Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

August 10, 2025 – 11:00 am
Nineth Sunday of 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: *Who at My Door is Standing?* EDWARD BROUGHTON

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #485:** *To God Be the Glory* FANNY JANE CROSBY

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. **[Refrain]**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

(BASED HEBREWS 11:1-3, 8-16)

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the convictions of things not seen.
Like Abraham, let us follow God, even when we don't know where we are going.
By faith, let us look forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.
Let us worship the God whose promises call and claim us.

GATHERING PRAYER

(ISAIAH 1, LUKE 12)

Mighty God, dress us for action, for the world is in need of our care.
Turn us from our selfish ways and help us share the fat of this good land.
For when we refuse and rebel, we reap what we have sown.
Your care and compassion call to us.
Your mercy and grace reach out to us.
Heal us day, and may it be your good pleasure to give us the kingdom.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

*HYMN OF THE DAY #324: *Open My Eyes That I My See*

CLARA H. SCOTT

Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain:
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes (ears, heart), illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear. **(Refrain)**

Open my mouth, and let me bear,
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share. **(Refrain)**

Telling the Truth About Ourselves

Sin hinders us and prevents us from receiving God's Word. Let us open our hearts to God's truth and liberate ourselves to walk Christ's path.

God of Hope and Promise, we admit that our faith sometimes falters. We acknowledge that our doubts and grievances often overwhelm. We struggle to comprehend our own suffering and that of others. Pardon us when we lose faith in you and in ourselves. Guide us back to harmonious relationships. Encourage us to stay engaged and committed to meaningful dialogues filled with grace. Amen.

An Offering of God's Grace

God's grace is given freely. God's love is steadfast. Receive the good news that you are forgiven, and live liberated from sin to the glory of God. Amen

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Prayer for Illumination

God, your Word directs every step we take. Help us listen closely to your Word as it is read and preached today, so we may understand your message and follow your will. Amen.

Encountering Scripture

Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23 pew Bible, 702,703

Luke 12:32-40 pew Bible, 1267

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Word in Music: *Amazing Grace* Soloist: Andrew (AJ) Harris, Jr.

The Word Proclaimed

Sermon: *"Get Set"* 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.

Words of Institution

An Offering of Our Gifts

Offertory

***DOXOLOGY #428:** *We Give Thee But Thine Own* WILLIAM WALSHAM HOW

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

***BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

***CLOSING HYMN #447:** *Lead On, O King Eternal* ERNEST W. SHURTLEFF

Lead on, O King eternal,
The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest
Thy tents shall be our home:
Through days of preparation
Thy grace has made us strong,
And now, O King eternal,
We lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal,
Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
And holiness shall whisper
The sweet amen of peace;
For not with swords' loud clashing,
Nor roll of stirring drums;
With deeds of love and mercy
The heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal:
We follow, not with fears,
For gladness breaks like morning
Where'er Thy face appears;
Thy cross is lifted over us;
We journey in its light:
The crown awaits the conquest;
Lead on, O God of might.

***SENDING**

God promises. Christ saves.
The Holy Spirit liberates us to love and serve.
As we enter this new week may we go with the grace and blessings of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.
Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Epilogue of Praise* FRANKLIN RITTER

** 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

On Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom we will start our exercise classes. We will meet weekly to start with and set up additional time for those who cannot meet at this time. Our instructor is Richard Mann, who has certification in senior training, plus several other certifications. The exercises we will be learning are mainly for stretching and strengthening will the goal to help balance and mobility, and to improve overall individual independence.
If you are interested in the classes and have not yet registered, come between 9:30 and 9:45 on Wednesday, prior to the class, to meet Richard and get registered. We are hoping to keep the class at no or little cost to each individual. Come join us for fun and fellowship.

Sunday, August 24th Dinner & Bingo & Fun!!

Join us on Sunday, August 24th at 5:00 pm for Baked Potato Bar, Salad and Dessert and Bingo!! We need your participation to help with prizes!! Please bring something (or multiple things) from home that you no longer want or need. Items can be funny, silly, tacky or nice! No need to spend money!! Put your items in a bag or sealed box so that it can't be seen! Surprises are more fun!! Bring a friend! Hope to see you all there! Questions – call Tina Patterson.

Tuesday, September 2nd Alamance Co. Mobile Library

Starting in June 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

Tuesday, September 2nd 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, September 2ndt at 10:30am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom. We will **not** have a meeting in August.

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

How we can help S.A.F.E. for the month of **August**? They are asking for **Canned Chicken, Canned Tuna, 1 lb. bags of Rice and Spaghetti. Breakfast items (Cereals, Granola Bars, Oatmeal, Breakfast Bars), Children and Adult diapers and Feminine products.**
S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month.
Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, August 10th - 9th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

Tuesday, August 12th

7:00 – Session Meeting - Evie C. Marshall classroom

Wednesday, August 13th

10:00 – Exercise class - Evie C. Marshall classroom

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, August 17th - 10th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

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worship serve teach support

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

Class of 2025:
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Tina Patterson
Nancy Purcell

Class of 2026:
Chip Allen
Jean Payne
Ben Russell

Class of 2027:
Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Brandon Troxler

Staff
Pastor/CRE: Rick Purcell – *pastor4bethany@gmail.com*
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