



# 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



## Time of Pentecost 2021



### From the Pastor 's Pen...

Rev. Kathy Naish

It's not that easy being green..." Maybe some of you will remember the time when Kermit the Frog used to sing those words. Well, he was right! At Bethany UCC, we've decided to become a green congregation and it's not easy! The United Church of Christ recognizes congregations that decide to focus on the ministry of caring for God's creation as Creation Justice Churches.

Climate crisis is upon us and scientists tell us there is no time to waste as we address carbon emissions, single use plastics, and many more human habits that are harming the planet. So, becoming a Creation Justice Church is part of the effort to address our roles in the climate crisis, both in our congregation and in our everyday lives. Expect plenty of conversations about recycling, light bulbs, and energy audits, but know that we will go deeper than those first important steps. As partners with God in creation care, we will need to be both spiritually and theologically grounded to complete this journey, so expect to do some genuine Bible study in the process, also.

We're currently forming our "Green Team," the committee that will guide us through the program. If you're interested, please let me know soon. We'll hold our first meeting Thursday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m and we hope to have as many voices as possible join the conversation. And, while the process may not be easy, remember how Kermit's song about being green ended? "It's beautiful and it's what I want to be."

*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

**Worship in Person 10:30**

**Zoom Worship 10:30**

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

for information to join Zoom



### The Church in Person!

As we resume in-person worship in the sanctuary, here are the details you need to know.

1. We will mark the pews so that social distancing is clearly visible for everyone.
2. We will keep the windows open for the entire time we're in the sanctuary.
3. Everyone will be asked to wear a mask and we will have masks available in the narthex.
4. We will adapt worship so that nothing has to be passed from person to person.
5. For right now, we are not including any other activities in our in-person meetings, so no fellowship gatherings, no church dinners, birthday parties, etc.
6. We will resume Adult Discussion soon. Church Council decided to give everyone the opportunity to resume worship and provide some feedback before we add more to the weekly in-person calendar. While that means there will be a temporary break in Adult Discussion, we are confident it will be back on the calendar very soon. The Board of Christian Education is planning new studies right now.

For those who are neither comfortable nor able to join in person, we will continue to offer Zoom on Sunday mornings. As always, we encourage you to prioritize your health and safety. We support your decision to worship in the way that best meets your needs.

## Pentecost is Coming!

The Jewish Harvest Festival called Pentecost became a special day for Jesus' first followers. Acts 2 tells the story of the Holy Spirit entering into the lives of the first believers on Pentecost.

*"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.*

*And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.*

*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability."*

Those who witnessed the evidence of the Holy Spirit reported "in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." Pentecost is celebrated as the birth of the Church, the outpouring of witness by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the continuing presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives today. This year, Pentecost Sunday is May 23. In our prayers that day, we will ask especially for church renewal, for a fresh wind from the Holy Spirit to revive us, and for a new vision of ministry and witness in our community and beyond. The liturgical color for Pentecost Sunday is red and it's a tradition here at Bethany UCC to wear red to worship on Pentecost. We look forward to being "all together in one place" on May 23!

## Strengthen the Church

In UCC life, Pentecost is the traditional date for The Strengthen the Church Offering. This offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperate in building up the UCC. Our Conferences and the national setting share equally in the gifts given through local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the greater Body of Christ. As the Holy Spirit continues to lead our congregations to be the church in new ways, the Strengthen the Church Offering plants new churches, awakens new ideas in existing churches, and develops the spiritual lives of our youth and young adults. We will receive this special offering on Sunday, May 23. Plan now how you can give.

### May June

9	Lou Grandmaison	3	Steve Kirby
19	Jose DeJesus	25	Cindy Smith-Canipe

### Liturgist's Scriptures



#### May

May 9	I John 5: 1-6
May 16	I John 5: 9-13
May 23	John 15: 26-27
May 30	Isaiah 6: 1-8

#### June

June 6	I Samuel 8: 4-11
June 13	I Samuel 15: 34-16:13
June 20	I Samuel 17: 32-49
June 27	Psalms 130

### ELDER OF THE MONTH SCHEDULE

**May** – Larry Sink                      **June** – Judy Kirby

<u>2021</u>	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Tech Assistants</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
<b>May 2</b>	Vivian Cline	Hunter Ervin	Jose DeJesus	Malcolm Campbell
<b>May 9</b>	John David Whitener	Aris DeJesus	Eric Ervin	Gina Beard
<b>May 16</b>	Maria Spada	Hunter Ervin	Eric Ervin	Malcolm Campbell
<b>May 23</b>	Jeremy Whitener	Aris DeJesus	Jose DeJesus	Gina Beard
<b>May 30</b>	Steve Kirby	Hunter Ervin	Tim Naish	Malcolm Campbell
<b>June 6</b>	Lisa Goins	Donna Ervin	Tim Naish	Lou Grandmaison
<b>June 13</b>	Jose DeJesus	Hunter Ervin	Tim Naish	Judy Kirby
<b>June 20</b>	Frank Spada	Donna Ervin	Jose DeJesus	Lou Grandmaison
<b>June 27</b>	Jose DeJesus	Hunter Ervin	Eric Ervin	Judy Kirby

**Thank you for serving your church. If you are unable to serve as listed, please ask someone to switch with you or notify the Elder of the Month.**