

# Bethany United Church of Christ

Embracing the Community

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*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

**Spring**

**Lent**

**Easter**



**2022**

## **Holy Week and Easter Sunday Schedule**

### **Palm Sunday, April 10:**

*10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary*

Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent and the first day of Holy Week. On that day, we will celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with palms and hosannas. Worship will begin at 10:30 in the sanctuary.



### **Maundy Thursday, April 14:**

*6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary*

As we walk with Jesus through the final week of his earthly life, we will gather on Thursday, April 14, at 6:00 p.m. in remembrance of that upper room where Jesus ate his final meal with his disciples. Our celebration of that supper is the focus of worship on this night as we break bread together in Jesus' name. We will leave the sanctuary in the shadow of the cross, realizing that Good Friday will soon darken the landscape.

### **Easter Sunday, April 17:**

*7:00 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Worship*

*7:30 a.m. Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall*

*9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary*

Please note the change in schedule for this Resurrection Day celebration! We will break the silence of the empty tomb with thanksgiving, praise, and alleluias beginning outside at 7:00 a.m. Our concluding worship in the Sanctuary is much earlier than usual, so please note the 9:00 a.m. worship hour.



## Ukraine: How to Give, How to Help

Around the nation and around the globe, people are asking how they can help the people of Ukraine. Our Lenten offering for *One Great Hour of Sharing* is one way. One Great Hour of Sharing is an ecumenical disaster relief offering that is used for humanitarian help wherever the need arises. The need in Ukraine is beyond our ability to meet on our own, but joined with other congregations and denominations, we can make a difference. In our congregation, we will receive this important offering on Sunday, March 27. Special giving envelopes are available if you choose to use them, and we will receive this offering for several weeks in case the March 27 date is not possible for you. Continue to pray for this unfolding crisis.

Our congregation also recently participated in *Blanket Sunday*, another global effort at humanitarian aid. *Church World Services* provides blankets, hygiene kits, and basic needs to people around the world in the aftermath of all types of disasters. Currently, efforts to get these supplies to Ukraine are underway. Blankets and hygiene kits are being delivered to Romania and Moldova for families and refugees fleeing war. Most have little more than what they can carry with them. Our giving on Blanket Sunday may warm a life on the other side of the world.



### Covid Protocol Updates

Masks are now optional at in person worship. The Church Council voted to amend the in person mask requirement so that masks are now optional at all in person gatherings. However, the council is still asking that we maintain social distancing. The pews are still marked for seating distance and we have not reintroduced the passing of the peace in worship. We continue to follow CDC guidelines and encourage you to act in your own best interest regarding mask wearing and distancing. Masks are still available at the entrance to the sanctuary.



### A New Directory

We're updating our directory. Make sure we have your current contact information, and look for a new church directory coming soon!

### Updates from ECCCM

Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministries 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.

### Report from the Green Team

The Green Team contacted Interfaith Power and Light and requested a free energy audit. Marshall Goers met with several of us for a complete walk-thru of our church in August, and we received a copy of his report in September. If any of you would like to see the report, please ask Judy Kirby to send you a copy. Since that time, we've ordered and switched out the old bulbs for LEDs in all of our exit signs. Thanks to Eddie Ervin for overseeing this project! Duke Energy recommended waiting until the outdoor bulb needs to be replaced, since they are switching to replacement LEDs when they go out. The larger recommendations are cost prohibitive at this time (replacing the boiler/furnace, heat pumps, hot water heaters and appliances with more energy efficient ones, for example), but our church has made some other small advances in going green. We are using our glass Communion-ware instead of plastic, and we will be using real plates and tableware for future meals and get-togethers. We are doing our best to recycle paper, and we're printing fewer bulletins and sending more emails. If any of you have other green ideas that we could implement, please advise!

*Submitted by Judy Kirby*



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

#### **March**

- 20** Gina Beard
- 23** Aris DeJesus
- 27** Jerry Pope
- 29** Beth Graham

#### **April**

- 27** Jane Campbell

#### **May**

- 19** Jose DeJesus