

# Bethany United Church of Christ

*Embracing the Community*

2952 Bethany Church Rd, Claremont NC 28610

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## Bethany News

**Winter Lent 2023**

*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**

### **Worship Calendar**

February 19	CWS Blanket Sunday	10:30 a.m.
February 22	Ash Wednesday	6:00 p.m.
February 26	First Sunday of Lent	10:30 a.m.
March 5	Second Sunday of Lent Celebration of Holy Communion New Member Sunday	10:30 a.m.
March 12	Third Sunday of Lent Guest Musicians	10:30 a.m.
March 19	Crisis Response Offering Through "One Great Hour of Sharing"	10:30 a.m.
April 2	Palm Sunday Holy Week Begins	10:30 a.m.
April 6	Maundy Thursday Remembering the Last Supper Through Holy Communion	6:00 p.m.
April 9	Easter Sunrise Worship Traditional Worship	7:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

## Confirmation and Affirmation

We celebrate that Hunter Ervin has confirmed his faith and shared his commitment to full membership in Bethany UCC! Hunter became an official member of Bethany on Sunday, January 22, 2023. It was a perfect way to begin a new year and to celebrate a new commitment to discipleship. Hunter received the full affirmation and welcome of the congregation and we continue to celebrate his presence and his future. No matter where a lifetime of following Jesus leads, we will always be his home church. What a blessing for Bethany!



## The Season of Wilderness and Ashes

Lent is the Church's revisiting and retelling of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness. It is a season for acknowledging our own frailty, remembering that we were made from the dirt and dust of the ground, and that alone we are no match for the temptations that hound us. But, as with every image and message that comes to us from the life of Christ, this is good news! We are made from dust but never left in the dust. Lent is a quiet season, designed for reflection and growth in discipleship. It begins with **Ash Wednesday**, a day for setting your intention and preparing for the journey. We will acknowledge that personal and communal journey through worship on **Wednesday, February 22 at 6:00 p.m.** Even if you have never experienced the spiritual discipline of Ash Wednesday or Lent, you are invited to join this journey and to invite others. The season of wilderness has its own gifts to share.

## Inclement Weather Statement

So far, 2023 has brought no snow. However, I heard the recent weather report that February and early March have historically brought our region the most snow. So, here's a reminder regarding the weather and our worship schedule. First, always prioritize your personal safety. If the roads are not safe near you, don't drive to church. Second, remember that we don't have a way to clear snow or ice from the church parking lot. If there has been snow or ice, consider that it will likely make for difficult parking and treacherous walking. Finally, check your email or voicemail before making the drive to the church. We send church wide messages when we have to cancel or reschedule events. Make sure we have your updated contact information so you can receive emails and phone calls from the church.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

### February

3 Larry Sink  
14 Sarah Bostian  
17 Vivian Cline

### March

20 Gina Beard  
23 Aris DeJesus  
29 Beth Graham

### April

27 Jane Campbell

## New Member Sunday

New Member Classes at Bethany are scheduled for Sunday February 12 and 19. On both Sundays, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. The workbooks and information packets are available in hard copies or can be sent to your inbox, so even if you have to miss part of the discussion, the material is available. And, if you are already a member but you want to review and revisit our polity, policies, beliefs, or faith, you are welcome, too. Although you are not obligated to join Bethany UCC after participating in the classes, the invitation is extended! We will welcome new members into the full fellowship of the congregation on Sunday, March 5 during regular worship.



## ECCCM Updates

We will be volunteering as a congregation on Tuesday, February 14 10:00 a.m. at ECCCM in Newton. What a way to say “love” to our neighbors. You are invited to join anytime you’re able; our dates are always the second Tuesday of each month.

*Thrifty Threads and Treasures* is the store that ECCCM operates for clothing and household items. It is shopping that supports the mission of ECCCM. In this coming season of spring cleaning, if you would like to make donations to the store, know that there is a list of items that the ECCCM does and doesn’t accept. See Judy Kirby for a copy of the list.



## CWS Blanket Sunday

This Valentine’s Day, you can blanket the world with love! How? Donate a warm blanket to Church World Services and remind someone in crisis that love hasn’t failed. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That’s why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. The blankets are \$10 each. We’ll receive the extra offering for these special blankets on February 19.



## **One Great HOUR**

OF SHARING

## Five For Five

Bethany UCC is a “Five for Five” congregation. That means that we participate in denominational giving beyond our church walls. Five times each year, the United Church of Christ offers us the opportunity to join other congregations in a combined offering, doing great things together that we can’t do alone. **One Great Hour of Sharing** is the crisis response offering. This offering continues to work with both domestic and global partners to care for others: providing food, water, medicines, education, disaster recovery resources and opportunities for sustainable development to individuals and communities in crisis around the world. We will begin receiving this offering on March 19 and continue throughout the Season of Lent.

[Remember](#)  
[This Date!](#)  
[Sunday](#)  
[March 12, 2023](#)  
[2:00 a.m.](#)

