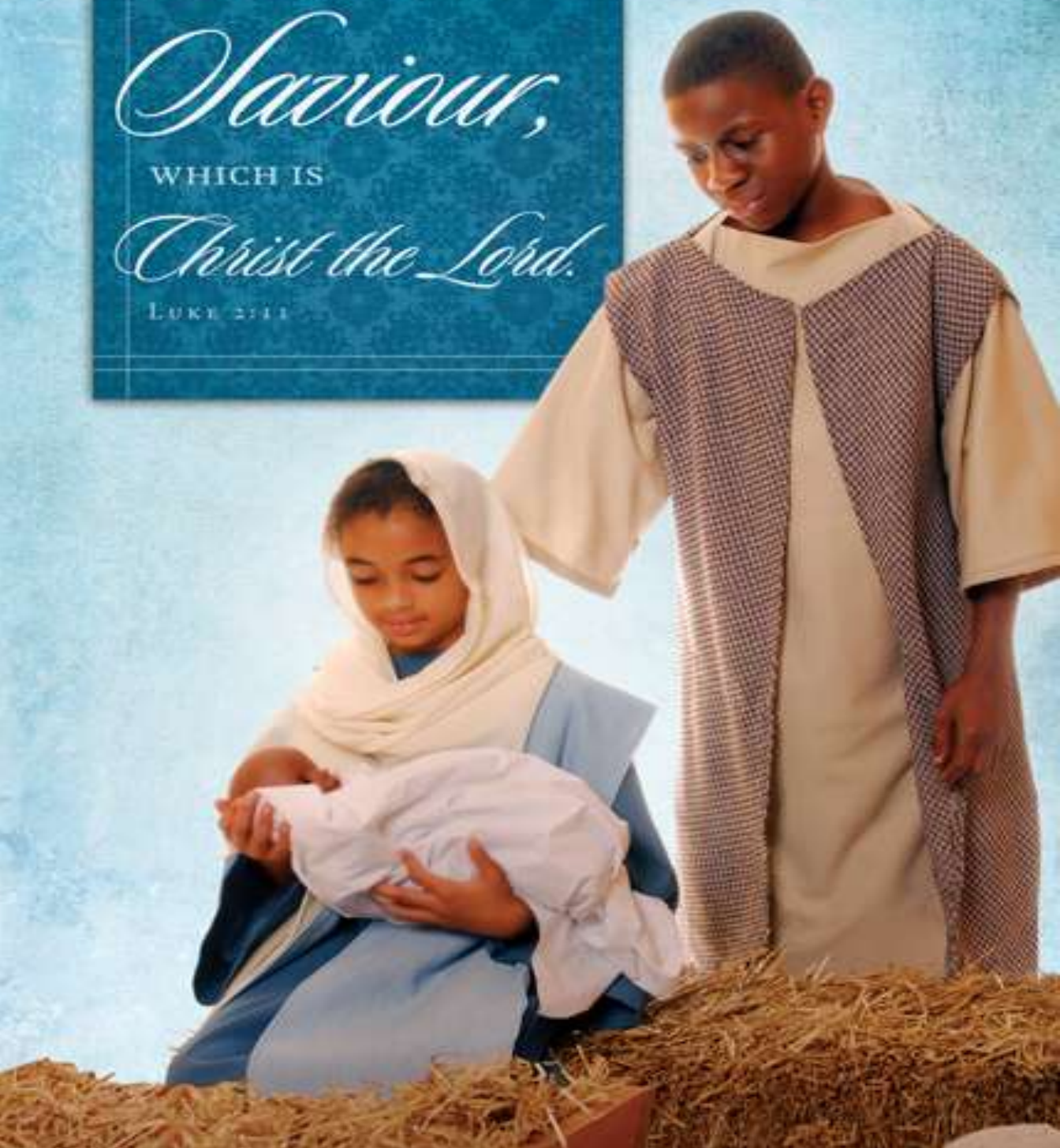


FOR UNTO YOU IS
BORN THIS DAY... A

Saviour,
WHICH IS
Christ the Lord.

LUKE 2:11



WELCOME TO BETHESDA!

*Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool,
in Aramaic called Bethesda...(John 5:2 ESV)*

Enter His Gates With Thanksgiving!

Greetings! We are excited to have you worship with us today. We hope you can sense our enthusiasm about what God is doing here at Bethesda. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we believe the Word of God has the power to touch and transform your life. As we worship together today, we pray that you experience the love of God through the people and ministries of Bethesda, where we are ***“Loving Our God, Living Our Name!”*** ***Feel free to use your cell phone, tablet, PDA, or electronic device during worship. Check-in on Facebook and follow the conversation online via Twitter @GreaterBethesda, use hashtag #GBMBC.*** However, we respectfully request that your electronic device be used in “Manner Mode” during the worship service. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Again, welcome to Greater Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church. We’re glad you are here!!

