” and looked to a broad range of folk music — including southern mountain songs, cowboy ditties, spirituals, and especially jazz — as catalysts in the creation of American art music. Gershwin’s first essay in musical fusion, *Rhapsody in Blue*, commissioned by jazz bandleader Paul Whiteman, premiered in 1924 and made him famous overnight. Together with the *Piano Concerto in F* and *An American in Paris*, it galvanized a broader American public than the concert works of any previous American composer.

It is of course the memorable and “fascinating” rhythms that generate the popular appeal of this music, not its underlying structure, which is rarely seamless. Gershwin was well aware of his need for formal training in composition and hoped to be accepted as a student by Maurice Ravel. But the French composer declined: “Why should you be a second-rate Ravel when you can be a first-rate Gershwin?” In his *Three Preludes* for piano, Gershwin is indeed “first-rate.” Released from a dependence on European Romantic models, such as Chopin and Liszt, he crafts perfectly chiseled musical epigrams that encapsulate the essence of his art. The second *Prelude*, a slow blues lullaby, prefigured the aria *Summertime* from *Porgy and Bess*. In that opera, Gershwin, the son of Russian Jewish immigrants, succeeds triumphantly in traveling the “lonesome road” of the oppressed and dispossessed, creating at once a human and an epic tragedy. His own life was tragically cut short; two years after the 1935 première of *Porgy and Bess*, Gershwin died of a brain tumor at age thirty-eight. — Rudy Shackelford

Bethany UMC Prayer List	
BETHANY FAMILY	
CANCER/CHEMO: Darlene Bauschatz, Krista Chase, Carol Johnson, Sue Leed, Larry Whitfield GRIEVING: Families of Mike Andersen, Gary Loveland, Sandy Riggan, 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, Josh Morris, Peggy Peterman, Ruth Wallace, Yvonne White, Gretchen Wood RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Nile Cecil, Cathy Raines, Cheryl Roane, Bernard Robins	
BETHANY FRIENDS	
HEALTH ISSUES: Jimmy Belvin, Opal Brown, Joshua Childers, Jimmy Diggs, Shirley Hudgins, Jordan Hunter, Shirley Lewis, Earlene Miller, David Morris, Pam Mullins, Terrie Oliver, Kendall Pratt, Wendy Roundy, Rupert Thomas, Ricky West, Gerri Wilson, Art Wolz, Vicki Wolz GRIEVING: Families of Jan Maynard Gray, Peter Hogge, Thomas Hogge, Sr.	
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.

