Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

September 28, 2025 – 11:00 am
Sixteenth Sunday after 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: *A Still Small Vice* STEVEN SCOTT

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #139:** *Come, Thou Almighty King* FELICE DE GIARDINI

Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise:
Father, all-glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou Incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend:
Come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy word success;
Spirit of holiness,
On us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour:
Thou who almighty art,
Now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of power.

To Thee, great One in Three,
The highest praises be,
Hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES (BASED ON PSALM 146)

Come! Praise the Lord!
Praise God for the heavens and the earth and all that is in them!
Come! Praise the Lord!
Praise God who feeds the hungry and uplifts the downtrodden!
Come! Praise the Lord!
Praise God who gives sight to the blind and sets prisoners free!
Come! Praise the Lord!
The Lord will reign forever! Praise the Lord!

GATHERING PRAYER (1 TIMOTHY 6, LUKE 16)

Generous Spirit, you call us to share our riches with the poor and disadvantaged,
lest we follow self-interest to our ruin and destruction.
Teach us to bestow your blessings on those in need, lest we be trapped by selfish desire.
Set our hearts on the riches of good works, rather than the allure of earthly treasures.
Help us take hold of the life that really is life. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

***HYMN OF THE DAY #275:** *God of Our Life* — HUGH THOMSON KERR

God of our life, through all the circling years, We trust in Thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

God of the past, our times are in Thy hand; With us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land; Be Thou our guide.
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
And faith's fair vision changes into sight.

God of the coming years, through paths unknown We follow Thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone; Our refuge be.
Be Thou for us in life our daily bread,
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Perhaps we fear that if we admit the flaws of our lives, we will find ourselves too far away, unreachable by God's grace. But no chasm is too wide for God. In the act of confession, we begin the work of reconciliation, reaching out so God can take our hand once again. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Almighty God, you call us to lives of service, but we confess that we ignore our neighbors in need right outside our door. You call us to share our abundance, but we confess that we choose our own comfort over generosity to others. You call us to build community, but we confess that we are too often gatekeepers, letting in only the ones that make us comfortable. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to be content with enough and inspire us to share what we have – our prosperity, our power and our love – until all your children have life and dignity in beloved community. Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Friends, who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ prays for us. Christ reaches out with endless love and mercy. Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made ready to love and serve. Alleluia. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of wonder, as we hear your Word for us today, fill us with holy imagination.
Help us hear your holy invitation and ignite within us a passion to live your truth and follow your way. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 91:1-6, 14-16 — PEW BIBLE, 737

LUKE 16:19-31 — PEW BIBLE, 1273

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Forgiveness* Steffanie Vaughan - Soloist (FROM "JANE EYRE: THE MUSICAL" BY PAULGORDON)

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***"Hypocrisy"*** — 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 #538:** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing* — JOHN FAWCETT

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Thy love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
Traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration
For Thy gospel's joyful sound;
May the fruits of Thy salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, Ever faithful
To the truth may we be found.

So that when Thy love shall call us,
Savior, from the world away,
Let no fear of death appall us,
Glad Thy summons to obey.
May we ever, May we ever
Reign with Thee in endless day.

*SENDING

Go, we cannot stay here, there is work to do.
Go, there are people to love and people to serve.
Go, be rich in good works for that will bring true joy!
May the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit uplift and uphold you now and always.
Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Joy Unending* — LANI SMITH

_____

** 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 5:00pm Shrimp-a-Roo
Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 11th at 5:00 pm for our annual **Shrimp-a-Roo.**
This is a Men of the Church sponsored event for **Bethany family and friends.**
Come enjoy this 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 28th - 16th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

Wednesday, October 1st

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

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, October 5th - 17th Sunday after Pentecost - Communion & Pennies for Hunger

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.