Belong. Believe. Become.

Rev. David W. Watkins, III – Senior Pastor

Bethesda is...

Glorifying God

Becoming Disciples of Christ

Making an Impact in the Community

Building the Kingdom of God

Changing the World



BETHESDA
The Place Of Promise

Loving Our God, Living Our Name!



ANTICIPATION & EXPECTATION

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... (Isaiah 9:6)

Greetings Bethesda Family and Friends:

I certainly hope that your Thanksgiving holiday went well. Ours certainly did as we welcomed Baby Joseph to the Watkins Family. He arrived Friday, November 17, 2017 at 3:18 a.m. at 7lbs 11oz and 21 inches. Without a doubt, he is a beautiful, healthy baby boy! Mommy Latasha is doing well and in great spirits. Big brothers, Jadon and Jonathan, are so excited and are already reading books to the baby. Daddy is tired but thrilled at our newest addition! We are all healthy, happy at home. To God be the glory! Nine long months of waiting is now over! What the Watkins Family was expecting from God came to fruition at God's appointed time!

Beloved, Baby Joseph is the manifestation of what God promised to us through prayer - a beautiful, healthy baby. However, what God promised only arrived AFTER a season of anticipation and expectation. Pregnancy is a season filled with joy and laughter; doubt and pain. There were several

doctor's visits, needle pricks, lab tests, and physical exams that Lady Latasha had to endure for nine long months to ensure the successful delivery of what we expected from God.

What are you expecting from God? What do you anticipate God will do for you, your family, your community, your country, and your world? Whatever you have been praying about and seeking God for will be preceded by a season of waiting filled with joy and laughter; doubt and pain. But, be not dismayed! The same God who made the promise is the same God who will keep the promise. At God's appointed time, God will manifest what you have been praying for but you must endure this season of waiting with joyful expectation and hopeful anticipation!

Just as Baby Joseph marks a new season in our lives, the church is entering a new season in its worship life. The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians. Advent is a time of joyful expectation and hopeful anticipation of the coming of the Lord. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming. So, stay awake, be alert, and watch and see how God moves during this Advent season! I love you! God bless you!

Belong. Believe. Become. Rev. David W. Watkins, III – Senior Pastor

MONTHLY CALENDAR – AT A GLANCE

What's Happening @ The Pool

Sunday, December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. - Rev. Pamela L. Pirtle,
Senior Pastor, Gorham UMC, Guest Preacher

Saturday, December 9, 2017

9:00 a.m. – Congregational Agility Project
Meeting; St. John Church Baptist, 4821 S.
Michigan Ave.

9:30 a.m. – 2nd Annual Breakfast with Santa;
Hosted by the Paving the Way Project

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

12:00 p.m. – Quarterly Churchwide Meeting

Monday, December 11, 2017

6:00 p.m. – 2017 Nationwide Prayer Vigils &
Events to #EndGunViolence

Hosted by the Paving the Way Project

Saturday, December 16, 2017

10:00 a.m. –The Multi-Level Certificate Program
Graduation Celebration

Third Baptist Church of Chicago, 1551 W. 95th St.
Rev. Dr. Alan V. Ragland, Host Pastor

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

12:00 p.m. –December Birthday Celebration
with Special Guest

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

6:00 p.m. – Sweet Hour of Prayer Meeting

Saturday, December 23, 2017

12:00 p.m. – **2017 Toy Drive Giveaway**
Hosted by the Paving The Way Project

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve

10:00 a.m. – Christmas Eve Worship Experience
featuring The Youth Ministry of GBMBC

Sunday, December 24 - 30, 2017

Campus Closed - In the event of an emergency
while the campus is closed, please call
773.916.7665

Sunday, December 31, 2017

First Sunday of Christmas / New Year's Eve

10:00 a.m. – New Year's Eve Worship
Experience



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Here's What's Happening @ The Pool

2017 HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE – LET’S GO BETHESDA!

Fact: After losing a loved one, the holidays can hurt. So, this holiday season, join the Paving the Way Project in making the lives of children impacted by violence a bit brighter through the GBMBC Toy Drive. Please consider purchasing two (2) gifts, one practical (i.e. gloves, scarf, etc.) and one “fun/toy” gift, not to exceed \$20 dollars total. ***Our goal is to serve 135 youth in honor of our 135th church anniversary.*** These gifts will be collected between Monday, November 27th thru Monday, December 18, 2017. All gifts will be shared with GBMBC Youth, Families in Washington Park, and our ministry partners at Strides for Peace; Darryl Cook Live (Soul 106.3 FM); and our newest partner Hello Baby on Saturday, December 23rd. Monetary donations can also be made. To sign up or for more information, please see Antonio Davis. Thank you in advance for your support. God Bless!

