



Bethany Beacon

A Community of Peace & Justice

From the Pastor's Desk – Entering the Green Season

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation..." - 2 Corinthians 5:17

As we journey throughout the changing seasons of the church year, navigating different moments of remembrance, reflection and celebration, the colors of the banners and paraments (those coverings on the altar, pulpit, and lectern) in the sanctuary, as well as the stoles I wear, change too. Each color holds its own rich meaning, and as we have now traversed past Pentecost Sunday where red was the color of the day, symbolizing the fire of the Holy Spirit, the sanctuary is about to look more and more green!

But why green? In nature, green is a sign of life and growth. This next stretch of nearly half the year is a time when we focus in on our continued growth as disciples and as we live out the resurrection faith we profess. How are the teachings of Jesus and who we are in Christ still calling us to grow, change, and bringing forth new life? After all, in Jesus, we are a new creation. In this new season, may we tend to our faith and seek goodness and growth. And, through it all, may our lives be green!



Rev. Josh Fitterling, Pastor

Connect with Us!



Bethany UCC Claremont NC



@BethanyUCCClaremontNC

Call: (828) 464-5194

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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.

With Gratitude

I am writing to express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support of the Carolina Caring Foundation and Carolina Caring. Thank you for your recent designated gift of \$500.00 to Theo's Gift and your partnership in hosting Khamari's birthday recently. Your generosity and commitment have made a significant impact on our mission to provide compassionate care and support to those in need. We look forward to continuing our partnership and making a difference together.

With Sincere Appreciation,

Tara Bland, Executive Director of Carolina Caring Foundation

\$255 Raised to Support Strengthen the Church

Thank you to all who contributed to the Strengthen the Church Offering, reflecting the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. 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.

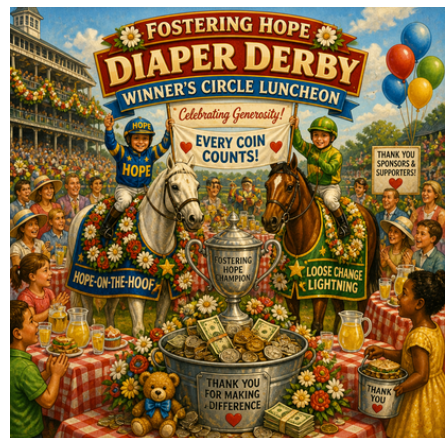


Fostering Hope Diaper Derby Winner's Circle Luncheon – Sunday, June 14, after worship

With deep gratitude for every coin shared, we say thank you! Now, there is just one more thing to do – count the coins and celebrate! Join us on Sunday, June 14 after worship to share a BBQ luncheon and roll coins.

Please join us as we celebrate making a difference!

Thank you for your generosity!





Monthly Update for Ashure Ministry

For the month of June, the requested non-perishable food item is **CEREAL!**



Donated items, as well as plastic grocery bags and egg cartons, can be placed in the baskets outside the sanctuary.

As always, thank you for your dedicated support!



Ages 1-18

FREE MEALS FOR CHILDREN

PICK UP ON MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS FROM 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

June 1st - August 10*

*Closed week before July 4th weekend



Catawba Firefighters Museum 3957 Herman Sipe Rd Conover, NC	Bandy's High School 5040 E Bandy's X Road Catawba, NC	Fred T Foard HS 3407 Plateau Rd Newton, NC
CH Tuttle Elementary 2872 Water Plant Road Maiden, NC	CVCC East Campus 2760 Hwy 70 SE Hickory, NC	Bunker Hill HS 4675 Oxford School Rd Claremont, NC



Use link for one time registration

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Bless You, Teachers!

BACK TO SCHOOL
TISSUE COLLECTION



Bless You, Teachers! Tissue Collection Drive

As we continue to show our support for Catawba Elementary, we are beginning a collection to bless teachers and their students when they head back to school this fall. Between now and August, we will collect boxes of tissues, a classroom essential, to share with the staff! Tissues can be stacked on the front pews in the sanctuary. More information will come soon!



Welcoming New Members! Sunday, June 21, at 10:30am

With great joy, we prepare to welcome Michael & Vanessa Fogarty into the fellowship of Bethany UCC! Join us as we covenant with them as our newest members. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining the church, please reach out to Pastor Josh!

Thank you Lunch at Catawba Elementary Greatly Appreciated!

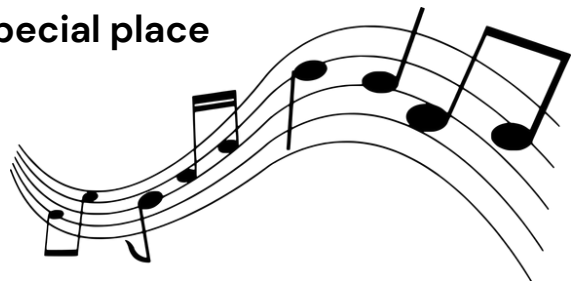
On Wednesday, May 27, our Outreach Committee took a BBQ lunch to Catawba Elementary to celebrate the end of another school year. The approximately 65 teachers and staff we served were very appreciative of our love and support!



Do you have a hymn that holds a special place in your heart? Tell us about it!

Help us to create a service of songs and stories for later this summer! It's easy! Simply let Pastor Josh know the name of a meaningful hymn and why it is meaningful to you!

Please email, text, or write your hymn and story on a piece of paper and hand it to him. As many of these hymns as possible will appear in a special service in the coming months, and a date will be forthcoming.



Church Work Day – Saturday, June 6 from 8am to 12noon



Our two main projects for our work day are sanding/painting the exterior railings around the church and cleaning out leaves and debris from the exterior basement stairwells.

Feel free to bring any items you have that might help with these projects like drop cloths, sanders, and brushes (for the painting) and rakes, shovels, and work gloves (for the stairwell clean-up). But most importantly, bring willing hands and hearts.

Faith Formation on Summer Break!

Our Sunday morning Faith Formation class will be on summer break until September. Many thanks to all who attend, and a special thank you to Rev. Maria Spada for faithfully leading the group each week!



May 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.

May Total Offerings	\$5,163.00
May Weekly Average*	\$1,032.60
Year-To-Date Total Offerings	\$24,397.00
Year-To-Date Weekly Average*	\$1,108.95



**May was a five Sunday month and we met our weekly goal! Thank you! We are still exceeding our annual goal. Your generosity helps us cover the unexpected expenses we experience. We are grateful for you!*

June Calendar

Thursday, June 4	11:45am - Volunteer at Ashure (Chicken packing)
Saturday, June 6	8:00am to 12noon - Work Day at Church
Sunday, June 7	10:30am - Worship w/ Holy Communion
Tuesday, June 9	10:00am to 12:00pm - Volunteer at Ashure Ministry
Sunday, June 14	10:30am - Worship w/ Pizza & Salad Luncheon following
Monday, June 15	9:30am - Stewardship Committee Meeting 10:30am - Council Meeting
Sunday, June 21	10:30am - Worship w/ Reception of New Members
Tuesday, June 23	1:00pm to 3:00pm - Volunteer at Ashure Ministry
Saturday, June 27	11:00am - Wedding of Angie Hubbard & Eric Ervin w/ Reception to Follow
Sunday, June 28	10:30am - Worship

June Birthdays

June 3 - Steve Kirby

June 14 - Frank Spada

June 21 - Daniel Kollett

June 25 - Cindy Smith-Canipe



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

If possible, please RSVP on sign-up sheet outside Fellowship Hall.