

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 828-464-5194

Fall News 2022



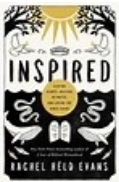
“Something Told the Wild Geese”
by Rachel Field

Something told the wild geese
It was time to go.
Though the fields lay golden
Something whispered,—‘Snow.’
Leaves were green and stirring,
Berries, luster-glossed,
But beneath warm feathers
Something cautioned,—‘Frost.’
All the sagging orchards
Steamed with amber spice,
But each wild breast stiffened
At remembered ice.
Something told the wild geese
It was time to fly,—
Summer sun was on their wings,
Winter in their cry.



For me, nothing captures August like this poem by Rachel Field. The summer sun is over our heads but whatever whispers to honeybees, to migratory birds, to summer-fat black bears, also whispers to children and back to school shoppers; “prepare.” This late-Summer edition of our newsletter has all the information you need to catch up on what you might have missed during the long days of June and July, and the calendar you’ll need to prepare for the season to come.

Grace and Peace, beloved,
Kathy



It's Time to be *Inspired*

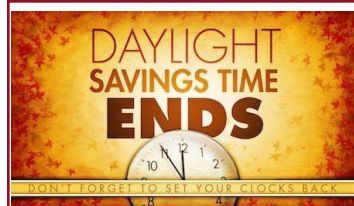
We've taken the summer off in Adult Discussion but it will soon be time to Rally for Fall. The Board of Christian Education has been hard at work and we're pleased to announce something new in September! Our congregation will begin reading *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans this fall. The book's eight chapters will guide us through eight Sunday morning discussions and give us a creative launch into worship, as well. The Worship Committee has also planned for this fall study, and we'll include worship components "inspired" by the same chapters during worship each of the eight Sundays.

We're purchasing the books in bulk and will have them to share on Sunday, August 28 and again on Sunday, September 4. This book is not only a beautiful, challenging, and unflinching look at scripture; it's also a delight to read and translates the best of biblical scholarship into accessible storytelling. Even if you can't attend Adult Discussion, you're going to want to read this book! We'll accept donations for the books whenever you receive your copy.

Adult Discussion returns on Sunday, September 11 at 9:30 a.m. where we'll begin the book study. During our reading of *Inspired*, we're expanding our Sunday morning schedule to include **Flex Time** as needed. If you want to continue any discussion from the morning hour, just meet in the Fellowship Hall for Flex Time immediately following worship.

Fall Sunday Highlights

September 4: No Adult Discussion	Celebration of Holy Communion in worship
September 11: Discussion of the first chapter of <i>Inspired</i>	Coffee and Fellowship Time following worship with Flex Time if you want to continue the morning discussion
September 25: <i>Inspired</i> study	Quarterly Birthday Party after Worship
October 2: <i>Inspired</i> study	World Communion Sunday; we celebrate with the global Church
October 30: Final Chapter study of <i>Inspired</i> with Flex Time available following worship.	All Saints Remembrance in Worship
November 20: No Adult Discussion	Thanksgiving in Worship; Harvest Table Last Sunday of the Liturgical Year



November 06, 2022

Fellowship and Fun!

I scream; you scream; we all scream for ICE CREAM! Mark your calendar for Bethany UCC's Ice Cream Saturday. We're meeting at the home of Lisa Goins on **Saturday, August 13** at (time TBD) to have fun and eat ice cream! And, if it gets rained out, join us the next day for an Ice Cream Sunday. The rain date is Sunday, August 14 at (same time). Thanks to our newly revived Fellowship Committee, the following events are on our fall calendar. Plenty of details are still to come!



Saturday, August 13

Ice Cream Party at Lisa Goin's House



Sunday, September 11

Rally Sunday Coffee Time Fellowship after Worship



Monday, September 19

Out to Dinner with Pastor Colleen

Sunday, September 25

Quarterly Birthday Party

Sunday, November 20

Thanksgiving Sunday Pot Luck



Goodbye and Hello!

