Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

September 21, 2025 – 11:00 am
Fourteenth 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: *He is Lord* — DAVID ROSS

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #466:** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* — CHARLES WESLEY

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

Turn us, O God,
away from the world's temptations and distractions
Return us, O God,
to the quiet calm of your presence
Restore us, O God,
to the path you call us to follow
Orient us, O God,
to the hope of all that is possible through you

GATHERING PRAYER

(JEREMIAH 8, PSALM 79, 1 TIMOTHY 2, LUKE 16)

Great Healer, be our balm of Gilead, for we ache to be made whole.
Come to us in times of trial and heal our sin-sick souls.
Amid those who prey on your little ones, help us live faithfully as children of light.
May we be found faithful in a little, that you may entrust us with much. 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 renewer 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.

*HYMN OF THE DAY #367: *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*

TOM COLVIN

Refrain:
Jesu, Jesu,
Fill us with Your love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from You.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
Silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. **(Refrain)**

Neighbors are rich and poor,
Varied in color and race,
Neighbors are near and far away. **(Refrain)**

These are the ones we should serve,
These are the ones we should love;
All are neighbors to us and You. **(Refrain)**

Loving puts us on our knees,
Serving as though we are slaves,
This is the way we should live with You. **(Refrain)**

Kneel at the feet of our friends,
Silently washing their feet,
This is the way we should live with You. **(Refrain)**

Telling the Truth About Ourselves

Let us honestly acknowledge how we have gone astray and confess our sins to God.

God, our refuge, you lift up the lowly and hold out hope to the hopeless. Yet we who receive your grace so freely do not follow your example. We are quick to judge, eager to criticize, slow to show mercy.
We gather and keep for ourselves what was meant to be shared.
We diminish and dehumanize those around us. God of us all, hear this confession.
Receive it. We ask for your forgiveness. Amen.

An Offering of God's Grace (Isaiah 43:1)

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Prayer for Illumination

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us, so we may faithfully discern your way. Amen.

Encountering Scripture

Psalm 79:1-9 pew Bible, 727

Luke 16:1-13 pew Bible, 1273

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Word in Music: *How Beautiful* Twila Paris (arr. by Craig Courtney)

The Word Proclaimed

Sermon: *"Making Cents"* 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 #369:** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* — AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

*SENDING

We are the Body of Christ: hands, feet, heart, lungs. We breathe, we move, we act. In this world, we bear witness—to mercy, to love, to the persistent hope of God.
May the nourishment of God's Word, the accountability of Christian community, and the guidance of God's Holy Spirit fortify us, day by day, for faithfulness.
Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Strength for the Victory* — TODD KENDALL

** 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 have our exercise classes. Come join us for fun and fellowship.

Tuesday, October 7th 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.

Tuesday, October 7th 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, October 7th at 10:30am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

Saturday, October 11th Shrimp-a-Roo

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 11th at 6:00 pm for our annual **Shrimp-a-Roo.**
This is a Men of the Church sponsored event for **Bethany family and friends.**
Come enjoy this summertime feast, and table fellowship with your Bethany family and friends!
We will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall. Don't miss it!!

Saturday, October 25th 11:30am – 2:00pm Fall Festival – Recreation Area

Our annual fall festival is back!
There will be food and fun activities for all ages, including face painting, balloon art, and games.
We will be joined this year by several of the First Responders in Alamance County.
All are welcome. There is no entry fee.

We need volunteers – please let Tina Patterson/Nancy Purcell know if you are interested in helping.

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

How can we help S.A.F.E. for during the **Fall months**? 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, September 21st - 15th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

Wednesday, September 24th

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

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, September 28st - 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

1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27253
www.bethanypreschurch.org
336.227.4041

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*
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – *bethanypresmusic@gmail.com*
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – *office@bethanypreschurch.org*
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – *finance@bethanypreschurch.org*

Scan this QR code for fast, safe, and reliable online giving:

Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Co[illegible]n

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED AT THE DOORS.