



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

September 19, 2021 – 11:00 am
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



“One of These Children”

*“Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me;
and whoever welcomes me isn’t actually welcoming me but rather the one who sent me.”*

Mark 9:37(CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Gracious God, you give life and, in your Word, it is beautiful. Thank you for this new day. In each coming hour, help me to see beneath the ever-present difficulties and superficial joys into the mysteries that you have set out for your people. Guide me toward those I meet today in a way that welcomes them and, in turn, grants me a welcome, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

PRELUDE: *He is Lord*

GREGG SEWELL (TRADITIONAL MELODY)

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: *Oh, How I Love Jesus*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

If you are weak and in need of strength,
if you are feeling fragile, or vulnerable,
know that you are welcome here,
know that Christ beckons you here,
know that you are loved here.
We come to worship like children, ready to rest in God's arms.

Thanks be to God.

* OPENING HYMN #181: *Come Sing to God*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."
Let us humble ourselves before God and confess our sins as individuals and as a community

Holy God, we commit ourselves to service, but fail to have a servant's heart. We seek social status, not sacrifice. We welcome worldly success, not the humble path of Christ. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from the pressures of the world that keep us jockeying for position. Help us be servants of all. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Do not fear, dear friends. Jesus is among us, offering us new life and hope. Nothing can prevent God's love for us.
We rejoice, for we have been made new in Christ. Amen.

* RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *I am Thine, O Lord*

FANNIE CROSBY

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

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 say what we believe.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

* A DOXOLOGY: *We Give Thee but Thine Own*
*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.*

WILLIAM W HOW

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* **HYMN OF THE DAY #345:** *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MARK 9:30-37

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1229

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: LET THE WHOLE CREATION CRY

JAY ALTHOUSE

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"One of These Children"*

CLP RICK PURCELL

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #438:** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

* **SENDING**

For those who make peace,

a harvest of righteousness is sown.

Be gentle, honest, and merciful with those you meet;

ask for wisdom, and wisdom will fill you with joy.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Toccata Jubiloso*

LANI SMITH

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and Helen Brown)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). 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).

“I will show love to those who were called unloved and, to those who were called ‘not-my-people’, I will say ‘you are my people’ and they will answer, ‘you are our God.’” (Hosea 2:23) Bethany Presbyterian Church is a place where the mind is nourished as well as the spirit, and where we affirm the dignity and worth of every person. As we are all created in the image of God, we believe discrimination is incompatible with Christ’s Gospel of unconditional love. While we celebrate our Presbyterian identity, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. We invite conversations that move us to seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit. **Be who you are and be welcome here.**

Audio Recordings of each Sunday’s sermons are available through a link on our website, on our Facebook page, or at www.buzzsprout.com/9198. A **Live Stream** and a **Video Recording** of our Live Stream are available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources
- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Randy Cousins and Tina Patterson)

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

Bethany Members

Christopher Bagley	Katherine Bayliff	Barbara Cousins
Sylvia Donley	Pat Kennedy	Ruby Martin
Joyce & Norman Mize	Shelvia Russell	Mike Sutton
Nancy Sutton	Eleanor Thompson	Ida Whitney

Friends of Bethany

Carol Brooks	Janie Holt Clapp	Jack Cook
Bill Faucette	Ben Johnson	Grace Johnson
Christy Lutterloh	Anne McDaniels	Diane Miller
Norma Proctor	Shannon Russell	Peter Slater
John & Ann Sutton	Tiffany Tauchren	Alex Thomas
Randy Thompson	Teresa Wilborn	Frank Wrenn
	Family of Nat Blackwood	

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Tracey Troxler and Shelby Smith)

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. (Classes will resume when we return to having church in person!)

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.

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: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for September are **Tina Patterson** and **Helen Brown**.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

John & Kim Snyder	September 18
Ron & Janine Osborne	September 22

Amy Kimrey	September 13
Kim Snyder	September 13
Hailee Thomas	September 16
Sandy Cook	September 18
Katherine Bayliff	September 19
Peggy Burwell	September 22
Kim Davis	September 23
Linda Abplanalp	September 24
Nancy Purcell	September 26
Glenn Patterson	September 29
Jay Fuller	September 30

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-person and Live Stream)

Sunday, the 26th:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-person and Live Stream)

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rick Purcell

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

1500 S. Main Street

Graham, NC 27215

www.bethanypreschurch.org

336.227.4041

Staff

Pastor: Vacant

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

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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