



The Newsette

Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
5400 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225-2513
(804) 233-1066 and (804) 233-9515

bethanychristiandoc@gmail.com / www.bethanyccdoc.org / www.facebook.com/bethanyccdoc

April 2026
Volume 65 Issue 4

Our Vision: Bethany Christian Church is committed to worshipping God, deepening our faith, spreading the gospel, and serving where Christ leads.

Rev. Jaclyn Twedell Woods
Senior Pastor

Naomi Moon
Financial Secretary

Duane Toole
Director of Music

Carol Molinares
Pianist

To submit information for the Newsette, call (804) 233-1066 or send an email to bethanychristiandoc@gmail.com

We are still broadcasting our Sunday service online on Facebook for those members and friends who choose to worship at home.

APRIL TEAMS

If you are unable to serve on the date(s) assigned, please arrange for a replacement.

PROPERTY OPENER and CLOSER
Geoff Gangloff

COMMUNION PREPARATION
2 Maundy Thursday 5:30 p.m. – Sue Marion
5 Easter – Sarah McLillard
12 – Sarah McLillard
19 – Sarah McLillard
26 – Geoff Gangloff

USHERS - all month
Primary: Ollie Peebles
Backup: Ross Dorneman

WORSHIP LEADERS

5 Easter – Ross Dorneman
12 – Linda Grubb
19 – Sue Marion
26 – Kristin Wolfe

DEACONS

Linda Walls
Sarah McLillard

ELDERS

2 Maundy Thursday – Barbara Ozlin
5 Easter – Ross Dorneman
12 – Linda Grubb
19 – Brian Gradwell
26 – Ray Crawford

ELDER SERVICE TO HOMEBOUND

Becky Murrell

OFFERING COMMITTEE

Jo Anne Dorneman and
Karen McClain

NOTE 1: The Into Action AA group will be meeting in our Youth Center: •Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. •Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

NOTE 2: Crown and Joy Presbyterian Church meets in our main building: •Sundays at 1:00 p.m. •Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
•Third Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. and other times as coordinated with us



THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

"God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you.'" - Billy Graham

"April showers bring May flowers, but they also bring renewal and growth." — Mandy Harrison

For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. Romans 6:9

STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

Stewardship report as of February 28, 2026 (16.67% of the year)

Income received year-to-date\$27,723.27 (18.01% of annual budget)

pledged donations; "give-as-I-can" donations;
transient, Sunday School, budgeted special offerings and
receipts; budgeted facility donations; budgeted
interest/dividend income

* also YTD, we have received and disbursed through Misc Special Offerings

Total operating expenses year-to-date.....\$30,724.55 (14.58% of annual budget)

For 2026, we:

- accounted for \$600 in facility donation from Crown and Joy to help with the heat repair
- accounted for \$2,751.05 gain in the value of our Perpetual Endowment Fund

Information on our accounts as of February 28, 2026

Truist Checking Acct	\$ 47,605.65
Truist Business MM Acct	\$ 646.09
Truist CD (matures 6-12-2026)	\$ 26,556.20
Christian Church Extension Fund CD for Loving & Caring Endowment (principal cannot be used - matures 05-14-2026)	\$ 10,000.00
Christian Church Extension Fund CD (matures 3-27-2026)	\$ 50,000.00
Perpetual Endowment*	\$ 437,631.24
* principal.....	\$ 237,855.59
* dollars available as directed by designated gifts from members/friends.....	76,178.51
* income available for general church needs as directed by the General Board.....	123,597.14

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DEPARTMENT

Please join us for a casserole breakfast after the not so sunrise "Sonrise" service on **April 5 at 9:15 a.m.**

We will be soliciting casseroles from the congregation. If you have a favorite breakfast casserole you are particularly proud of, please bring it. Please let **Ollie Peebles** or **Becky Murell** know if you plan to bring a casserole.

WORSHIP | SPIRITUAL GROWTH | COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR THE EASTER SEASON:

- Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday service at 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 4 – Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 a.m. thru 1:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 5 – "Sonrise" service at 8:30 a.m.
- Sunday, April 5 – Casserole breakfast after Sonrise service ≈ 9:15 a.m.
- Sunday, April 5 – Easter Worship at 11:00 a.m.



