Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

September 6, 2026 – 11:00 am
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion

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: *Children of the Heavenly Father* — DAN FORREST

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #371:** *Lift High the Cross* — GEORGE WILLIAM KITCHIN

Refrain
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **(Refrain)**

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. **(Refrain)**

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally. **(Refrain)**

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory. **(Refrain)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES (FROM PSALM 119:33-40)

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.
Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.
Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.
Turn my heart to your decrees;
in your righteousness be gracious to me.

GATHERING PRAYER (ROMANS 13)

Loving God, as we gather in your presence, we seek to put on the armor of light, and to live as your children.
Help us cast aside the darkness and embrace the love that fulfills our law.
Awaken us to your call, that we may walk in the light of Christ each day.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967)

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as a reconciling community.
This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation
and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from one another.
Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit.
The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to God's call.

***HYMN OF THE DAY #377 :** *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* CESAREO GABARAIN

You have come to the lakeshore,
Looking neither for wise nor wealthy.
You only wanted that I should follow.

Refrain
O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
And while smiling have called out my name.
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
Now with You I will seek other seas.

You know that I own so little,
In my boat there's no money nor weapons;
You'll only find there my nets and my labor. **(Refrain)**

You need the caring of my hands.
Through my tiredness, may others find resting.
You need a love that just goes on loving. **(Refrain)**

You, who have fished other oceans,
Ever longed for by souls that are waiting,
My dear and good friend, as thus You call me. **(Refrain)**

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES (EXODUS 34:6, EZEKIAL 33:11)

Lord God, we have judged others harshly, unfairly and casually. We tend to focus on the sin, brokenness and foibles of others, rather than on the growth and work we are called to. We've made assumptions about what others want and need, robbing them of the freedom to speak for themselves. We've tuned out the voices bold enough to express views that are different from ours. We've relied upon your grace, time and time again, while hastily denying that you are eager to give it not only to us, but to our enemies, also. Help us to see others as you see them; help us to see you with faith and trust.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, calling all to turn from sin, and live. By the grace of God, our sins are forgiven. ***Amen.***

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, open our eyes and our ears, our minds and our hearts, that we may hear your Word, walk in your ways, and truly live. ***Amen.***

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 149 PEW BIBLE, 780

ROMANS 13:8-14 PEW BIBLE, 1383

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *How Beautiful* ARR. BY LLOYD LARSON

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***"Wearables"*** RICK PURCELL, CP

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: Freely, Freely CARL OWENS

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY: Come Thou Fount — ARR. BY JAMES KOERTS

***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 :** *Victory In Jesus* — E. M. BARTLETT

I heard an old, old story,
How a Savior came from glory,
How He gave His life on Calvary
To save a wretch like me;
I heard about His groaning,
Of His precious blood's atoning,
Then I repented of my sins
And won the victory.

Refrain
O victory in Jesus,
My Savior, forever.
He sought me and bought me
With His redeeming blood;
He loved me ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him,
He plunged me to victory,
Beneath the cleansing flood.

I heard about His healing,
Of His cleansing pow'r revealing.
How He made the lame to walk again
And caused the blind to see;
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus,
Come and heal my broken spirit,"
And somehow Jesus came and bro't
To me the victory. **(Refrain)**

I heard about a mansion
He has built for me in glory.
And I heard about the streets of gold
Beyond the crystal sea;
About the angels singing,
And the old redemption story,
And some sweet day I'll sing up there
The song of victory. **(Refrain)**

***SENDING**

POSTLUDE: The Festive Trumpet — DENNIS ELIOT

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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, October 6th 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, October 6th 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 September**? They are in most need of:

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

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, September 6th - 15th Sunday after Pentecost - Communion & Pennies for Hunger

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

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

Monday, September 7th Labor Day - Church Office closed

Tuesday, September 8th

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

Wednesday, September 9th

10:00 – Exercise class

7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Sunday, September 13th - 16th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

bethany presbyterian

worship serve teach support

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Session
Moderator: Rick Purcell, CP
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

Staff
Pastor/CP: Rick Purcell – *pastor4bethany@gmail.com*
Director of Music: – *bethanypresmusic@gmail.com*
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – *office@bethanypreschurch.org*
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – *finance@bethanypreschurch.org*

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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