

May News

- Sunday, May 5:** Celebration of Holy Communion in Worship
- Monday, May 6:** Gift Basket Delivery for Fostering Hope's high school graduates
We're delivering 10 completed baskets!
- Monday, May 13:** Church Council meeting via Zoom
- Tuesday, May 14:** Morning volunteering at Ashure Ministry in Newton, 10:00 until 12:00
- Sunday, May 19:** Pentecost Sunday, *Strengthen the Church* offering begins
Lunch at the Olive Garden following worship
- Sunday, May 26:** Memorial Day Weekend with Flags of Honor in the church cemetery
Outdoor time of Recognition and Prayers for Peace following worship
- Tuesday, May 28:** Afternoon volunteering at Ashure Ministry in Newton, 1:00 until 3:00

May Food Item for Ashure Ministry

May is national pet month. Ashure's food item of the month is pet food. Ashure also needs plastic grocery bags, Ziplock bags, and egg cartons.

Ashure Ministry in Newton is home to our county-wide Food Pantry. The Charlie Bunn Food Pantry averages serving 250 households EVERY DAY and is on pace to distribute over 3 million pounds of food by the end of this year. It would be impossible for this ministry to operate without volunteers. As regular Food Pantry contributors and volunteers, we donate, sort, and bag food items. You don't have to be a member of Bethany UCC to volunteer on site with us, so bring friends and family who want to give volunteering a try. It's fun; it's meaningful, and it directly impacts our neighbors' tables and lives.

May Birthdays

May 19: Jose
May 28: Karen M.

5 for 5 Offerings

"Strengthen the Church" is one of our five United Church of Christ denominational offerings. This offering, which begins on Pentecost Sunday, is used for leadership development, new churches, youth ministries, and innovation within our existing congregations. Let your generosity build up the body of Christ in our world today.

Updates from the Congregational Meeting

Bethany UCC held a called congregational meeting on April 21 with two agenda items presented. The first was the addition of a columbarium and sidewalks to our cemetery. After some discussion, this item passed unanimously and installation will begin in the near future.

The second item on the agenda was the treatment of a long term moisture and humidity problem in the church basement. We have completed several temporary fixes, but the problem continues with the threat of mold in the future. Again, after some discussion, this motion also passed unanimously and the work will begin soon.

Many thanks are due to those who researched and presented the information, especially to those who serve on the Property Committee and the Cemetery Committee.

News from the Church Profile Committee

We are hard at work on an extensive church profile. We have also met with Rev. Warren Casiday, our Associate Conference minister, and we plan to present a church wide survey soon. Please continue to pray for the work of this committee!

Fostering Hope Graduates

Fostering Hope ministers to foster parents, social workers, and children in foster care across three counties: Catawba, Burke, and Caldwell. Many of the teens living in foster homes will graduate from high school this year. Our Lenten/Easter Basket project yielded ten amazing baskets for these graduates! The laundry-sized baskets contain both practical and special gifts and we look forward to delivering them with love. Well done Bethany!!!

Party at the Olive Garden

Let's do lunch! We're going to the Olive Garden in Hickory on **Sunday, May 19** right after worship. Angie and Teshera are working out the details, so let them know if you can attend. They need a head count ASAP.