



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

June 18, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday after Pentecost



*“The Lord said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Me give birth? At my age?’
Is anything too difficult for the Lord? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son.”*
Genesis 18:13-14a (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lord, this day we will hear of the miracles that have inspired people to be your disciples. We will hear of Sarah, who in her old age, conceived a son. We stand in that long line of those who are called. We are ready to work for you that this broken world may be healed. Amen.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *To God Be the Glory*

E. BROUGHTON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

* **GATHERING SONG:** *We Are Standing on Holy Ground*

GERON DAVIS

GATHERING

406 We Are Standing on Holy Ground

Holy Ground

We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground,
and I know that there are an - gels all a -
round; let us praise Je - sus
now; we are stand - ing in his
pres - ence on ho - ly ground.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

God has called us to this place. What do you see?

We see people who model for us God's joyous embrace of all people.

God has brought us to this place. What do you hear?

We hear God's hope that we are able to see each person as our sister or brother.

God has challenged us to open our lives and hearts to others. What will you do?

We will do only one thing: welcome everyone in God's name!

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

* HYMN OF PRAISE #483: *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*

MIT FREUDEN ZART

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

They are there in the Bible: men and women who are as weak, as foolish, as prone to sin as we are. Every page, every story reveals to us our brokenness. Yet every page, every story tells us of the One who longs to make us whole. Let us confess our sins, and clear the way for God's reconciling love to work within us. Please join me, as we pray,

In the mirror we call scripture we see ourselves for who we are and are not. We whine about those who are not doing what we think they should, and ignore our failings. We speak words which nibble away at the life in our family and friends. We step over the poor on our way to get more and more, ignoring their needs.

Forgive us, Reconciling Love. Sit us down at Jesus' feet, so we may learn the balanced life you intend for us. Then, and only then, we can set aside our grudges, to offer our gifts to our neighbors; we can stop licking at our

hurts, to bring healing to others; we can reach out and welcome our sisters and brothers, even as we have been welcomed into your heart through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Christ Jesus comes to reconcile us to God, so we can be reconciled to one another. Recreated in God's image, we are made whole.

When we are in Christ, everything becomes new. Our past is just that - our past!

Do you really believe this - that your past is done, and you are a new person? If so, go out and reflect it in your life.

Thanks be to God! We will go forth and live as reconciled people. Amen.

* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #355: *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from Heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love You! Jesus Christ, You save from sin!
How I love You! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE APOSTLES' CREED

As the people of God gathered in this place, who are we?

We are a community of believers called by God to worship, serve, teach, and support.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, 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 #129: *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*

EBENEZER

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Fatherhood*

P. BURKEHARDT

* THE DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Praise God, above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #316: *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

TRENTHAM

*Breathe on me, Breath of God. Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.*

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *If You Want to See A Miracle*

P. BRADLEY

*If you want to see a miracle, If you want to see a miracle,
If you want to see a miracle, look at me.*

It took a miracle to change this heart of mine.

It took a miracle to show me that I was blind.

But when He saved my soul, He promised to make me whole.

If you want to see a miracle, look at me.

Jesus washed me, yes He did.

Jesus cleansed me, yes He did.

Jesus saved me, yes He did. I'm a miracle.

THE SPOKEN WORD

A Reading from Genesis 18:1-15

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 12

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON: *PROMISES, PROMISES*

REV. MITZI LESHNER-THOMAS

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN:** *To Abraham and Sarah* (see next page)

LLANFYLLIN

* **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

* **POSTLUDE:** *God of Our Fathers*

S. SCOTT

* *Those who are able may stand in body or spirit.*

51 To Abraham and Sarah

I Will Be Your God

1 To A - bra - ham and Sa - rah the call of God was clear:
2 From A - bra - ham and Sa - rah a - rose a pil - grim race,
3 We of this gen - er - a - tion on whom God's hand is laid

"Go forth and I will show you a coun - try rich and fair.
de - pen - dent for their jour - ney on God's a - bun - dant grace;
can jour - ney to the fu - ture se - cure and un - a - fraid,

You need not fear the jour - ney, for I have pledged my word
and in their heart was writ - ten by God this sav - ing word,
re - joic - ing in God's good - ness and trust - ing in this word,

that you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
"That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
"That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church. Whether you are a member or a visitor we are so glad that you are worshipping with us this morning and pray that this time of worship will be both renewing and rewarding for you. If you have

any questions about Bethany, please speak to the pastor or call the church at 336.227.4041. You can find us online through our website at www.bethanypreschurch.org; on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian; or on Twitter by following [@bpresbyterian](https://twitter.com/bpresbyterian).

