Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

July 12, 2026 – 11:00 am
Seventh 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 #260:** *A Mighty Fortress* MARTIN LUTHER

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES (FROM PSALM 119:105-111)

All who walk in shadow, come into the light!
God's Word lights the way for us.
God has promised to abide with us.
So let us commit to walk in God's ways.
All who are afflicted, ensnared by the world, come give praise to God.
God is the joy of our heart, our sure and certain comfort, come what may!

GATHERING PRAYER (GENESIS 25, PSALM 119, MATTHEW 13)

God of new beginnings and ancient stories, help us see ourselves in your stories,
in your promises, and in your garden.
Light our way with your word today, and guide us with your Spirit of love, Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

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

The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the Church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world.
So we reject the false doctrine, as though the church in human arrogance could place the Word and work of the Lord in the service of any arbitrarily chosen desires, purposes, and plans. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY #403:** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* JOSEPH SCRIVEN

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Gracious Creator, you created this world and called it good, and out of it called a pilgrim people, chosen to abide with you and to bear witness to your reality.
Yet we, who have been called "Beloved" by you, often find ourselves making peace with what does not give peace. Meet us in our weakness; turn our unwilling eyes upon our unruly hearts.
Draw us away from our love of power, our tolerance of injustice, our ignorance of suffering.
Drive us towards what is fearfully and wonderfully made, so that we may inspire hope, offer forgiveness, and love our neighbors through faithful living, according to the way of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE (FROM ROMANS 8:1-3)

For those who are in Christ, there is no condemnation; for by Christ's death and resurrection, God has done what the law and works of human righteousness alone could not: breathed new life through the Holy Spirit into the world, turning it upside down. Believe this scandalous, joyous good news: through Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and restored to new life. Alleluia! Amen!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Creator, the earth is yours, and all that is in it. We give you thanks for the beauty of the earth, for the creatures that fill it, and for your providence, which stands beneath and above and within it all. Now grant us hearts open to your grace, eyes open to your wonders and ears open to your Holy Word. Let your Holy Spirit dwell with us, that we may be renewed in our commitment to the way, the truth and the life of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 119:105-112 PEW BIBLE, 763

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23 PEW BIBLE, 1186,1187

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC:

THE WORD PROCLAIMED
Sermon: ***"The Sower"*** RICK PURCELL, CRE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
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.

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 #282:** *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee* GEORG NEUMARK

If thou but trust in God to guide thee,
With hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee,
And bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the rock that nought can move.

Only be still, and wait God's leisure
In cheerful hope, with heart content
To take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure
And all-discerning love hath sent;
No doubt our inmost wants are clear
To One who holds us always dear.

Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways,
But do thine own part faithfully;
Trust the rich promises of grace,
So shall they be fulfilled in thee.
God never yet forsook at need
The soul secured by trust indeed.

***SENDING**

POSTLUDE

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** 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, September 1st 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, September 1st at 10:30am. in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

Tuesday, August 4th 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 12th - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

Tuesday, July 14th 7:00pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, July 15th

10:00 – Exercise class

7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Sunday, July 19th - 8th 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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