2017 Christmas Toy Drive
Accepting toy donations from November 27th
thru December 18th, 2017. Ages 6 months to 16 years
Gift Cards for Families

Proceeds to support

- Darryl Cook, SOUL 106.3
- Greater Bethesda M.B. Church
- Paving The Way Project
- Strides For Peace
- Hello Baby

Drop off Locations

Greater Bethesda M.B. Church
109 E. 53rd St Chicago, IL
Contact Antonio Davis
773.373.3188

Liners Barber Shop
15420 Dixie Highway
Harvey, IL
Contact Vagas D. Scales
773.597.597



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Here's What's Happening @ The Pool

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA – NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017

On **Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.**, join the Paving the Way project as we host our first **Breakfast with Santa Holiday Event**. A great morning of fun and festive activities has been planned for the entire family: music, face-painting, balloon art, and pictures with Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus. Our menu includes: pancake, eggs, fruit, juice and water. Tickets are \$5.00 per person / \$20.00 for a family of 5 or more. You don't want to miss this first-of-its-kind event for the Washington Park Community. All proceeds raised will go to support the 2016 Holiday Toy Drive. We are also looking for volunteers to serve as "Santa's Elves" (hosts/hostesses, etc). Monetary donations can also be made. To sign up or for more information, please see Antonio Davis. Thank you in advance for your support. God Bless!

Greater Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church
109 East 53rd St., Chicago, IL 60615
Invites you to have
Breakfast with Santa
Saturday December 9, 2017
9:30am to 12:00 noon
Cost: \$5.00 per person
\$20.00 per family of 5+
Menu:
Pancakes
Bacon
Eggs
Fruit
Juice & Water
Activities:
Face painting
Balloon Artist
Music
Photos with Mr. & Mrs Santa Claus
Proceeds to support
2017 Christmas Toy Drive

2017 Nationwide Vigils & Events to #EndGunViolence

Come together to remember half a million Americans killed or injured by guns since the Sandy Hook shooting tragedy.



Join The Newtown Foundation, Newtown Action Alliance, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Everytown Survivor Network, Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Organizing for Action, States United to Prevent Gun Violence, St Marks Episcopal Church and Women's March

and attend a vigil or event on:

Monday, December 11, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Greater Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, 109 East 53rd Street, Chicago, IL

We will give voice to all victims and survivors of gun violence and together help #EndGunViolence in America.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Here's What's Happening @ The Pool



Ommatidium

Together in Ministry

Graduation Celebration

You are cordially invited to attend
The Multi-Level Certificate Program
F-Change: Faith-Based Strategies
For Congregational Agility®

Commencement Services:

Saturday, December 16, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

Third Baptist Church of Chicago

1551 W. 95th Street; Chicago, IL 60643

Rev. Dr. Alan V. Ragland, Host Pastor

~ Reception Immediately Following Services ~

*This one-year certificate program, available to pastors and their ministry teams, was made possible by an American Baptist Home Mission Society/
American Baptist Foundation grant.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Here's What's Happening @ The Pool

EVENT & BUDGET REQUEST FORMS 2018

The Event and Budget Request Form must be submitted **no later than Sunday, December 10, 2017** for ALL anticipated events in 2018. Every ministry, committee, club, etc. must submit form(s) to be included on the 2018 Church Calendar (even if you are not requesting budgetary support). You may retrieve forms from and return completed forms to Treasurer Roelisia Dawkins-Hicks or Avis Abernathy in the church office. If you have any questions, please see Treasurer Dawkins-Hicks. Thank you for your assistance.

TRIBUTE TO CARL E. DAWSON!

On Sunday, December 3rd, immediately following service, please join The Ergardes Club, Dr. Grace Dawson and Family as they give tribute to Carl E. Dawson and hang his memorial picture in the Ladies Parlor.

AFTERNOON SERVICE POSTPONED!

The installation service for Rev. Saeed Richardson as pastor of First Baptist Church of Waukegan has been postponed due to a family emergency. This event was previously scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 3. Please keep Saeed and his family in your prayers. This event will be rescheduled at a later date.

CONGRATULATIONS BETHESDANS (REVISED)!

The 14th Annual Presentation of Glenn Edward Burleigh's "Born to Die: A Christmas Cantata" was an amazing worship experience. We extend hearty kudos and congratulations to our Minister of Music Daniel Scott, Jr, Assistant Director Karen Barbee Dixon and guest conductor Dr. Keith Hampton for their Spirit-led leadership and phenomenal musicianship. Additionally, special thanks to our co-chairpersons Delores Tolliver and ***Geri Cade-Cox***, soloists, musicians, narrator, hosts and ushers, and Rev. Johnson for your tremendous effort and execution in supporting this year's presentation. Congratulations all! Praise God!

WE NEED YOU!

