



Bethany Beacon

A Community of Peace & Justice

From the Pastor's Desk – Reflect Beauty

"You are the light of the world." – Matthew 5:14



One day this past month, I walked into the sanctuary in the early morning hours as the sun was coming up bright and bold. That's when I saw this on the wall. You might recognize it. As the sunlight was coming through the stained glass window of Jesus praying in the garden over the altar, it was projecting this colorful image on the wall. Seeing it, I just stood in wonder of it for a moment and allowed the light to speak to me. The light did not project a perfect image of Jesus in the garden. Yet, it still captured the beauty and splendor.

Jesus calls us to be light in the world. At times, especially in moments that feel dark, we may not know how to accomplish such a calling. Yet, if we can shine even just a glimpse of God's goodness, the world shimmers a little bit brighter. So let us shine. We won't do so perfectly but may we do so beautifully.



Rev. Josh Fitterling, Pastor

Connect with Us!



Bethany UCC Claremont NC



@BethanyUCCClaremontNC

Call: (828) 464-5194

Email: bethanyuccclaremont@gmail.com

Visit: 2952 Bethany Church Road, Claremont NC 28610

If you have a pastoral emergency or need to reach out to Pastor Josh directly, you can call/text (610) 750-2688 or email josh.fitterling@gmail.com.

Gratitude Corner!



Bethany UCC,
Thank you for supporting CWS Blankets! We are so grateful to have you as a partner in mission and ministry. Your \$435 gift will help to provide warmth, hope, and a tangible sign of God's love to people when they need it the most.

Thank you,
*Rev. Dr. Tiffany DeTienne, Development
Operations Coordinator*

Dear Members and Friends of the congregation,
Thank you so much for your donation of \$200.00 to Pilgrim Lodge on March 22, 2026. Friends, what a joy it was to share in the celebration of your installation of Rev. Josh Fitterling. For both my mother, Marcia, and I, we left our time with you with our hearts so full. This gift will bring positive energy into our camp ministry during the season ahead.

With Gratitude,
Liz Charles McGough, Director



Pastor Josh Away – Wednesday, May 6 through Tuesday, May 12

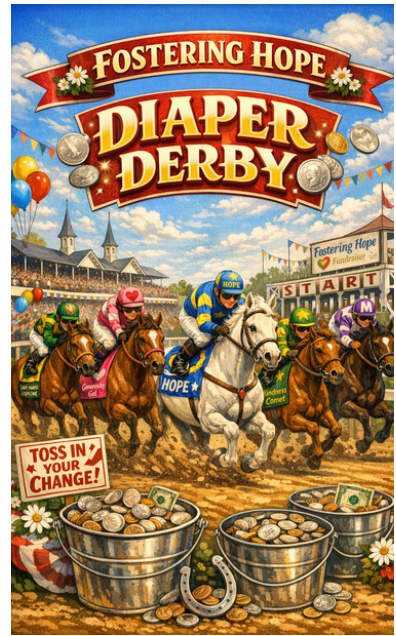
Pastor Josh will be on vacation from May 6 through May 12 to visit family in Pennsylvania. Rev. Dr. John Danner will lead worship on Sunday, May 10. If pastoral care needs arise, please reach out to one of our Church Elders (Judy Kirby, Donna Ervin, and Nancy Rockett).

Fostering Hope Diaper Derby - Let's Giddy-Up and Give!

The most heartwarming race of the season, the Fostering Hope Diaper Derby, has begun! Collecting loose change at every turn, we are heading toward the prize of care and compassion!

Every Sunday, we are invited to place loose change in the offering plate. These gifts will be combined with a \$500 donation from our Endowment Funds for outreach. We will collect through Pentecost Sunday, May 24.

Our gifts will go to provide diapers, car seats, or other essential items for local children supported by Fostering Hope. Thank you for your support!



April Offering Report

Thank you to all who contribute to our weekly offerings! In 2026, our goal is to average \$1,000 per week to meet our offering goal of \$52,000.

April Total Offerings	\$4,958.00
April Weekly Average	\$1,239.50
Year-To-Date Total Offerings	\$19,234.00
Year-To-Date Weekly Average*	\$1,131.41



**While we are currently exceeding our offering goal, our total expenses have exceeded income due to unexpected expenses in the first quarter of the year. Thank you for your generosity in helping us cover the gap!*



CHURCH WOMEN SUMMER CONFERENCE

Sisterhood Rooted in Faith Ecclesiastes 4:9-10



Saturday, May 30, 2026

\$25 Registration/Deadline May 18

Eventbrite Registrar: Rev. Belinda Sledge
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1985459369421?aff=oddtcreator>

PEACE UCC
2714 W. Market
St. Greensboro, NC

Devotional:
Rev. Thelma
Flowers

Workshop
Leader:
Rev. Kay Smith

Preacher: Rev.
Angela Roberson

Church Women of the
Southern Conference
President
Rev. Tanya Best

Host
Association

WNCA

"a commitment to
supporting one another
in faith and fellowship"



SAVE THE DATE!

The entire
congregation is
invited
to the wedding of

Angie Hubbard
&
Eric Ervin

Saturday, June 27

11:00am

at

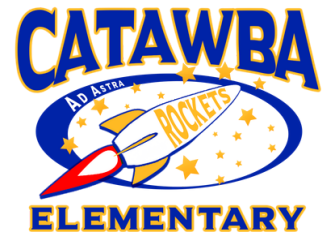
Bethany UCC

Reception to follow



Outreach Committee to provide Teacher and Staff Lunch at Catawba Elementary School, Wednesday, May 27

To keep our connection strong and to say thank you for all their hard work this year, the Outreach Committee, with funds made available through the Endowment Fund, will provide and serve a barbeque lunch at Catawba Elementary. Thank you teachers and staff!



Pentecost Sunday – May 24 at 10:30am

Join us on this day of celebration as we recall the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church! To add to the festive joy, you are invited to wear your favorite red outfit!



Strengthen the Church Offering

On Pentecost Sunday, we are invited to contribute to the Strengthen the Church Offering, reflecting the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by 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 Body of Christ. Special offering envelopes will be provided.



Ashure Ministry Update

We continue to offer three volunteer opportunities per month at the food pantry. All volunteers are welcome!

Non-perishable food items can be donated throughout the month by placing them in the baskets outside the sanctuary. Plastic grocery bags and egg cartons are always appreciated too. For May, in honor of National Pet Month, we are invited to collect pet food to make sure all God's creatures are fed.

May Calendar

Sunday, May 3	9:30am – Faith Formation 10:30am – Worship w/ Holy Communion
Thursday, May 7	11:45am – Volunteer at Ashure (Chicken packing)
Sunday, May 10	9:30am – Faith Formation 10:30am – Worship w/ Guest Rev. Dr. John Danner
Tuesday, May 12	10:00am to 12:00pm – Volunteer at Ashure Ministry
Sunday, May 17	9:30am – Faith Formation 10:30am – Worship
Tuesday, May 19	9:00am – Outreach Committee Meeting 10:30am – Council Meeting
Sunday, May 24	9:30am – Faith Formation 10:30am – Pentecost Sunday Worship
Tuesday, May 26	1:00pm to 3:00pm – Volunteer at Ashure Ministry
Wednesday, May 27	12noon – Lunch for the Teachers and Staff at Catawba Elementary (provided by the Outreach Committee)

****Pastor Josh will be on vacation from Wednesday, May 6 through Tuesday, May 12.****



May Birthdays

May 19 – José De Jesús

We also wish a belated birthday to Michael Fogarty (April 2) and Aiden Fogarty (April 16)!