Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

August 24, 2025 – 11:00 am
Eleventh 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: *Will You Come and Follow Me* JOHN BELL

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #138:** *Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty!* REGINALD HEBER

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES (PSALM 71)

In you, O God, we seek refuge;
In Your justice, deliver us.
Be a rock of refuge for us, a strong fortress, because You are our rock and fortress.
For you, O Lord, are our hope and trust.
Our praise is continually of You.

GATHERING PRAYER (LUKE 13)

Great Healer, we are beaten down by life's suffering.
Make us whole, O God, and help us share your healing with the world.
Free us from the demons that shackle our spirits, and set us free from the chains that binds us,
That we may help break the chains of others.
Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

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

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.
With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

*HYMN OF THE DAY #383: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* RAY PALMER

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine:
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As Thou hast died for me,
O may my love to Thee
Pure warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll.
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

Telling the Truth About Ourselves

God in Christ has called us to be witnesses to the promised and coming commonwealth that we know in Christ. However, we have failed in our calling because we don't trust in God's promised presence among us. Let us confess our sins:

O God, our creator, sustainer and redeemer, we confess our feelings of exile and alienation, and we wonder where you are. We fear your absence when, in fact, you are most present to us. Restore in us a sense of your comfort and care. Renew our strength so that we might realize our calling as disciples of Jesus. Amen.

An Offering of God's Grace

The God who hung the stars and the moon has come close to each and all with mercy and love. Hear the good news of the gospel, we are forgiven and empowered by God's Spirit to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint. Thanks be to God.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Prayer for Illumination

O God, open our hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit so that the words of Scripture that we hear this day may become your Word that empowers our lives in this time and place. Amen.

Encountering Scripture

Psalm 71:1-6 — pew Bible, 718

Luke 13:10-17 — pew Bible, 1269

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Word in Music: *Worthy of Worship* — Michael Bayliss - Organist — Mark Blankenship

The Word Proclaimed

Sermon: *"Be Like Mr. Rogers"* — Chip Allen, Elder

Blessing of the Backpacks, Teachers, and the Coming School Year — Illustrated Ministry

Prayer for the School Year

God of fresh starts and new beginnings,
we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you.

In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons,
and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations.
That are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring –
of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become.

God, our friend who is always with us, be with us through it all.

Be with us as we ride the bus.
Be with us as we walk.
Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip-up jackets, and tie shoes.

However we get there, and whatever we wear,
bless this journey into something new.
For the grown-ups going back to school,
With-Us God, be with them too.
Thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers, and leaders,
and for all they do to help us learn and grow.

God, our friend who's full of wonder, fill their hearts and bless their hands. ***Amen.***

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: *Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire* — Hal Hopson

***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 #307:** *Fight the Good Fight* — John S.B. Monsell

Fight the good fight with all thy might;
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on thy guide;
God's boundless mercy will provide;
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear, God's arms are near;
God changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.

***SENDING** (FROM ISAIAH 58)

Let your light shine in the darkness, and your gloom be like the noonday.
May the Lord guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong.
And you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *O God, Beyond All Praising* GUSTAV HOLST

Flowers in the sanctuary are in loving memory of Katherine Swanner Bayliff, from her family.

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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

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 can we 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 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

Monday, August 25th Church Office Closed

Wednesday, August 27th

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

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, August 31st - 12th 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 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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