The Care and Concern Ministry of GBMBC needs your support. To serve our fellow sisters and brothers, this ministry is seeking travel sized toiletries from the congregation to be assembled as "care kits" for those who request it. A receiving basket will be placed in the 53rd street lobby next Sunday for all donations. Thanks in advance for your support and generosity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Here's What's Happening @ The Pool

QUARTERLY CHURCHWIDE MEETING IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017!

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!! Calling all church members! Please join us for our quarterly churchwide meeting on the second Sunday, December 10, 2017 @ 12:00 p.m. (immediately following 10:00 a.m. worship service). We need your input and support as we prepare, plan, and present committee/ministry updates; 2017 Congregational Priorities/F-Change Project Updates, and other vital matters. Join us for an informative and productive meeting. Thank you for your ongoing spiritual and financial support!

ONLINE GIVING @ THE POOL

Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

- Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.
- Credit & Debit Card Giving lets you make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a credit or debit card.

Online Giving lets you go to <http://www.gbmbc.org/egiving> at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. Additionally, you can download the Givelify app for your iOS or Android device and search for "Greater Bethesda" for another option. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office.

ANNOUNCEMENT REQUESTS

If you desire to place announcements in the church bulletin or make announcements on Sunday, please call the church office AND complete a request form to make an official request no later than Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. All announcements must be approved by Pastor Watkins prior to making them. Requests received after Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. will be made the following week. In the event of an emergency or special prayer requests on Sunday, please submit them to the Moderator Gloria Elam Norris or Vice Moderator Selina White Vicks.

MAIL/PACKAGE DELIVERY @ THE POOL

Unless you are a GBMBC staff member or church officer, please do not accept mail and/or packages being delivered to the church. Allow mail to be placed in the mailbox to ensure timely receipt and response. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Here's What's Happening @ The Pool

USING GBMBC'S HOLY SPACE

If you desire to use the church for an upcoming event, please call the church office AND complete a request form to make an official request to be placed on the calendar at least 2 weeks in advance. All requests must be approved by the Building & Grounds Ministry prior to use. Because resources (i.e. time, space, and staff) are limited, it is ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL that requests to use the space be made in a timely way so resources can be scheduled to support the use (if available). Please be advised, if you have not been placed on the calendar, you will not be allowed to the church. This is not designed to be harsh or punitive, however, it is designed to improve communication and help us be faithful stewards of the resources the Lord's has provided through the faithful support of the membership. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please see Moderator Gloria Elam Norris, Edith Green (Chair, Building and Grounds), or Pastor Watkins. Thanks in advance.

WHEN BAD WEATHER STRIKES

Greater Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church (GBMBC) participates in the Emergency Closing Center (ECC). This system was developed to allow schools, businesses, and other organizations to reach all major information outlets to allow the radio and television stations to report their opening/closing status quickly and efficiently. When bad weather strikes the Chicagoland area, you can check the status of your church, GBMBC, in the following ways:

1. Go to the ECC website (<http://www.emergencyclosingcenter.com/complete.html>) and search for the church by typing the name and city or by the main phone number of the church (773-373-3188).
2. Receive an e-mail notification of a status change made at GBMBC by signing up on the ECC website at www.emergencyclosings.com.
3. Listen to WGN Radio 720-AM, WBBM Radio 780-AM or watch CBS Ch. 2, NBC Ch. 5, ABC Ch. 7, FOX 32, WGN-TV Ch. 9 or CLTV cable for closing information.
4. Check our church website at <http://ThePoolofBethesda.org>

DISCIPLESHIP CORNER

*...just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
By this all people will know that you are my disciples...." (John 13:34-35, ESV)*

If you are investigating the Christian faith, are a new believer, are a "Seasoned Saint," or somewhere in between, our Discipleship Ministry is for you.

Belong.

At "The Pool of Bethesda," we believe that church isn't a building you go to, it's a family you belong to! Thus, it is our sincere desire that you would experience the love of God from the moment you arrive at our church. We have discovered that nurturing faith is more relational than it is rational. Therefore, we want you to get to know us, and hopefully, we can get to know you.

Believe.

It is still incredible to every one of us that God desires a personal relationship with us, but that is why we call it Good News. We have found in Jesus forgiveness of our wrongdoings and the ability to live each day through his love and grace. This gift is available to you as well. In Jesus, we have heard and experienced God's incredible love for every one of us. We all cherish John 3:16, ***"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him might have eternal life."*** Jesus offers you this new life as you experience God's incredible love for you. We believe that God's love for us is so great that God gave himself to us and for us in Jesus, God's son, that every barrier between us and God might be removed and that we might live in the power of God's Spirit with love, joy, peace and hope.

Become.

