

**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 it 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.**

The nursery is located in the main hallway between the office and fellowship hall.

**Nursery volunteers are needed. WILL YOU HELP?** Sign-up sheet is outside the nursery.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY		
<b>Sunday, October 6</b>	8:30 am & 11:00 am	Worship (8:30 Informal; 11:00 Traditional)
	9:30 am	Celebrations and Fellowship
	9:45 am	Sunday School for all ages
	6:00 pm	Common Thread
<b>Monday, October 7</b>	10:00 am	Bazaar Quilt Group
	5:30 pm	Praise Team
<b>Tuesday, October 8</b>	7:00 pm	Finance Committee
<b>Wednesday, October 9</b>	6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, October 10</b>	9:00 am	Bazaar Workshop
	10:00 am	York River Garden Club
	6:30 pm	House of Prayer
	7:00 pm	Bethany Bible Study (BBS)
<b>Friday, October 11</b>	9:00 am– 3:30 pm	HMAG
<b>Saturday, October 12</b>	9:00 am – 7:00 pm	Quilters Retreat
<b>Sunday, October 13</b>	8:30 & 11:00 am	Worship (8:30 Informal; 11:00 Traditional)
	9:30 am	Celebrations and Fellowship
	9:45 am	Sunday School for all ages

**Birthdays**

10/6 Alicia Naples, Jane Sterling, Norma Sage  
 10/7 Rob Raines  
 10/8 Austin Kent, Karrie Cooper  
 10/9 Jordan Roane, Mary Knox Murphy,  
 Kim Song  
 10/10 Lisa Hasty, Cathy Raines, Shawn Chase  
 10/11 Jim Stevens, Chelsea Leigh  
 10/12 Wendy Hogge

**Anniversaries**

10/8 Brian & Chris Mahoney, 30  
 10/12 Neal & Nancy White, 44  
 Charles & Linda Enroughty, 61



**ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sunday, October 6, 2024**

Altar flowers are given by Martin & Dolores Breen in Thanksgiving to God for all that we have to celebrate this month. We are so grateful for his goodness and mercy!

**Potato Bar Report** – Many thanks for your enthusiastic support of the UMM Potato Bar Fundraiser. The UMM cleared over \$650 on the sale of over 50 meals. This was supported, also, by several food and monetary donations. Our Church family is awesome! I was so proud of my UMM team (plus Donna Anderson). Everyone worked seamlessly, like a well-oiled machine. All I had to do was sit back and watch! I am proud to be a member of Bethany UMC. – In His Name, Alan Harvey

The **Church and Society Committee** recently met to discuss the opportunity to participate in the Jubilee of Churches lunch program, which involves providing a lunch for approximately 12 participants during 1 week, selecting either a Tues, Thurs. or Fri. This can be as simple as a couple of pizzas, or a large submarine sandwich, etc., and dessert. Beverages are not necessary. Bethany would need three members to commit to one of these days during a designated week in January. If you are interested in signing up for one of these days during a week in January, please contact Vicki Williams at 804-815-4108 or willv1@cox.net.

By the decision of the Administrative Council, a Bethany Church Conference is scheduled for **Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm**, to vote on whether Bethany will hold or not hold same-sex weddings in the Bethany Church facility. The District Superintendent of the Mission River District will preside over the meeting. All church members are asked to attend.

A Town Hall meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm**, for sharing information from the Church Conference and for questions and answers.

**Volunteer Mission Opportunity** - Would you consider being the Bethany UMC coordinator when Bethany serves as a GUEST (Gloucester United Emergency Shelter Team) shelter for the homeless for a week during the winter? (Note that Brad Thomas has volunteered to assist with the coordination of volunteers for Bethany’s week.) Please contact Al Burner at 804-413-4444 for more information about this opportunity to serve with Christian love some of the most needy in our community.

**UMCOR** (United Methodist Committee on Relief), is open for helping the victims of Hurricane Helen. Please go to either of the websites below if you would like to contribute:

<https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-620-umcor-us-disaster-response-and-recovery.aspx> or  
[www.vaumc.org/helene](http://www.vaumc.org/helene).

Widows of Gloucester and Mathews Counties will meet Monday, 10/7, 11:00 am at the Gloucester County Library. Please contact Doris Luther at 804-993-7416 for details.

NOTE ON MUSIC FOR ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

The feast of St. Francis of Assisi is celebrated annually on October 4th. The music for today's service pays tribute to his life and ministry - still very relevant and compelling after eight centuries!

St. Francis considered all nature as the mirror of God, and his *Canticle of the Creatures*, set to music in our opening hymn, refers to "brother Sun" and "sister Moon," to wind, water, and fire, and even "sister Death." The inspiration modern hymn writers drew from the Saint's sublime message provides our *Intrada (All Things Bright and Beautiful)* and *Exodus (God of the Sparrow God of the Whale)*.