PRAYER CONCERNS – *Please notify the church office when this information changes.*

● Acute – examples are: a surgery and release, an accident, a procedure, a hospital stay and release, etc.

Jim Evans

Merrily Baber

Mary Kline

● Ongoing – examples are: rehabilitation and recovery, new treatments, waiting on tests results

B. J. Gradwell

Carolyn Moore

Mark Kimmel

Eliana Oatman

Alyssa Oatman Morris

Dee & Jim Evans

● Members of our church family who may be struggling with chronic health issues, sadness, loneliness, and other burdens or who might just need a “prayer hug” to include

Jean McNeely

● Extended Church Family – family and friends of church members

Art	John Shell's brother-in-law
Ben Anderson.....	JoAnn Crawford's brother
Rev. Alice Clarke	Sarah McLillard's friend
Nicole Craig	Barbara Ozlin's niece
Harrison Gradwell	Penny & Brian Gradwell's grandson
Jackie Holliday Ellett	Christine Rolston's daughter's friend
Odell Ingram	John Shell's mother-in-law
Susan Lowe	Mary Lowe's sister
Karen Peregoy	Dee & Jim Evans' daughter
Michael McNeely & April Gray	
Geraldine Russell	Penny Gradwell's mother
Mary Elizabeth (Liz) Smith	Barbara Ozlin's sister
Michelle	Friend of Karen McClain and her son
Penny Walker	Pastor Jackie's grandmother
Heather White	Diana Case-Foster's cousin
Dan McClain.....	Sarah McLillard's Father



Please pray for those who suffer from natural disasters and war; for all of our men and women in the military and their families; for our country, its leaders, and peace in our world; and for our church.

EVANGELISM | OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

Easter Offering – The Easter Offering supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church. Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and so much more ● Center for Faith and Giving ● Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries ● Communication Ministries ● Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry ● Disciples of Christ Historical Society ● Disciples Home Missions ● Disciples Women ● Division of Overseas Ministries ● Higher Education and Leadership Ministries ● National Benevolent Association ● National Convocation ● New Church Ministry ● North American Pacific/Asian Disciples ● Office of the General Minister and President ● Treasury Services.



Our Easter Offering will be collected on Palm Sunday, **March 29**, and on Easter Sunday, **April 5**. Please make your checks payable to “Bethany Christian Church” and write “Easter Offering” in the memo section.

We will be open as a Church World Service/Lutheran World Relief drop-off depot in **March and April**.



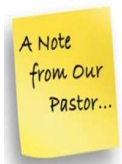
Bainbridge Community Ministry box in the hallway near the Chapel is always open for your donations of non-perishable food (and there is a box for paper bags with handles). Tim Skeens, from Bon Air Christian Church, is always so kind to deliver our food donations.

- *things to think about when donating to the food bank: cans with pop tops (no can opener required); smaller portions not oversized boxes; items that don't require ingredients not in the box (i.e., some mac & cheese requires milk and butter); cooking oil, sugar, and spices are needed also*

The upcoming Easter Egg Hunt will be held **Saturday April 4th, 2026** from **11:00am until 1:00pm**. We will be hosting again with Crown and Joy.

Crossover Health Care Ministry is a local, non-profit organization which provides health care to local persons who have no other way to obtain care. They will accept whatever monies one is able to pay, but they do not charge for their services. They provide internal medicine services as well as some other specialties, including dental care. To become a patient at Crossover, one must go through a screening process to be placed on a waiting list. Their demand is great. Crossover depends on donations to keep their ministry going, and with the increased demands of today, the need for donations is even greater.

Our offering for Crossover will be collected on Sunday, **April 26**, and Sunday, **May 3**. Please prayerfully consider making a much-needed donation for this very important ministry. Make your checks out to "Bethany Christian Church" and write "Crossover Ministry" in the memo section.



