

Bethany United Church of Christ

Embracing the Community

2952 Bethany Church Rd, Claremont NC 28610

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Advent-Christmas News 2022



Special Dates and Celebrations

<u>Date</u>	<u>9:30 a.m.</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>After Worship</u>
Nov 20	No Adult Discussion	Harvest Table Thanksgiving Celebration	Covered Dish Luncheon
Nov 27	Jesse Tree Workshop	First Sunday of Advent Celebration of Holy Communion "Hope Candle"	
Dec 4	Jesse Tree Workshop	Second Sunday of Advent "Peace Candle"	
Dec 11	Jesse Tree Workshop	Third Sunday of Advent "Joy Candle"	Annual Business Meeting
Dec 18	Jesse Tree Workshop	Fourth Sunday of Advent "Love Candle"	
Dec 24		Christmas Eve Worship by Candlelight, 6:00 p.m. Luminaries and Carols	
Dec 25	No Adult Discussion 10:00 a.m. Warm Welcome with Coffee and Cocoa in The Fellowship Hall	Christmas Worship, 10:30 a.m.	
Jan 1	No Adult Discussion 10:00 a.m. Warm Welcome	Second Sunday of Christmas, 10:30 a.m. Celebration of Holy Communion	





From the Chancel Committee

The Chancel Committee will be preparing the Harvest Table for our annual celebration of Thanksgiving. As 2022 winds down, it is time to reflect on all the good (and the bad) that has happened in our lives and to give thanks to God for our journeys, both personal and communal. If you would like to help prepare the sanctuary for Thanksgiving Worship on November 20, please contact Lisa Goins for details.



Special Requests for November

We are honored to be ministry partners with ECCCM and to volunteer together at their Newton location on the second Tuesday morning of each month. On November 8, 2022, we had 13 volunteers from Bethany! Even if you can't volunteer, you can help in other ways. As you shop for your own pantry, please know that ECCCM's special request items for November are **flour, cornmeal, and sugar**. Thank you for your willingness to support this vital local ministry.



It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!



Feast Time, of course! Celebrate the abundance of another year's harvest with us on Sunday, November 20. Immediately following worship, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for a covered dish luncheon. There is a sign-up sheet on the table outside the Fellowship Hall so that you can see what's needed and decide what dish you might want to bring. And we hope what you'll decide to bring is friends and family. There is no Sunday School or Adult Discussion on this day; join us for worship at 10:30 and the most wonderful feasting immediately after.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Instead of counting down to Christmas, join Bethany UCC in counting up! A Reverse Advent Box is a daily gathering of designated food items to be donated to families in need. Set aside a box in a corner of your kitchen and each day add an item. Your box will fill up as Christmas comes closer. Then **bring the box with you to worship on December 18** and we will dedicate them along with the rest of the offering, asking God to bless those who receive boxes. We will deliver the filled boxes to ECCCM on December 20, to ensure that they get to a family in need before Christmas. So that one celebration of abundance may lead to another, we're handing out the Reverse Advent Calendar lists at the Covered Dish Luncheon on November 20. Plan to provide a bounty for someone else's pantry this Christmas.



The Family Tree

New at Bethany this Advent Season, join us for the Jesse Tree Family Workshops. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday of Advent (November 27-December 18) at 9:30 a.m. to work on ornaments that depict Jesus' family tree. The devotions that accompany this workshop are warm and inviting, just like the project itself. And, the Family Tree is also a Family Time! Bring your children and grandchildren, share warm muffins and hot cocoa (along with coffee, too!), listen to the stories, and work on your ornaments together. Your finished product is a unique Advent Calendar that tells the story of Jesus' heritage. Think about your own Family Tree and how you would design ornaments for your family while you learn about the people in Jesus' lineage. God uses families to bless the world. May you and your family find blessing in these Advent Workshops.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Budget time, nominating and electing church servants; just like falling leaves, administrative tasks are in the air! Come for the annual congregational meeting immediately following worship on **Sunday, December 11** and be a church administrator. The call letter and a copy of the proposed budget for 2023 will be handed out on Sunday, November 27. Take the time to read and review all the information and to ask questions as you prepare for the business meeting. Then, stay after worship on December 11 and participate in the life and leadership of this congregation. You must be a member to vote, but non-members are still welcome at the meeting. Anyone can ask a question, receive more information, or offer input. Be a part of this important event at Bethany UCC.

Christmas Eve by Candlelight

Again this year we are offering the gift of beauty and worship, peace and warmth to our family and community on Christmas Eve. The gifts of beauty begin with the luminaries that line the circular drive in front of the sanctuary and include the sound of carols being sung by our Christmas choir. We'll light candles for the story of the manger and light our own candles as we become part of the same story. Christmas Eve by Candlelight begins at 6:00 p.m. on December 24. Everyone is welcome and this is a perfect time to invite guests.

A New Year, A New Voice

Did you know that the Christian Liturgical Calendar begins every year with Advent? Every year, as Advent begins, one of the gospel writers takes center stage to tell the story of Jesus. We follow that gospel writer through the year, listening and learning Jesus from each unique perspective. Then, a new voice takes over and the cycle begins anew, from the anticipation of birth to the surprise of resurrection. The hope is that, in the telling and retelling, we all find a new way to order our lives, a way that follows the life of Christ. This Advent Season begins on November 27 and our story teller will be Matthew. Listen in worship for Matthew's voice, mission, and meaning, and join us for a new year.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November

10 Norma Boggs
27 Kathy Naish

December

15 Hunter Ervin
23 Katie Cater
20 Malcolm Campbell
27 Becky Cline
30 Louise Harris

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: bethanyucclaremont@gmail.com for information