Birds are among God's most magical creations. One of many charming episodes in the Franciscan legend is his "Sermon to the Birds," depicted in Giotto's paintings at Assisi and recounted in the *Fioretti* (or *Little Flowers of St. Francis*), a treasure of 13th-century Italian literature. Several years ago, on St. Francis Sunday, Rev. Art Wolz and Rev. Debbie Marion narrated the "Sermon to the Birds" with the accompaniment of Franz Liszt's magnificent tone-poem for piano. They also led a Blessing of the Animals service in the afternoon, as did Rev. Steve Young. Today we are limited to brief musical portrayals of just two birds: the swan (Offer-tory) and the hermit thrush (Music during Communion).

*Carnival of the Animals* is a suite of fourteen very whimsical pieces that celebrate the animal kingdom in all its sonic variety. By far the most famous is *The Swan*, whose immortal melody was sung by the 'cello's refined, expressive baritone voice. American composer Amy Beach heard a hermit thrush "sing hymns of rapture" and evoked its calls in a ravishing 1921 piano prelude composed at the MacDowell Colony (Peterborough, N. H.) In such a setting, totally devoted to artistic creativity and communion with nature, St. Francis himself would surely feel at home!

- Rudy Shackelford

**Bethany UMC Prayer List**

BETHANY FAMILY

**CANCER/CHEMO:** Darlene Bauschatz, Keith Brown, Krista Chase, Billy Hogge, Carol Johnson, Sue Leed, Fred Niethamer, Linwood Rowe, Larry Whitfield  
**GRIEVING:** Families of Chuck Ashe, Cliff Beach, Iva Belvin, Lonnie Byrd, Jim Durette, Kira Fox, Judy Hudgins, Larry A. Johnson, Debbie Durette Potter  
**HEALTH ISSUES:** Clyde Burton, David Cecil, Dawn Cluts, Nancy Cooper, Billy Davis, John Farrow, Estelle Harris, David Hoover, Milton Hudgins, Kathy Jacobs, Paul & Nancy Kendall, Bonnie Lewis, Joy Long, Dennis Mitchell, Patsy Morales, Alice Northam, Richard Parkes, Peggy Peterman (NC), Rosemarie Tong  
**HOMEBOUND:** Linda Booth, Ruth Wallace, Lavalie Wilson  
**PARKINSON'S:** Mike Andersen, David Chapin, Kathleen Greene, Yvonne White  
**RECOVERING FROM SURGERY:** Mary Linda Brooks, Dylan Chapin, Betty Durette, Shannon Minor, M.E. Thomas

BETHANY FRIENDS

**CANCER/CHEMO:** Clint Alexander, Peyton Arthur, Fran Bonnaville, Kendall Walthall Caton, Jack Cawthorn, Kyle Cooper, Barbara Crim, Wanda Dowell, Bill Edwards, John Gordon, Traci Greene, Dale Handley, Zachary Hoover, Connie Hutchinson, Sissi Mise, Chauntea Shield, Mason Staley, Jeff Suntken, David Trottier, Bobby Tucker, Shalini Upadhyaya, Jill Ward, Bob Wharen, Marian Williford  
**GRIEVING:** Families of Jacqueline Emerson, Jennie Handley, Leo Thomas Hogge, Zachary Thomas Hoover, Sarah Jacobs, Pat Miller, Melissa Anne Quesenberry, Gordon Scott, Melissa Sutton, Josh Wilson  
**HEALTH/OTHER ISSUES:** Sharon Acree, Connie Bowler, Kathryn Bjers, Juanita Duncan, Jason Harney, Dewayne Haywood, Laura Hodges, Val Hopkins, Adie Kurth, Jean Moon, Dylan Moore family, Jennifer Morecock, Sylvia Motley, Alicia Lynn Williams Naples, Rick Nichols, Annette Peiffer, Ken Pierkowski, Phillip Presson, Mary Ann Shackelford, Dixie Sharp, Tim Sullivan, Mildred Townsend, Sandie Wharen, Sabrina Wikle, Robin Willman, Randy Wilson, Tracy Weingard,  
**HOSPICE:** Dale Handley, Selma, Mary Smith  
**PARKINSON'S:** Janet Burch  
**RECOVERING FROM SURGERY:** Jack Gibson, Pat Hall, Silvia Howerton, Natalie Long, Mildred Townsend  
**OTHER PRAYERS:** Ukraine; Israel; Middle East; United Methodist Church; Andrew Lee, Missionary in Cambodia; For all in grief, rescue or turmoil as a result of Hurricane Helene.

ACTIVE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES (*italics—Bethany friends*)

*Michael Brown, Kevin Jacobs, Cory Long, Will Neikirk, Jim Minor, Ben Szulgit, All members of the military.*

ASSISTED LIVING

Gloucester House, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061	Lorraine Brown, Rm 107 Kathleen Greene, Rm 106 Jean Heywood, Rm 110
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, 2015 Cranbeck Rd., Richmond 23235	Pauline Harris, Apt. 130
Riverside Rehab, 672 Gloucester Rd., Saluda, VA, 23149	Jennie Lipscomb
Warwick Forest, 1000 Old Denbigh Blvd., Newport News, VA 23602	Bessie Conner, Rm 529