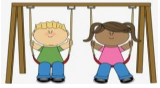
We're going Out To Eat on Monday, September 19 with Rev. Dr. Colleen Samson! We said goodbye to our former pastor during the shutdown days of the pandemic. We never had the chance to share our good wishes for her future or to have a final fellowship together. But in September, Pastor Colleen will be in town to visit her family and we have the pleasure of being on her calendar for a night of good food and even better fellowship. We'll announce the time and place soon, but please plan to join us for a long awaited goodbye AND hello!

News from the Property Committee

Several months ago, the Church Council approved the cost of replacing the windows in the church parlor and offices, the windows that face the road. The casings are rotted and there was no option but to replace them all. In these days of supply chain issues, it has taken more time than usual for the windows to arrive, but we've been told that they will be installed on Wednesday, August 3. The windows are already paid for (you'll notice the extra expense included in the Treasurer's Report posted in the hallway), so there should be no further cost to the church budget. Instead, we think we'll have increased efficiency from the new windows, so maybe we'll see a decrease in our power bill. Feel free to ask Eddie Ervin for details if you have questions about the windows.

Update from the Parsonage Committee

What's happening next door?! That's a good question. As we all continue to work on the parsonage, the Church Council is mindful that you are ready for an update on the progress and the prognosis. The painting is almost finished, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who has been part of the painting crew. They've saved us thousands of dollars with all their work. The downstairs bathroom is being renovated with new flooring, new faucets, new vanity and mirror. Again, many thanks are due to members who are saving us lots of money. Blinds, 22 of them, are hung in every room. In the kitchen, the appliances are sparkling clean once again. Shelf paper is on the shelves. The carpet in the study is now clean. The garage is pressure washed and will be painted soon. There is still some plumbing work that will have to be done professionally. The current hot water heater is working but because of age we probably will need a new hot water heater in the near future. It's also probable that we will need a new washer, since the one in the basement is older and very small. We still need to get the window air conditioner unit installed, clean the basement and finish some small jobs, but we are moving forward with this giant-sized project! Thank you to everyone in the congregation for your work and support.



Made in the Shade

And played in the shade...of our playground. News from the Outreach Committee is good! Our playground has been cleared and cleaned and looks like new. As of this writing, we are waiting for mulch to be delivered and spread, but the progress is impressive and we are almost ready for area families to enjoy playing under the big shade trees. We are also updating the basketball goal in the church parking lot so that it is usable by area families.

Our **Little Free Library** has put us in the news, not once but twice! Increase your reading fun and take home a book every week. Share books with your families and friends. Our community book exchange is a gift to everyone and now the entire area knows! There are more plans underway, so stay tuned for more from the Outreach Committee.



Time for a Change?

How do we say welcome to people of all ages? It's a question we have to ask ourselves regularly. We're updating our children's welcome table at the entrance to the sanctuary and we're replacing the crib in the church parlor with a changing table and toddler play area. Moms and dads and little ones are welcome to use the parlor area as needed. And, greeters will direct children and families to grab a welcome bag every Sunday morning as they enter the sanctuary. Welcome to Bethany, everyone! Thanks are due to the Board of Christian Education for stepping outside their duties to oversee these improvements.

Covid Updates from the Church Council

Perhaps you've heard the news that Charlotte is now a Covid "hot-spot" and that the newest variant is on the rise, even in our rural area. We continue to stress social distancing in the sanctuary and to provide masks for anyone who wants to wear one. Please notice that the backs of the pews are marked with tape to indicate recommended distances for seating. Though masks are currently optional, the Church Council is watching CDC guidelines for updates to communal gatherings.

August

10 Darlene Conklin
15 Judy Kirby



1
12
22
25
30

September

12 Donna Ervin

October

Lisa Goins
Eric Ervin
Trish Passman
Vicki Smith-Canipe
Ruth Sanders



*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**