Ultimately, we believe that God has a divine purpose and plan for all of our lives. This purpose includes accepting Jesus' invitation for salvation and becoming part of his community of disciples (i.e. the church) and grows in the love, knowledge, and grace of God. Jesus also invites us to share the Good News in word and deed as we live with compassion and work for justice in this world. As we experience God's love and express God's love to others, we are becoming the persons God created us to be (and deep inside us, we truly desire to be) and fulfilling our mission as a church of ***"Loving Our God, Living Our Name!"***

If you are interested in learning more, please see Rev. Veronica M. Johnson, Associate Pastor of Discipleship, with your interest and of your questions. May God's blessings be upon you!

PRAYER CONCERNS

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous [person] availeth much. (James 5:16b KJV)

Please call the church office for prayer requests, inclusion on the prayer list, communion visitations, bereavement concerns and/or a visit from Pastor Watkins. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

SICK and/or SHUT-IN

Frances Allen
Daisy Blount
Linda Brown & Family
LaVonne Burleigh
Tonya Chambers
Melvin Dowell
Eddie Grey
Bennie Hall
Helen Handy
GeorgeElla Murry
Mattye B. Mingo
John Nichols
Ethel Robie
Ira Robinson
Lucinda Rogers
Dorothy Steward
Rachel Jackson-Towns
Estelle Johns Watkins
Norma White
Shirley White
Marvline Williams

NURSING HOME / HOSPITAL

Matthew Bonds
Lula Edwards
Essie Luster

PRAYER REQUESTS

The Family of Hattie Allen
Cynthia Clark
Linda Davis
Tyeshia Davis, Jamar Edwards & Family
Victims & Families of Suni Mosque
Terrorist Attack in Egypt
Howard Felder
Edith Green & Family
Robert Harris, Jr.
Kathy Henderson & Lincoln Memorial
UCC
Tiny Holt, Sr.
Marsha Kenner
Audrey King and Family
The Family of Rose Hoff
Family of Marjorie Mims
LaJune Moten-Lee
Samuel Plummer
Grace Preston
Henrine Sloss & Family
Kimberly Swan
The Watkins Family



REV. PAMELA L. PIRTLE

Guest Speaker – Sunday, December 3, 2017

Pastor Pamela Pirtle is originally from Champaign, IL. She has been a lifelong Methodist, growing up at St. Luke CME Church in Champaign. Pamela has been involved in ministry for most of her life. She began playing piano for her church at the age of 13, and continued to develop her musical skills throughout her early formative years. By the time she graduated from high school, she was awarded many notable local and national awards for her vocal expertise and piano skills which earned her a scholarship in music education from Illinois State University.

As a young adult, Pamela served as director of music for many congregations over the past 20 years. She is a professional vocalist who has traveled all over the world as a soloist with The Thompson Community Singers of Chicago - which is the first gospel recording choir in the United States to earn Grammy awards.

Pamela is an equal employment opportunity and affirmative action professional. In her most recent position she was Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Access/University Diversity Officer for Northwestern University for the Evanston, Chicago and Doha, Qatar campuses. Prior to this, she served in the same capacity as chief diversity officer for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Pamela has more than 20 years experience as an equal opportunity investigator for state, federal and local government as well.

In 2011, Pamela acknowledged the call of God on her life to active full-time ministry. She holds a Master of Divinity from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. She also holds a Master of Arts degree in Educational Policy Studies from the University of Illinois and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Music Education. She is currently a doctoral candidate at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Pamela has been actively involved in research regarding K-12 public education for many years and the impact legal implications have on student academic outcomes. In addition, Pamela has served as a volunteer for La Rabida Children's Hospital that serves largely underprivileged youth on Chicago's South Side. She and her daughter also volunteer with Feed My Starving Children and other local outreach efforts.

Pamela is currently the pastor of Gorham UMC, which is located in Chicago's Washington Park community. She continues to live out her passion for social justice and equal opportunity through her membership and leadership on the Board of Directors for several organizations, including the Washington Park Consortium; Washington Park Chamber of Commerce; director for Gorham's weekly food pantry; the Northern Illinois Conference Committee on Religion and Race of the United Methodist Church, and Program Chair for BMCR., Inc., of the Northern Illinois Conference, and Conference Committee on Finance. Pamela is the mother of one daughter, Jaelyn Alyssa, age 14 who is an 9th grade honor student.

