



Bethany United Church of Christ

Embracing the Community

2952 Bethany Church Rd, Claremont NC 28610

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March News 2016

*Bethany is a community of justice and peace serving the needs of people on their spiritual journey.
NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!*

The Seeds of Resurrection



Spring in North Carolina is a beautiful season of the year. It is probably my favorite because we are surrounded by signs of new life. After winter, I long for the beauty of the flowering trees and the early flowers that appear out of the dark ground. The truth is that Jesus, no matter what season of the year, is always offering us new life; our opportunity to move from the dark of the winter. The question is, are we ready to receive that unbelievable gift? Our resistance comes from not being ready and willing to accept new ways of living. When we live in the old ways of death and sin, we are refusing the new life that is offered to each of us. Life is a gift; a gift from God.

Our Lenten theme of Fresh Fruit and New Wine is exciting to preach! The traditional Lenten theme of repentance makes way for “fresh” and “new.” We must empty ourselves of the darkness of sin, allow God to

shine the light of forgiveness, and then open ourselves to a fresh, new start. Our Creator offers to us, through the generous gift of grace, a life of abundance.

Come to worship, **listen** to our Still Speaking God, and **see** God’s covenant in the light of a fresh, new life. There are many opportunities to hear the message of Jesus in the coming weeks of Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter. There are many opportunities to serve in the ministry of Jesus throughout the year. And, there are many opportunities to tell others about the inclusive love of Jesus that can be found at Bethany.

May this Lenten and Easter season hold all the seeds of new life that are ready to spring forth in you, in our church and in our community. Be ready for the resurrection!

Love to all in Christ’s name, Pastor Colleen



Maundy Thursday Service

Grace Reformed UCC in Newton will host the LINC churches for a Maundy Thursday Service at 7p.m. on March 24. Maundy Thursday commemorates Jesus Christ's last supper and the initiation of Holy Communion. Please plan to attend this meaningful service with our LINC friends. Everyone is welcome!

We extend a heartfelt welcome to our new organist, Annette DeJong, and to John David Welch, our new choir director. We are extremely fortunate to have them share their musical talents with us. Thank you to new and former choir members who will lead us in singing and present special music during worship services. If you like to sing or have a friend who may be interested, rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.



Save The Date

Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 8 at 6:00pm

Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sunday, March 13

Maundy Thursday Service
March 24 at 7:00pm
Grace Reformed UCC in Newton

Youth Easter Party
Saturday, March 26 at 4:00pm -6:00pm
Unifour Christian Fellowship Church

Easter Sunday, March 27
Sunrise Service 7:00am
Fellowship Breakfast 7:30am
Worship Service 10:30am

Sunday Service Providers for March 2016

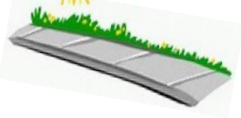
Elder of the Month: Eddie Ervin

Ushers: Beth Cline & Vivian Cline

Offering Counters: Beth Cline & Lou Grandmaison

	<u>March 6</u>	<u>March 13</u>	<u>March 20</u>	<u>March 27</u>
Acolytes:	Donna Ervin	Vivian Cline	Eddie Ervin	Tommy Little
Technician:	Eric Ervin	Jose DeJesus	Beth Cline	Eric Ervin
Liturgist:	Beth Cline	Lisa Goins	Norma Boggs	Jose DeJesus
Scripture:	Psalm 32	John 12: 1-8	Psalm 118: 1-12, 19-29	John 20: 1-18

New Sidewalk



For several years there has been water seepage through some walls in the After School classrooms causing the paint to bubble and flake off. To correct the problem, the old sidewalk along the handicap ramp and church wall was removed and a new sidewalk sloping away from the building was poured. This will carry water away from the building and keep the basement dry.



The After School All Stars are off to a good start in 2016. Many students are on the A or A-B Honor Roll, and five students have perfect attendance. Children are active again in the Running Club at Balls Creek and the Get Moving Club at Catawba. Playing basketball here after school is a favorite activity of the children. Donations of basketballs, gently used tennis racquets and tennis balls would certainly be welcomed.

Wishing everyone a very peaceful Easter.
Ms. Lee and Ms. Jeannine



Bethany Youth



Youth & Teens
Bethany UCC Claremont

Youth and Teens will be hosting several events throughout the spring and summer. Some of those events include baseball clinics, basketball clinics, and possibly some other sports clinics.

The first scheduled event will be Saturday, April 16, from 2:30-4:45pm. This will be a baseball clinic at the Hickory Crawdads stadium. Each child will receive a free ticket to the game following the clinic. If you are interested in attending the clinic, please contact us by March 18 to register.

We will be joining Unifour Christian Fellowship Church in Newton for our Easter party this year. There will be a glow in the dark Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 26, from 4:00-6:00pm. Registration will begin at 3:45pm and will be for children up to 12 years of age.

Remember that Vacation Bible School is right around the corner. Vacation Bible School will be July 18-22 from 6:00-8:00pm. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

Megan and Leslie Vann Youth and Teens Co-directors



Tommy Little was voted Valentine King of the Senior's Morning Out Program that meets at First Presbyterian Church in Newton. Way to go, Tommy!



March Birthdays

20	Gina Beard
27	Jerry Pope
29	Beth Cline