

## PENTECOST 2023

bethany presbyterian  
love learn serve  
bethany press



### Sunday Morning Schedule

Every Sunday

11:00am Worship  
(In-person and Live  
Stream)

### Important Dates & Upcoming Events

#### Wednesday Evenings

6:30 Choir Practice

#### June 21st

10:30am—11:30am  
Alamance Co. Public  
Libraries Mobile Unit  
Church Parking Lot

#### June 14th

7:00pm Session Meeting

#### July 15th

Family VBS

#### July 16th

Neighbor Days  
Worship

#### July 31

Brunch Church

Elders for the Month of  
June

Kim Snyder and  
Donna Mitchell-Ayers

July

Chip Allen and  
Nancy Purcell

August

Shelby Smith and  
Tracey Troxler

# Pentecost

Pentecost, 2023

Friends,

It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood...

One of the most influential preachers of all time, in my opinion, was a pastor who is usually neither thought of as a preacher nor a pastor. And yet, he, the Reverend Fred Rogers, known to most of us around the world as Mr. Rogers, undoubtedly has touched more of our lives than most ever have. Fred Rogers was an ordained Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament, but instead of serving in congregations, his ministry was his show. He was a rare preacher who spread God's deep love for everyone, and embodied a sense of God's peace and reconciliation for millions of children and adults in a way that was invitational for everybody. He truly lived into that wonderful saying attributed to Saint Francis – "preach the gospel at all times. Use words if necessary."

Our denomination honors Rev. Rogers with a Mr. Rogers day on his birthday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. This falls during the Lenten season, so we didn't recognize it then, but now that it is summer, and our days in our neighborhood will likely be beautiful, if a little warm, we will celebrate his ministry together in mid July with our first Neighbor Days.

We are also, using Mr. Rogers as a theme, starting up a VBS for the first time in years.

On Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, we will hold a family-centered, intergenerational VBS for everybody. Bring your kids! Bring your adults! Let us come together and learn and play in the spirit of Mr. Rogers. We will have offerings for kids of all ages and adults as well.

Then, on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, we will continue our Neighbor Days with a worship service highlighting our denomination's Mr. Rogers Emphasis Day. We are still planning this out, but we will look to do some mission together that day for our neighbors too.

We will invite our neighbors to join us for this weekend of being neighborly. I hope you will grab your sneakers, and your sweaters... if it's unseasonably cool, and work on your singing "Won't You Be My Neighbor."

Can't wait to see you there, neighbor!

Jon



# TRANSITION updates

## Your Transition

We have been meeting nearly every week for half a year now, and we are getting close to putting together our Mission Study. We've been moving very intentionally, and I know that it seems quite slow, but I think this is a really important time for our congregation to spend the time to discern those three questions as we do find ourselves at a fork in the road – we know that if we choose to do nothing, we're going to continue our decline. However, we have the energy and budget to begin to live into a new chapter of our lives together, where we continue to share the good news with our neighbors of what God is doing here in Graham and around our world as we've been doing so faithfully for the past 131 years. This is why, I believe, it is so important that we take the time to really discern:

Who are we?

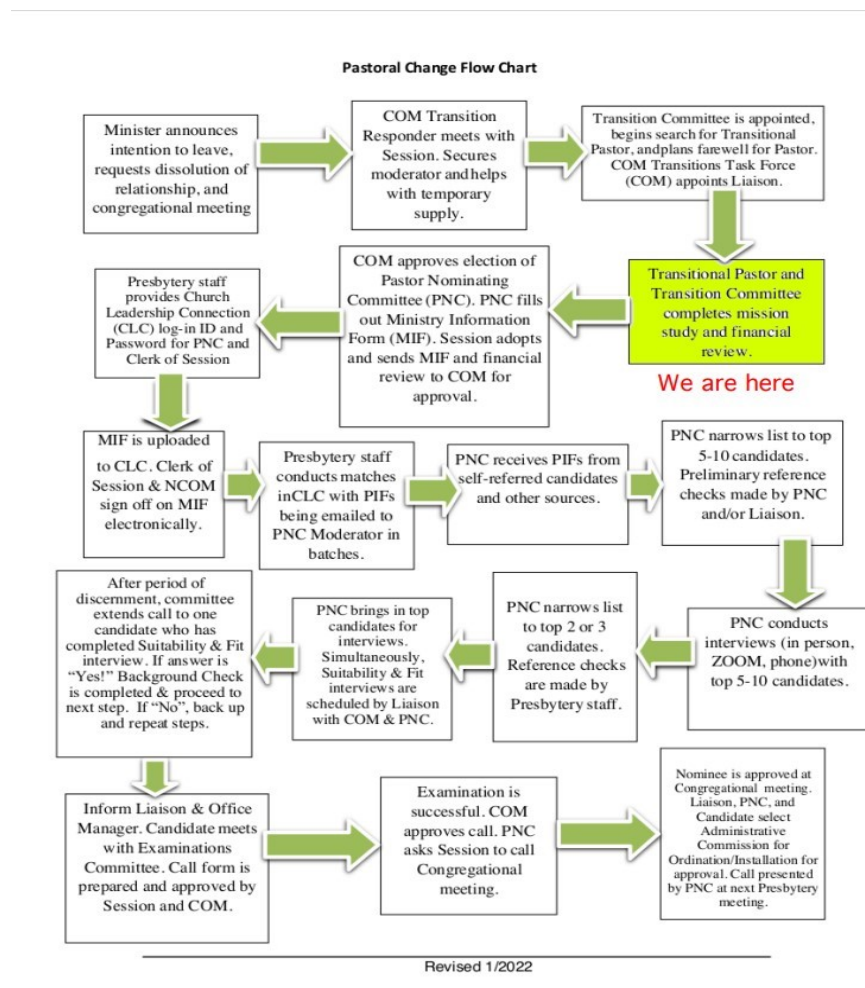
Who is God calling us to be?