SERMON NOTES

***First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 3, 2017
10:00 a.m. Worship Service***

Speaker: _____ **Scripture:** _____

Subject: _____

Main Points of the Message / Notes:

[illegible]

This sermon applies to me because:

In response to hearing this sermon, I WILL:

...So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)
But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. (James 1:22)

ORDER OF SERVICE

*Month of December 2017
10:00 a.m. Worship Service*

Subject to Change as led by the Holy Spirit

THE ORGAN PRELUDE:	DANIEL SCOTT, JR.
THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC:	MUSIC MINISTRY
THE CALL TO WORSHIP:	LEADER
THE WELCOME & FELLOWSHIP:	WELCOME MINISTRY
<i>Worshippers, Please Greet One Another in Christian Love</i>	
THE ALTAR CALL:	LEADER
<i>"I Just Want To Worship You" – 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays</i>	
<i>"O Come Let Us Adore Him" – 2nd & 4th Sundays</i>	
THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC:	MUSIC MINISTRY
THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD:	PASTOR WATKINS
<i>Rev. Pamela L. Pirtle, Senior Pastor, Gorham UMC - 1st Sunday</i>	
<i>Youth Ministry of GBMBC – 4th Sunday</i>	
THE INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP:	CLERGY & SERVANTS
<i>Worshippers, Please Do Not Walk and/or Leave During This Serious Time of Commitment!</i>	
THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:	CLERGY & SERVANTS
<i>1st Sunday of the Month</i>	
THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP:	CLERGY & SERVANTS
<i>4th Sunday of the Month</i>	
THE TITHES AND OFFERTORY SERVICE:	CONGREGATION
<i>(Give Online at GBMBC.org/egiving; Mobile via Givelify App; Otherwise, Please Use an Offering Envelope)</i>	
THE WORSHIP HYMN:	CONGREGATION
<i>"His Name Is Wonderful" – 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays</i>	
<i>"Go Tell It On The Mountain" – 2nd & 4th Sundays</i>	
THE FINAL REMARKS & REMINDERS:	PASTOR WATKINS
<i>Birthday & Anniversary Recognition – 1st Sunday of the Month</i>	
THE BENEDICTION:	LEADER
<i>Worshippers, Please Stand for the Benediction. Don't Leave Before the Final Blessing!</i>	

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

*Month of December 2017
10:00 a.m. Worship Service*

THE ALTAR CALL:

CONGREGATION

I Just Want To Worship You

Jesus I come not asking for anything; Jesus I come not asking for mercy;
You have already done more than enough. I just want to worship you!

O Come Let Us Adore Him

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
For He alone is worthy, For He alone is worthy
For He alone is worthy, Christ the Lord!

THE WORSHIP HYMN:

CONGREGATION

His Name Is Wonderful

1. His name is wonderful; His name is wonderful; His name is wonderful; Jesus my Lord
He is the mighty King; Master of everything; His name is wonderful; Jesus my Lord

Chorus: He's the great Shepherd; The Rock of all ages; Almighty God is He; Bow down before
Him; Love and adore Him; His name is wonderful; Jesus my Lord.

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Chorus: Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere, Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ was born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night, Behold throughout the
heavens there shone a holy light.
2. Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born, And God sent us salvation that
blessed Christmas morn.

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. (Psalm 100:1-2)

SERMON TEXT

*Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 10, 2017
10:00 a.m. Worship Service*

Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God."

38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

"The Word of God, For the People of God"
(and the people of God said, "Thanks Be to God")

SERMON NOTES

***Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 10, 2017
10:00 a.m. Worship Service***

Speaker: _____ **Scripture:** _____

Subject: _____

Main Points of the Message / Notes:

[illegible]

This sermon applies to me because:

In response to hearing this sermon, I WILL:

...So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)
But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. (James 1:22)

SERMON TEXT

*Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 17, 2017
10:00 a.m. Worship Service*

Luke 1:39-56 (NRSV)

Mary Visits Elizabeth / Mary's Song of Praise

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

46 And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

"The Word of God, For the People of God"
(and the people of God said, "Thanks Be to God")

SERMON NOTES

***Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 17, 2017
10:00 a.m. Worship Service***

Speaker: _____ **Scripture:** _____

Subject: _____

Main Points of the Message / Notes:

[illegible]

This sermon applies to me because:

In response to hearing this sermon, I WILL:

...So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)
But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. (James 1:22)

SERMON TEXT

*Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24, 2017
10:00 a.m. Worship Service*

Luke 2:2-20 (NRSV)

The Birth of Jesus / The Shepherds and the Angels

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

“The Word of God, For the People of God”
(and the people of God said, “Thanks Be to God”)

SERMON NOTES

***Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24, 2017
10:00 a.m. Worship Service***

Speaker: _____ **Scripture:** _____

Subject: _____

Main Points of the Message / Notes:

[illegible]

This sermon applies to me because:

In response to hearing this sermon, I WILL:

...So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)
But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. (James 1:22)

SERMON TEXT

*First Sunday of Christmas / New Year's Eve
Sunday, December 31, 2017
10:00 a.m. Worship Service*

Luke 2:21-38 (NRSV)

Jesus Is Named / Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

21 After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), 24 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

29 "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

"The Word of God, For the People of God"

(and the people of God said, "Thanks Be to God").

