**October 2025 News**

**Welcome to you who are visiting our website. We invite you to worship with us at 2952 Bethany Ch. Rd., Claremont, NC, on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am.**

**Calendar of Events**

Sunday, October 5 Faith Formation, 9:30 am; Morning Worship and World Communion, 10:30 am; Neighbors in Need offering begins

Monday, October 8 Church Council budget planning meeting, 1:00 pm

Wednesday, October 10 Church Council meeting, 10:00 am

Sunday, October 12 Faith Formation, 9:30 am; Morning Worship, 10:30 am

Monday, October 13 Worship Committee, 10:00 am

Tuesday, October 14 Volunteering at Ashure Ministry, 10 am – 12 noon

Sunday, October 19 Faith Formation, 9:30 am; Morning Worship (Laity Sunday with covered dish following), 10:30 am

Sunday, October 26 Faith Formation, 9:30 am; Morning Worship, 10:30 am

Tuesday, October 28 Volunteering at Ashure Ministry, 1 pm – 3 pm

**Ashure Ministry Item for October --** Hygiene items (for National Hygiene Month). Egg cartons and plastic grocery and shopping bags are ALWAYS needed, too.

**October Birthdays --** 1st -- Lisa Goins 7th -- Angie Mecimore 12th -- Eric Ervin

**THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION** Annual Meeting of the Southern Conference will take place on **Saturday, October 4, 2025.** The Annual Meeting will be held at Abernathy Laurels, Newton, NC. The Keynote Speaker for the meeting is The Rev. Dr. Julia O’Brien. She is Professor Emerita of Old Testament at Lancaster Seminary, now the School of Theology at Moravian University. Bethany’s voting delegates to the Annual Meeting are Caleb Johnson, lay delegate, The Rev. Dr. Jose DeJesus, and The Revs. Frank and Maria Spada, clergy delegates. We are grateful to have these delegates represent Bethany.

**THE NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING** will be received during the month of October beginning on World Communion Sunday, October 5. One of the 5 for 5 special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ, it supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries, UCC justice ministries and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Neighbors in Need grants. Thank you for your support and generosity!

**THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE** will meet on **Monday, October 13, at 10:00 am t**o begin planning for our upcoming worship seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.

**LAITY SUNDAY,** a special time in the life of the United Church of Christ when we recognize the ministry of all God’s people, will be celebrated on **October 19** during worship. Laity Sunday lifts up the truth that ministry is not only the work of pastors but of every member of the church. Come join us in worship as together we celebrate the many ways God calls each of us to serve.

**LET’S EAT! PLEASE JOIN US FOLLOWING OUR LAITY SUNDAY SERVICE**  on October 19 for a covered-dish lunch in the fellowship hall. A sign-up sheet will be available on the table outside the fellowship hall. Come and enjoy good food, fellowship, and celebration of our life together as a church family. Your presence strenghthens us!