Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

October 19, 2025 – 11:00 am
Nineteenth 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:

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #326:** *Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart* GEORGE CROLY

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;
All, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength and mind?
I see Thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES (PSALM 121& TIMOTHY 4)

We lift up our eyes to the hills — from where will our help come?
Our help comes not from the hills, but from the Lord who made heaven and earth.
I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable;
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.
With endurance, expectation, and joy, let us worship the living God!

GATHERING PRAYER (LUKE 18)

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew us in this hour of celebration.
We rejoice that you make us your partners in pursuit of a just and peaceful world.
With Jesus, we ask the question, "Will there be faith on earth?"
Will we settle for mere beliefs, or will we yield to the deep longing for your will to be done, here and now?
Teach us to hope, work, and cry out for your justice and peace to be made real.
Walk with us, Jesus, until we joyfully reach that day when all God's children belong to your eternal family.
Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (THE CONFESSION OF 1967, INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE)

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.
His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all,
moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.
The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.
The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

***HYMN OF THE DAY #403:** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* JOSEPH SCRIVEN

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,

all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

Telling the Truth About Ourselves

If we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us. And yet, we want to be people of truth and love. So we come to the baptismal font seeking a new start; a new day; an opportunity to join God's work of building and planting. With confidence that God hears our prayers and loves us unconditionally, let us confess our sins:

God of the covenant, you promise to write your law in our hearts, that we might be faithful people who know you and your will for us. Still we stray from your ways, we fail to tell the truth, we mirror the world around us more than the good news of the gospel, and we fail to acknowledge that you are our God. Forgive us, and by your Spirit renew us. Engrave your covenant upon us once more. Grant us courage and faith that we might begin again to live what it is we say we believe.

An Offering of God's Grace (Jeremiah 31:34)

No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.
Hear and believe this good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Prayer for Illumination (2 Timothy 4:3)

Amid a world where sound teaching is hard to find, our ears are easily tickled by words that suit our own desires. Open us to hear your word, O Lord, that we might know you and your will for us today.

Encountering Scripture

Psalm 119:97-104 pew Bible, 762

Luke 18:1-8 pew Bible, 1275

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Be Strong in the Lord*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***"I Object"*** 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** (1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24)

May the God of peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being – heart, spirit, soul, and body – sound and blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and God will do this. Alleluia. Amen.

POSTLUDE:

** 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.

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.

Tuesday, November 4th 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, November 4th 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, November 4th at 10:30am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

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 paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, October 19th - 19th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

Wednesday, October 22nd

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

6:30 – Choir Practice

Saturday, October 25th 11:30-2:00 Fall Festival

Sunday, October 26th - 20th 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, 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
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