Who is our neighbor?

As always, if you would like to hear more about what we are up to, feel free to ask any one of us. Also, the notes from each of our meetings are posted on the walls back by the kitchen. We don't want this process to seem like a black box and think that transparency in our process is really important. And, again as always, if you have any comments or questions you would like to contribute to our process, or if there's anything on your heart about our transition or who God might be calling to serve us next, please don't hesitate to reach out.

With gratitude,

AJ, Brenda, Morgan, Shelby, Tina, and Jon





May 28th	Pentecost Sunday
June 4th	Trinity Sunday
June 4th—August 20th	8 Habits of Evangelism

### 8 Habits

This summer I will be preaching a series on our denomination's new resource, "The 8 Habits of Evangelism." As Ray Jones III, director of our Office of Theology, Formation, and Evangelism writes of these 8 habits:

*The following habits develop within us a love of God, neighbor and Creation: prayer, generosity, sacraments, worship, teaching, justice, fellowship and radical welcome. Over time these habits change us and offer discernment and guidance for following Jesus through the trials, structures and systems of our nation and world. These habits enable us to hear God's voice over all the other voices calling out to be heard. These habits cause our hearts to break over and open to the needs of and hurt in people around us. These habits provide the words of good news to which we bear witness and proclaim. By the power of the Holy Spirit, these habits enable us to lay down our lives so that others can live.*

*Evangelism in the 21st century North American context must be experienced as a journey of going deeper in our faith, relationships around us and God's mission of rescue and reconciliation. This journey of faith engages formation habits that change our lives and the world around us. When we open ourselves to God's love, justice and the people around us, we encounter the reconciliation of all things and the saving grace of Jesus. The beauty of this journey is that this transformation process always opens us to the wonder of God. And along the journey we realize that all people can breathe. Oh my, all people breathing the breath of God! Now that's a story worth living and telling.*

**Join us as we come back to worship in person and we will also continue to Live Stream.**

#### **LIVE STREAM**

Check our website to access streaming ([www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)).



## Story Behind the Hymn: Holy! Holy! Holy!

As we celebrate Trinity Sunday on June 4, let's take a look at one of the most well-known and beloved hymns of our faith.

*Holy! Holy! Holy!* speaks of the power of the Holy Trinity. The opening phrase, "Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God of Hosts", is a direct English translation of the Sanctus, which is found in the Latin Mass. The words found in the hymn are a paraphrase of Revelation 4:1-11. *Holy! Holy! Holy!* was written by Reginald Heber.

Reginald Heber was born in 1783 to a wealthy, educated family. By the age of seven, he was translating Latin Classics into English verse. He entered Oxford at age 17 and won two awards for poetry during his time at University. Heber became rector of his father's church near Shrewsbury, England. He remained there for sixteen years. He longed to improve the singing of his little congregation at Hodnet. During his time there he began writing songs. Heber wrote over 57 hymns over the course of his career.

While working at the little church in Hodnet, Heber also served on staff of a literary journal. He is said to have been impressed by the holiness of God and often wrote the words "Only Thou Art Holy." His lyrics for *Holy! Holy! Holy!* are drawn from Revelation 4:8. He was the first to compile a hymnal ordering hymns around the church calendar.

*Holy! Holy! Holy!* was written for Trinity Sunday. Trinity Sunday is one week after Pentecost Sunday. This is evidenced by "God in three persons, blessed Trinity," which is found in the first and last verses.

He uses other symbolism such as God is "perfect in power, in love and purity;" God is worshiped by saints, cherubim, and seraphim; and God is praised "in earth and sky and sea," and God is "holy, merciful and mighty." Heber had a deep fondness for India, and in 1823, he was appointed Bishop of Calcutta. The primitive conditions, duties of the position as Bishop and hot climate took a toll on his health.