SERMON NOTES

First Sunday of Christmas / New Year's Eve

Sunday, December 31, 2017

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Speaker: _____

Scripture: _____

Subject: _____

Main Points of the Message / Notes:

[illegible]

This sermon applies to me because:

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

Chicagoland Events, Announcements and Employment Opportunities

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS DECEMBER 7TH

Medicare's Open Enrollment is here but the deadline is December 7! Oak Street Health patients find that choosing the right Medicare plan helps them save money and get the benefits they need. There are Medicare plans called Medicare Advantage plans that may offer additional benefits beyond what they are currently receiving. Please come to the Oak Street Health center at 4318 S. State St. at as soon as possible or call us 24/7 at 844-808-8264 and Oak Street Health will connect you with one of their Medicare experts.

SENIOR DRIVING: TIPS FOR THE ACTIVE SENIOR

The Circuit Court of Cook County's Elder Justice Center, as part of their Free Senior Enrichment Seminar Series, is presenting "Senior Driving: Tips for the Active Senior." At the event, they will discuss the Traffic Court process and procedures, safe driving tips, guidelines for renewing your license and parking programs for persons with disabilities. To register call 312-603-9233.

Where: Richard J. Daley Center (50 W. Washington, Concourse Level, CL-115)

When: Friday, December 8th from noon to 1:30 pm

3RD WARD SHRED-A-THON

Alderman Dowell and Liberty Baptist Church are hosting a Shred-a-Thon for local residents to securely dispose of their sensitive personal documents. If you need to destroy old bills, credit card info, medical records or other paper documents, Paper Tiger document shredding will be on hand to assist you for free. Call the 3rd Ward Office at 773-373-9273 for details.

Where: Liberty Baptist Church (4849 S. King Dr.)

When: Saturday, December 9th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

HOLIDAY ARTS AND CRAFTS SALE

The Friends of Renaissance Court will be hosting a last minute Holiday Arts and Crafts sale. Handmade jewelry, paintings, hats, cards, purses, jackets and much more will be on sale! Come celebrate with Friends of Renaissance Court. For more information contact Pete Gregory at cattsun@aol.com or Sandra Beaty at drsbeaty@aol.com.

Where: Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington)

When: Thursday, December 21st and Friday, December 22nd from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Chicagoland Events, Announcements and Employment Opportunities

**COME ONE, COME ALL
TO A**

**JOB FAIR
Sponsored by**

The St. Titus One Youth Anti-Violence & Mentoring Program

In Conjunction with

**P.O.W.E.R.
(Pastor's Organized With Equity and Respect)**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017

5:00 P.M.- 6:30 P.M.

**ST. TITUS ONE M. B. CHURCH
12257 S. Emerald Ave.
Chicago, IL 60628**

- * Meet With Representatives From Job Training Organizations to Get Information about Special Careers and the Numerous Job Opportunities they offer**
- * Register For Free Prizes Including Christmas Turkeys**
- * Receive FREE Hair Care Product Samples, And More**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 773-343-7863. Plan now to attend.
Enter at parking lot.**



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Chicagoland Events, Announcements and Employment Opportunities

COOK COUNTY MEDI-CAR DRIVER POSITIONS

Superior Ambulance Service is hiring safe and courteous drivers to transport wheelchair bound customers to prescheduled destinations. Applicant must be 18 yearsold, have a HS diploma or GED, valid driver's license, good driving record, and no felony convictions. Full-time Benefits & advancement opportunities are available. Please apply at

<http://superiorambulance.candidatecare.jobs> EOE Employer. Drug Free Workplace

SAFER FOUNDATION AUTOMOTIVE/FORKLIFT/CDL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Safer Foundation is hosting an orientation/pre-screening event for employment opportunities in the following areas: automotive, forklift and CDL. Safer foundation has the ability to pay for training if interested. If you are in the construction trades with a union card, no dues and out of work call 773-533-3093 for more information.

Where: Safer Foundation (808 S. Kedzie)

When: Thursday, December 14th at 10:00 am

FREE CAREER TRAINING IN THE GREEN JOB INDUSTRY

Earn the career of your dreams with OAI. Trainees receive 10 different certifications, hands-on training, free lunch, free transportation assistance and free books and equipment. Trainees must have a high school diploma or GED to qualify. Call the 24 hour hotline at 312-528-3518 or visit www.oaiinc.org for more information.

TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION, LOGISTICS (TDL) OR CONSTRUCTION JOBS

The Safer Foundation is screening individuals with records who want training and career opportunities such as plumbing, carpentry, electrical, masonry, commercial driver, logistics and supply chain management in fields covering air, water, land and rail. Please bring a current resume, your State ID, Rap Sheet, copies of credentials or training certification and proof of address to the screening. To register please contact Valerie Berkhalter at 773-533-3099 or email valerie.berkhalter@saferfoundation.org. For faster processing complete the following document prior to the event: <https://sdsctdlc.eventbrite.com>. Screenings are held every second Tuesday at 10:00 am at 808 S. Kedzie Ave.

