

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, October 26	9:30 am	Homebound Ministries
	6:00 pm	Praise Team
Tuesday, October 27	6:30 pm	United Methodist Men
Wednesday, October 28	5:30 pm	Youth Group
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, October 29	9:00 am	Bazaar Workshop
	7:00 pm	York River Concert Band Rehearsal
Friday, October 30	9:00 am	HMAG
	10:00 am	Happy Wanderers
Sunday, November 1	8:30 am	Informal Worship & Communion
	9:30 am	Celebration & Fellowship
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Traditional Worship & Communion

Birthdays

- 10/26 Ashlyn Anderson, Paul Kendall
10/27 Carolyn Broadwell
10/29 Bill Pruitt, William F. Hogge
10/30 Ryan Tilley, Connor Kent, Robert Morris
10/31 Kelly Cooper



BETHANY NEWS – October 25, 2026

Altar Flowers are given today by Pastor John and Jurah.

Faith Promise Campaign - As we prepare for 2027, we ask each member and family to prayerfully consider their **General Fund Faith Promise for 2027**. 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.

Altar Guild – The Altar Guild is in need of volunteers as part of teams (for one month, twice per year), that set up for Communion (once per month), changes paraments as needed and keep a keen eye on the sanctuary to be certain it looks its best at all times. If you are interested in helping, please contact Betty Durette at 757-771-7437. Thank you.

Homebound Ministries will be cooking for our shut-ins on Monday, October 26th at 9:30 am. Come help us and join in the fun!

The **JOY Circle** sponsored a food drive for Helping the Homeless during the month of October. Thirty-nine large cans have been donated by our church members and we exceeded our goal. These cans will be used for their food truck that distributes meals to those in need. **THANK YOU!**

United Methodist Men meet this Tuesday, October 27th, 6:30 pm at Nick’s. Our guest speakers are Susan Walton and Dr. Chelsea Clifford, who will be speak about the rare plant, *S. rigda*, that was recently discovered by park ranger, Monica Canepa, at Beaverdam, as a result of the low water level. This is the most southern coastal population of the plant in the world! Join us for good food, fellowship and an interesting evening.

Once again, the **Joy Circle** will sponsor the **Christmas Market** as a community outreach project. This year we will be at Commonwealth Senior Living - Gloucester House, where 3 Bethany friends reside. We ask that the congregation help us with small gift items that the residents select for their family members and/or themselves. Popular items include shower steamers, colognes for men or women, jewelry, large piece puzzles, body sprays, notepads, boxed greeting cards, liquid hand soaps, boxes of sturdy tissues, socks, comb and brush sets. A box will be provided at the back door beginning Sunday, November 1 for your donations. The Christmas Market will be held on Monday, December 7 at 2:00 for anyone that may want to join us for an afternoon blessing!

Happy Wanderers- Friday, October 30th - We’ll meet in the front parking lot of church at 10:00 am. We will travel to Anderson’s Showplace and several other locations to enjoy the festive decorations for the upcoming holidays. We will have lunch at Tous Les Jours, a French bakery and cafe. Come join us for a fun day! Call Judy Burner if you can join in the fun!

MUSIC AND THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Acclaimed the Great Reformer, Martin Luther challenged the mightiest power on earth in his day, the Roman Catholic Church, On 31 October, 1517, Luther called for a debate on the doctrine of indulgences w documents authorized by the Pope to insure purchasers against punishment in purgatory or to release souls already there. With his posting of 95 theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, the scholar and monk ignited an explosion that reverberates even today. In the process he placed the Bible in the hands of the common people, in the language of their everyday speech. He offered European man a new notion of himself, preaching access to God without intercession of clergy. And by wrenching much of Western Europe away from obedience to the Roman Church, he ended the social order of centuries and sparked a century of bitter warfare.

Few upheavals affected music as directly as did the Lutheran Reformation. Where the Catholic church was traditionally suspicious of it, Luther embraced music as perhaps his most powerful ally in winning souls for God. "The devil doesn't tarry where there is music," he quipped, reflecting the artistic inclination of a theologian who possessed a strong tenor voice and also played the lute and flute. In his writings Luther warns against over-zealous suppression of the arts by biblical enthusiasts, expressing instead the hope that all the arts - especially music-might be used to serve their Creator. He defines music as a gift of God that transcends all eloquence and that reaches its full power in the union of text and song in praise of God.

As to the Reformer's reforms, they were meant to make church ritual generally, and church music in particular, a participatory, active experience, in keeping with Luther's vision of the church as a community of believers. Therefore, functions that had traditionally been the province of monastic or professional choirs were now to be shared by the entire congregation. Thus was born the unaccompanied congregational hymn known as the Lutheran chorale, sung in unison and in the vernacular language1 German, rather than Latin.

Certainly the most iconic chorale is *Einfeste Burg ist unser Gott (A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, UMH 110), often called "the battle hymn of the Reformation." Martin Luther wrote the text, a paraphrase of *Psalms* 46, and probably the music as well, and published it in his first church hymnal containing both words and tunes (Wittenberg, 1529),

From the 16th to the 21st centuries, many excellent composers have contributed extensively to Protestant church music. Yet the achievement of one man, Johann Sebastian Bach, dwarfs even his most talented and prolific predecessors -Johann Pachelbel and Dietrich Buxtehude - and followers such as Felix Mendelssohn, Johannes Brahms and Hugo Distler. Bach's legacy of sacred music includes over 200 cantatas, motets and passions (settings of the Crucifixion story), not to mention myriad organ works based on Lutheran chorales.

It might be said that Bach did for music what Shakespeare did for drama: both geniuses created an entire repertoire which became the foundation of their respective art forms. In the opening phrase of our Voluntary, the highly dramatic Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, I hear an allusion to Hamlet's famous soliloquy "To be or not to be ... "; a later echo of this existential query occurs at the beginning of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Such is the power of great art to transport and transform us!

Bethany UMC Prayer List	
BETHANY FAMILY	
CANCER/CHEMO: Darlene Bauschatz, Krista Chase, Carol Johnson, Sue Leed, Larry Whitfield GRIEVING: Families of Mike Andersen, David Cecil, Nile Cecil, Gary Loveland, Marie Reynolds, Sandy Riffin, Lee Wood HEALTH ISSUES: Linda Booth, Dawn Cluts, Billy Davis, Sandy Fox, Estelle Harris, Pat Hasty, Barb Holtry, Milton Hudgins, Kathy Jacobs, Paul Kendall, Bonnie Lewis, Dennis Mitchell, Josh Morris, Peggy Peterman, Ruth Wallace, Yvonne White, Gretchen Wood	
BETHANY FRIENDS	
HEALTH ISSUES: Jimmy Belvin, David Berry, Donald Berry, Opal Brown, Joshua Childers, Jimmy Diggs, Marcia Haywood, Shirley Hudgins, Jordan Hunter, Shirley Lewis, Alex Martin, 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
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.