Heber died on April 3, 1826, just three years after he began to serve the people of India. He was only 43 years old. Many of his admirers raised over 10,000 pounds to support his widow and children. After Heber's death, his widow came across the words to *Holy! Holy! Holy!* However, it took more than three decades before the poem became a song and took its place in numerous worship services.

The hymn has been recorded by numerous artists and was sung in the 1953 film version of *Titanic*. Famed poet Alfred Lord Tennyson felt *Holy! Holy! Holy!* was the "world's greatest hymn."

CREDIT: dianaleaghmatthews.com



## 2023 Graduates

### **Bricen Bullis**

Graduating from high school (Alamance Burlington Early College), Magna Cum Laude, May 23, 2023

Graduating from Alamance Community College, Associate's of Arts Degree, June 2, 2023

### **Alex Bullis**

Graduated May 12, 2023, Cum Laude, from UNC-Charlotte, with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and minors in Legal Studies and American Studies

### **Seth Smith**

Graduated May 5, 2023 from UNC Greensboro with a BA in Biology. He will begin teaching Science at Southeast High School in August.

### **Lauren Kimrey**

Lauren Kimrey, granddaughter of Ron Kimrey, graduating from high school at Burlington Christian Academy on May 26th, 2023. She will attend Appalachian State University in the fall.

### **CJ Rice**

CJ Rice, grandson of Karen Maxwell, graduated from Yale on May 22, 2023 with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in History and Classics. He will begin working at Vassar this Fall.

### **Audrey Phillips**

Graduated May 25th from Pre-School, at Holy Trinity Day School, Greensboro.





## *What's Happening in Scouting*



### **SEND A SCOUT TO CAMP**

Troop 9 is offering the opportunity for Bethany Presbyterian Church Members to "Send a Scout to Camp". The Cost of Summer Camp is \$350. Your sponsorship will help send a Scout to Summer Camp 2023. For a Full \$350 Donation, the Scout you sponsor will send you 2 letters from Camp, as well as photo(s). Partial donations will also be accepted. You are welcome to send sponsorships to Troop 9, 1407 E. Gilbreath St., Graham NC., 27253. Thank you.



### **TROOP 9 SCOUT EARN FISHING MERIT BADGE AT HIGH ROCK**

Scouts from Troop(s) 9, Boys & Girls, recently camped at High Rock Lake for Fishing, Canoeing, and Cooking. A good many of the Scouts earned their Fishing Merit Badge by taking Fishing instruction, practicing casting, and finally catching their first fish. On Saturday night, Scouts Cooper Cosgrove & Levi Newbury bridged from the Bobwhite Patrol to the Owl Patrol. It was a great and exciting weekend at Old North State Council Hagan Sea Base.



### **COLLEGE STUDENT TO DO ODD JOBS**

College student, working his way through school, is willing to perform odd jobs around your house this summer.

No job is too small or too big to complete. Contact Jackson at (336) 417-4060 or [benesjackson@gmail.com](mailto:benesjackson@gmail.com)

Jackson Benes  
Troop 9  
(336) 417-4060 cell  
[benesjackson@gmail.com](mailto:benesjackson@gmail.com)

# your compassion + generosity propels missions

## About our Offering

You are invited to make your contribution in one of four ways:

- drop it in the offering plate that is located at the narthex door (before worship) and in the narthex (following worship);
- mail it in to the church; drop it off at the church in person;
- or, use our quick and secure online giving platform. This can be accessed through our website, or by scanning the QR code on this page.

Thanks for your generosity and cooperation.

If you have any questions concerning our finances or your giving, please feel free to contact Pam Hurt, our bookkeeper, or Glenn Patterson, our treasurer.

**Scan this QR code for direct access  
to our Online Giving Platform**



## **Your Church Staff:**

Transitional Pastor:	Rev. Jon Phillips
Chaplain:	Rick Purcell
Director of Music:	Christopher Bagley
Office Administrator:	Joy Saleeby
Bookkeeper:	Pam Hurt

[pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)  
[chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org)  
[music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)  
[admin@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:admin@bethanypreschurch.org)  
[finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

## **Elders:**

*Chip Allen*  
*Randy Cousins (Clerk of Session)*  
*Karen Maxwell*  
*Donna Mitchell-Ayers*  
*Tina Patterson*  
*Nancy Purcell*  
*Shelby Smith*  
*Kim Snyder*  
*Tracey Troxler*

# NEIGHBOR DAYS

FAMILY VBS  
SAT JULY 15

WORSHIP  
SUN JULY 16

INFO AND REGISTRATION ONLINE  
[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

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