Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

August 17, 2025 – 11:00 am
Tenth 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: *Nearer My God to Thee* — ROBERT J. HUGHES (BASED ON THE TUNE: BETHANY)

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #462:** *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* — CHARLES WESLEY

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
Cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine;
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine;
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES (PSALM 80)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
Stir up your might and come to save us!
You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.
You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.
The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;
It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the river.
Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

GATHERING PRAYER (HEBREWS 11)

Come, Holy Spirit.
Hear our prayers and songs of praise.
We join voices from ancient times, that placed their trust in you in days of joy or pain.
Inspire us in this hour, that we may never surrender to despair.
Renew in us enduring faith, even as we join eternally in song. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and re-newer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

*HYMN OF THE DAY #400: *When We Are Living* GEORGE LOCKWOOD

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

Telling the Truth About Ourselves

Try as we might to follow Jesus, at some point we always fail. But our failure does not have the power to separate us from God. Trusting Christ's grace, let us confess our sin together:

Ever-loving God, we confess that we are not always ready to trust your love. You call us to step forward in radical faith, but we cling to what is familiar, comfortable and non-controversial. You are eternally at work in the world, but we struggle to discern your presence in the signs of the times. Forgive us, O God. By your grace, give us courage to stand for what is right and good and to risk love and justice even when it is unpopular. Teach us faithfulness and perseverance for the journey ahead. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

An Offering of God's Grace

Friends, look around! We are indeed surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.
We are the body of Christ, the family of faith, all of us both saints and sinners.
The grace we receive in baptism washes away our shame and brokenness and unites us with one another in bonds of love and kinship. Proclaim the good news with me:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Prayer for Illumination

Lord Jesus, who brought the fire of the Holy Spirit, may that fire burn within our hearts as we read the Scriptures today. Teach us to choose your Way. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Encountering Scripture

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 — pew Bible, 728

Luke 12:49-56 — pew Bible, 1268

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Word in Music: *Seek Ye First* — Karen Lafferty/arr. by Lloyd Larson

The Word Proclaimed

Sermon: *"Awkward"* — 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 #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 #536:** *Lord, Make Us More Holy* AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy,
Until we meet again.
Holy, holy, holy,
Until we meet again.

Lord, make us more loving,
Lord, make us more loving,
Lord, make us more loving,
Until we meet again.
Loving, loving, loving,
Until we meet again.

Lord, make us more patient,
Lord, make us more patient,
Lord, make us more patient,
Until we meet again.
Patient, patient, patient,
Until we meet again.

Lord, make us more faithful,
Lord, make us more faithful,
Lord, make us more faithful,
Until we meet again.
Faithful, faithful, faithful,
Until we meet again.

***SENDING**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, to run the race with perseverance, to lead God's people home.
Do not be afraid, for the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, are enough to sustain you, now and always. Amen

POSTLUDE: *Alleluia* GEORGE BLAKE

** 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 2nd 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 17th - 10th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

Wednesday, August 20th

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

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, August 24th - 11th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

5:00 – Dinner & Bingo Night #2

bethany presbyterian

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

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