Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

July 5, 2026 – 11:00 am
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to our service of worship. Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here!

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #564:** *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* KATHARINE LEE BATES

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,

And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES (PSALM 95:1-3,6)

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

GATHERING PRAYER (GENESIS 24, PSALM 45)

God of all Life, you take what feels complicated and make it simple.
You take what seems simple and show us the complex.
You remind us that we are more than we think we are, more than we believe we can be,
and all that you have made us and called us to become.
Come, God, and lead us forward with joy and gladness.
Come, God, and help us see past the expectations and assumptions into the world you long for us
to create with mercy and space, justice and grace, for us all. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (FROM THE BARMEN DECLARATION)

"Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption"
(1 Corinthians 1:30).
As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the

same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures. We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords — areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

***HYMN OF THE DAY #561:** *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* SAMUEL FRANCIS SMITH

My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside,
Let freedom ring!

My native country, thee, Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills,
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees,
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake; Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God, to Thee, Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright, With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Gracious and loving God, forgive us when turn a deaf ear to your call in Jesus Christ and to the cries of those in the world who need your love and our help. Forgive us when we treat discipleship as a yoke of oppression rather than a blessing and gift for leading a faithful life as your people. O Lord, forgive our sin. Help us to know and love you with all that we are that we may love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We pray for the strength of your Holy Spirit to equip us for our calling as followers of Jesus Christ, in whom we have our hope and put our trust. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The apostle Paul also wrote to the believers in Galatia, "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, in your Word we read, "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." As your Word is read and proclaimed, give us ears and hearts to hear that we might be encouraged and have hope as your children. In Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 45:10-17 PEW BIBLE, 699

MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30 PEW BIBLE, 1183, 1184

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC:

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***"The General Assembly"*** RICK PURCELL, CRE

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper today by inviting everyone who wants to participate up front to receive the bread and cup (we use gluten free bread and grape juice). If you are more comfortable remaining seated but would like to participate, raise your hand and we will come to your seat to serve you. We believe that Jesus invites everyone forward to his table to "taste and see," and so we proclaim that all are welcome to participate.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #592:** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

***CLOSING HYMN #562:** *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* WILLIAM WHITING

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm has bound the restless wave,
Who bade the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea.

O Savior, whose almighty word
The wind and waves submissive heard,
Who walked upon the foaming deep,
And calm amid its rage did sleep:
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who did brood
Upon the chaos wild and rude,
And bade its angry tumult cease,
And gave, for fierce confusion, peace:
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
All travelers guard in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad praise from air and land and sea.

***SENDING**

POSTLUDE

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sundays, 9:45am Bible Study – Evie C. Marshall Room

Wednesdays, 10:00am Bethany Exercise Class - Evie C. Marshall Room

Exercise classes are meeting on Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom. Come join us for fun and fellowship.

Tuesday, July 7th 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, July 7th at 10:30am. in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

Tuesday, July 7th Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library with be at Bethany on the first Tuesday of each month. The mobile library will be in the church parking lot 10:30 – 11:30.
Please stop by and "check-out" this wonderful service the library has to share.

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)

How can we help S.A.F.E. for during the **month of July**? They are in most need of:

Canned Meats	**Spaghetti sauce**
Rice	**Spaghetti noodles**
Pasta	**Peanut Butter and Jelly**
Soup	**Pet Food**

S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month.
Consider donating your paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, July 5th - 6th Sunday after Pentecost - Communion and Pennies for Hunger

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream).

Wednesday, July 8th t

10:00 – Exercise class

7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Sunday, July 12th - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream).

Session
Moderator: Rick Purcell, CRE
Clerk: Randy Cousins
Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2026:
Chip Allen
Jean Payne
Ben Russell

Class of 2027:
Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Brandon Troxler

Class of 2028:
Helen Brown
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Nancy Purcell

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worship serve teach support

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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – *finance@bethanypreschurch.org*

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