

# Bethany United Church of Christ

*Embracing the Community*

2952 Bethany Church Rd, Claremont NC 28610

www.BethanyUccClaremont.org and follow us on [facebook](#)

Email: [bethanyuccclaremont@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyuccclaremont@gmail.com) 828-464-5194



*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.*

## **Every Sunday Morning**

**Adult Discussion 9:30am  
Worship in Person 10:30am**

Email: [bethanyuccclaremont@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyuccclaremont@gmail.com)  
for information

## **Summer News**

## **2022**

### Important Dates

**Tuesday, May 10:** Bethany UCC volunteer day at ECCCM. Contact Judy Kirby for details.

**Sunday, May 15:** New Member Sunday! We'll welcome new members after worship with a time of celebration in the Fellowship Hall.

**Thursday, May 19:** Defibrillator Training. Cindy Smith-Canipe will be with us at **4:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall to lead us through training for our defibrillator. Please attend if you are able so that you can learn to use this lifesaving equipment. Cindy says the training will take less than an hour.

**Sunday, May 22:** Little Free Library dedication immediately following worship. Special thanks are due to Jose De Jesus for his craftsmanship.

**Sunday, May 29:** No Adult Discussion on this Memorial Day weekend. Worship at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary as usual. Following worship, please gather near the cemetery to remember and honor our veterans on this Memorial Day Sunday.

**Sunday, June 5:** Pentecost Sunday. Join us for worship at 10:30 a.m.



### Pentecost

Christian Pentecost is a remembrance and celebration of the events recorded in Acts 2. In a mighty rush of wind and with tongues of fire, the Holy Spirit descended on the first believers and the church was born. Pentecost comes fifty days after Easter and this year's date is Sunday, June 5. We will celebrate the presence of God's Holy Spirit and find our places around the Communion table. We look forward to Pentecost Sunday and hope you can join us Sunday, June 5 at 10:30 a.m.

### Get Involved

We're renewing our commitment to Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, or ECCCM. In addition to gathering non-perishable food items on the first Sunday of every month, or making a monetary donation, we're planning to start working in the food pantry again, stocking shelves and giving out food. If you want to participate, contact Judy Kirby to get the dates our team will be on site. May 10 at 10:00 am is our first opportunity. We hope to see you there.



## Little Free Library



“Little Free Library” is a nonprofit organization that promotes neighborhood book exchanges, especially in communities that are distant from brick and mortar libraries or where books are scarce. It has grown into a worldwide book sharing movement, and Bethany UCC is proud to be a brand new participant. José DeJesús built our new library box, and he and Malcolm Campbell will install it at the front of the church with access from our circular drive. Thanks to the beginning efforts from Lou Grandmaison and Sarah Bostian, we already have boxes and boxes of books to share with readers of every age. Others have followed their example and donated many more books to our collection. The books are free and can be enjoyed by everyone.

After worship on May 22, we will have a dedication for our official Little Library site. You can learn more about this movement by going to [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org). We’re really excited to be part of such a great push for literacy, community, and book recycling!

### Updates from ECCCM

Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry continues to improve the lives of friends and neighbors in our own community. ECCCM is currently in need of new or gently used baby items. Strollers, Pack-N-Plays, and changing tables are just some of the baby gear items needed. You can bring any ECCCM donation to Bethany UCC or donate directly to the Thrifty Threads and Treasures store in Newton. Call (828) 465-1702 to arrange a time. Shopping at Thrifty Threads and Treasures supports the mission and ministry of ECCCM. And, at Bethany UCC, the first Sunday of every month is a day of special giving to ECCCM. On those Sundays, you may choose to bring pantry items or a monetary donation designated for ECCCM. We’re honored to be a part of this local ministry.

### New Committee

In April, our long term renters relocated, and the church parsonage is now under some renovations. The Church Council has named a new Parsonage Committee to oversee all the work that will have to be done to bring the house up to date. Eddie Ervin, Vivian Cline, Judy Kirby, Malcolm Campbell, and Larry Sink have all agreed to serve, so a big THANK YOU is due to each of them. The first order of business has been to get the house emptied and all the major systems reviewed. Eddie has already scheduled HVAC and plumbing professionals to make some repairs, and Judy is getting together a team to move all the things the renters left behind. Cleaning and painting are coming soon. Stay tuned for updates!



### A New Directory

Don’t forget to pick up your copy of the new directory the next time you’re at the church. Many thanks are due to Vivian Cline for her hard work.

### Memorial Day Observation

Following worship on Sunday, May 29, we will gather outside to remember those who served our nation and are buried in our Bethany cemetery or are remembered as service members from our congregation. Please remain and join us as we remember and honor our veterans.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

#### June

3 Rev. Steve Kirby  
25 Cindy Smith-Canipe

#### July

4 Eddie Ervin  
8 Tim Naish

### Strengthen the Church Offering

We will begin receiving the Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 5. This is one of the **5 for 5** offerings encouraged in UCC life. The STC offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to build up the Body of Christ. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

Giving is an act of worship, and this is just one option for how to honor God in your stewardship. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Pray about how best to express your support