AUTISM: FACT OR FICTION

Partnering with people of faith to promote health and wholeness



Advocate Health Care

Tomorrow starts today.

There's a lot of information floating on the Internet and other sources about autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Dr. Karen Fried, director of Developmental Pediatric Services at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago, shares what's true and false behind some of these commonly held beliefs.

Belief: Research has shown there is a definite link between early childhood vaccinations and autism.

False: "Many large, well-controlled studies have looked at whether or not there's a link between childhood vaccinations and autism," Dr. Fried says. "Studies continue to show vaccines are not associated with ASD."

Belief: The number of children diagnosed with autism is surging.

True. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2010, one in 68 children was diagnosed with ASD. In 2000, that number was just one in 150 children. The disorder is more common in boys than girls. Currently, it's estimated that one in 42 boys and one in 189 girls have been diagnosed with ASD.

Belief: Children with autism don't have emotions—including joy, sadness or love—so they may be cold and not empathetic.

False. "Children with ASD are children first and, therefore, have emotions," Dr. Fried says. "The manner in which they express those emotions may be different or unusual."

Belief: Autism can be caused by poor parenting.

False. In the 1950s, autism was thought to be caused by faulty parenting. Now, it's clear faulty parenting is not a cause of autism. Though the parenting theory still crops up from time to time, most researchers reject this theory as misguided and harmful, Dr. Fried says.

Prayer: Tender and loving God, may we see your face in each beautiful and unique child.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well." (3 John 1:2 NIV)



Chenita Davis (12/01)

Maxine Butler (12/02)

Christina Jones (12/02)

Mary Bailey (12/04)

Melvin Dowell (12/04)

James Mays (12/05)

Erlisa King (12/08)

Dinina Johnson (12/09)

Ruby Bishop (12/10)

Adria Mott (12/10)

Marva Divinity (12/11)

LaToya Outlaw (12/15)

John Nichols (12/16)

Gloria Norris (12/16)

Isaac Allen (12/18)

James Johnson (12/18)

Jarrell Motley (12/18)

Charles Poole (12/19)

Richard Banks (12/23)

Matthew Bonds (12/25)

Laura Wilson (12/26)

JOIN US! GET ON BOARD!

*I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord. (Psalm 122:1 KJV)*

DYNAMIC WORSHIP

Engage in Spirit-filled worship that glorifies God and ushers people into God's presence
(Psalm 100:1-5)

COMMITTED DISCIPLESHIP

Grow a flourishing spirituality and a vibrant walk with Jesus Christ through study and prayer
(Psalm 25:4-5)

FAITHFUL APOSTLESHIP

Demonstrate your faith and share God's love by serving the church and sharing Christ in our community in relevant, life transforming ways.
(Matthew 28:19-20)

ENRICHING FELLOWSHIP

Enjoy authentic, loving relationships with new people and friends who are passionate for Christ and compassionate toward you
(Matthew 22:37-39)

WELCOMING MEMBERSHIP

Connect with God's family through faith in Jesus Christ
(Galatians 4:4-7)

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Exemplify Christ and develop your leadership by serving the church with integrity and humility
(Mark 10:45)

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

Embrace and uplift the community with like-minded people who are holistically meeting the needs of the community through ministry and missions.
(Luke 4:16-18)

Greater Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church

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Rev. David W. Watkins, III – Senior Pastor

Email: PastorDWW3@gbmbc.org; **Cell:** 773-916-7665

Rev. Veronica M. Johnson – Associate Pastor for Discipleship

Email: VJohnson@gbmbc.org; **Cell:** (773) 720-8371

Min. Mosea L. Harris, Pastoral Intern

Email: MHarris@gbmbc.org; **Call:** (773) 373-3188

Visit us online at **<http://GBMBC.org>** or email us at **Connect@GBMBC.org**

(Check-in on Facebook; Follow the Conversation online via Twitter

@GreaterBethesda, use hashtag #GBMBC)

WEEKLY MINISTRIES @ BETHESDA

Early Morning Worship

Each Sunday – 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast Fellowship

Each Sunday – 9:00 a.m.

Hour of Power (Sunday School)

Each Sunday – 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship

Each Sunday – 10:00 a.m.

Youth Church

Each Sunday – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesdays in the Word (Bible Study)

Each Wednesday – 7:00 p.m.

Praise Team Rehearsal

Select Thursdays – Call Office for Details

Bethesdan Choir Rehearsal

Each Thursday – 7:00 p.m.

O.W.L.S. Ministry

(Older, Wiser, Loving, Saints)

Each Friday – 1:00 p.m.

Youth Mentoring & Enrichment

Each Saturday – 12:00 noon

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Call Office for Details

Welcome to the Pool of Bethesda!