Operating our audio and video systems this morning is **Kim Mitchell-Ayers**. Anyone wishing to join this team of volunteers please contact the church office at any time.

Audio Recordings of each Sunday's sermons are available through a link on our website, or at www.buzzsprout.com/9198.

Our year-long 125th Anniversary Celebration didn't end with our wonderful celebration a couple of a few weeks ago. As has been noted before our theme scripture passage for the celebration is Isaiah 40:28-31, **Growing Stronger – Growing Deeper – Reaching Higher**. Mark your calendars for our final celebration events:

- **Saturday, September 23rd** – Concert by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** (www.davidlamotte.com)
- **Sunday, September 24th** – Culmination of anniversary celebration / **Rev. J. Herbert Nelson**, preaching (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) / **David LaMotte** providing music / Anniversary luncheon following worship

On June 4th we recognized and congratulated our high school graduate, **Morgan Troxler**, who graduated from Jordan-Matthews High School. One of her gifts was a framed picture of the church, with space on the matting for folks to write a note of congratulations. If you did not have a chance to do that last week, the picture will be in the church office this morning.

Anniversary T-Shirts are now available for purchase. There will be a table set up in the Welcome Center. Cash, checks, or credit cards accepted.

John is away this week on vacation. In his absence we welcome to the pulpit, **Rev. Mitzi Lesher-Thomas**. Rev. Lesher-Thomas has lived and served in North Carolina since 1999 as a hospital chaplain, solo pastor, and associate in ministry in churches in Salem, New Hope, and Coastal Carolina presbytery. Married to Troy Lesher-Thomas, currently the interim pastor at Milner Memorial Presbyterian in Raleigh, and mom to a 13 & 15 year old, her hobby of endurance running comes in handy juggling varied commitments and long days.

Elder Glenn Patterson will be your Worship Leader this morning. John will return to the office on this Wednesday, the 21st.

Do you have a smartphone? Are you on Facebook? If so, take a moment to **“check in” on Facebook**, letting your friends know that you are here at Bethany Presbyterian Church! It may seem like a small thing, but in reality, it is a wonderful message of evangelism and witness, as you let the cyber-world know what is important to you.

To the parents of young children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.

- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, “Let the children come to me!”
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Sherrie Moore)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Polly & Dick Wilson	Joey Leake
Layla Benoklen	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Harold Baldwin
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Duffy Strigo
Steward Dillard	Infant Sadie Ruth Majors	Norma Proctor
Donna Mitchell-Ayers	Ben Johnson	Gloria Carden Woods
	Pete Campbell	

Each week **Salem Presbytery** lists churches and other ministries that we are to lift up in prayer that week. A complete list can be viewed online at the presbytery website: www.salempresbytery.org. On the prayer list for this week are: **First Presbyterian, Statesville; Mt. Jefferson Presbyterian, West Jefferson; Freedom Presbyterian, Statesville; Korean First Presbyterian, Greensboro.** Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Brandon Troxler and Karen Maxwell)

All are invited to take advantage of the several educational opportunities for all ages on Sunday mornings. Sunday school classes begin at 9:45 a.m.

Fellowship Class (Fellowship Classroom – by ramp door)

This class is using our denomination’s *Present Word* curriculum and lives up to the class name in all aspects of their life here at Bethany.

Young at Heart Class (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor’s office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

Seeker’s Class (Church Office)

The Seeker’s Class is currently using the *Wired Word* curriculum, looking at current events as they relate to our faith.

Children (Upstairs – the really, really green room!)

This class for younger children is using our denomination’s *We Believe* curriculum in introducing our children to the faith.

Youth (Upstairs, across from the choir room)

Using a variety of creative curricula, this class explores topics that relate to faith and adolescence.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Ron Kimrey, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for June are **A. J. Campbell and Jean Payne.**

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Rev. Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, preaching

Tuesday, the 6th – Tuesday, the 13th:

- John on vacation

Wednesday, the 21st:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 25th:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey

Karen Maxwell

Sherrie Moore

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org



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