FROM PASTOR JACKIE TWEDELL WOODS

As we continue on our Lenten Journey, we find ourselves closer and closer to the cross. On Sunday, we will walk with Jesus into Jerusalem, waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" Next week, we will gather around a table for the Lord's Supper. We will gather at the cross and watch Jesus take his last breath. We will spend time in the darkness of Jesus' death.

All of this must happen before we are able to make our way to the empty tomb and encounter the risen Jesus in the garden.

I know Easter is right around the corner, and it is so easy to find ourselves already celebrating the joy of that day. Flowers are blooming! New life is already all around! And candies and bunnies and eggs are everywhere, reminding us that we need to be ready for Easter!

This year, as we prepare for the joy-filled promise of resurrection, remember that Holy Week is full of hope, yes, but also full of fear and despair and denial and betrayal and death.

As a way to enhance your experience of Holy Week, I have put together a selection of scriptures from Matthew that take us from the joy and hope of Jesus' triumphal entry, all the way to the darkness of Jesus' death. Each day, you will find a scripture to read and a prayer. I hope you take time with each scripture – consider what God might be saying to you, and how God might be encouraging you as you journey with Jesus to the cross.

Palm Sunday

Read Matthew 21:1-11

Prayer: True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen,

Monday of Holy Week

Read Matthew 26:1-16

Prayer: Lord God, prevent us from allowing our bitterness or disappointment to lead us to harm others whether in thought or deed. Amen.

Tuesday of Holy Week

Read Matthew 26:17-46

Prayer: God, thank you for the gift of your own body and blood. Let that gift strengthen us in the knowledge that you love us more than anything. Amen.

Wednesday of Holy Week

Read Matthew 26:47-75

Prayer: Lord God, protect and preserve us in this world that we might keep faith with the promises and responsibilities we have undertaken, and when we feel alone remind us that you understand and are with us. Amen.

Maundy Thursday

Read Matthew 27:1-31

Prayer: Use us, Lord God, as instruments of peace in world too often broken by violence and a thirst for power. Amen.

Good Friday

Read Matthew 27:32-56

Prayer: God, on the cross you suffered the very depths of our human life, even to the point of death. When we see the cross, let us remember that you become one of us and endured all elements of life to show us your great love and to give us hope. Amen.

Holy Saturday

Read Matthew 27:57-66

Prayer: God, remind us of your presence with us when we stumble, suffer, or are afraid in any way. Give us strength, courage, and peace, and help us to be an encouragement and sign of life to others. Amen.

Easter Sunday

Read Matthew 28:1-20

Prayer: God, fill us with holy joy. The sorrow of the cross has turned into the joy of victory. Let our hearts rejoice because Jesus lives. Remove sadness that lingers from past burdens. Teach us to celebrate the gift of salvation. May our worship be sincere and full of gladness. Let our joy be a testimony to others that You are alive. Amen.

May God be with you on this journey,
Pastor Jackie



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	2 Maundy Thursday Maundy Thursday Service 5:30 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	3 Good Friday	4 Egg Hunt - joint with C&J 11:00 am-1:00 pm
5 Easter Easter Offg "Sonrise" svc 8:30 am casserole brkfst 9:15 am Worship 11:00 am Crow n & Joy 1:30 pm	6	7 AA-YC 7:00 pm	8 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	9 AA-YC 7:00 pm	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crow n & Joy 1:30 pm	13	14 AA-YC 7:00 pm	15 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	16 Theology on Tap at Maldini's 6:30 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	17	18 C&J 8:30 am
19 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crow n & Joy 1:30 pm	20	21 DWF Circle #1 10:00 am AA-YC 7:00 pm	22 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	23 DWF Circle #4 7:00 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	24	25
26 Crossover Min Offg Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 11:00 am Crow n & Joy 1:30 pm • May Newsette deadline	27	28 AA-YC 7:00 pm	29 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	30 AA-YC 7:00 pm		
Notes: AA: Into Action Alcoholics Anonymous FH: Fellowship Hall C&J: Crow n & Joy Presbyterian Church YC: Youth Center DWF: Disciples Women's Fellowship					© 2022 Vertex42 LLC Calendar Template by Vertex42.com	