

Bethany Beacon

A Community of Peace & Justice

From the Pastor's Desk - As Seasons Overlap

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." - Psalm 118:24

This time of year, it often feels like holidays overlap. Store aisles share Halloween decorations as well as Christmas, with Thanksgiving decor sprinkled about too. Peppermint drinks and pumpkin spiced everything share a menu. And this overlap happens in churches too. Just take a peek in this edition of our newsletter! We have fall leaves with invitations to Thanksgiving in one place and poinsettias with twinkles of Advent in another. We are preparing for multiple seasons and multiple celebrations!

With all this going on, this time of year can be busy and even feel overwhelming. It can feel like we are just planning for what comes next and not savoring what is. And yet, may we do our best to experience each day and whatever it brings. Tomorrow will come and so will the next celebration. But even in the busyness of the holidays overlapping, let us not overlook the blessings of today.



Rev. Josh Fitterling, Pastor

****Pastor Josh will be on vacation from Wednesday, November 4 to Tuesday, November 10. Rev. Maria & Rev. Frank Spada will lead worship on Sunday, November 8.****

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**.

Catawba County Hunger Walk Gratitude!





Thanks to contributions from the congregation and from our Endowment for Outreach, we shared $700 toward this year's goal! Thank you also to our walkers! Together we supported Ashure Ministry, The Corner Table, and the Hickory Soup Kitchen, with the day raising nearly $72,000!

Thank you from EveryAge Foundation!

On Sunday, September 27, we presented Rev. Dr. Thad Austin from EveryAge with a check for $1,000 from our Endowment for Outreach. In a thank you note we received, the following was shared by the Director of Philanthropy, PJ Gorman, and Thad :

"Thank you for your gift of $1,000 to EveryAge Foundation...We could not have achieved what we have in the past fifty years without donors, like you, who've given freely. We are so grateful for your support. - PJ Gorman

"Thank you so much for your generous support of EveryAge's spiritual life fund. So many will be supported and encouraged because of your faithfulness." - Thad Austin

Special Congregational Meeting - Sunday, November 1 following worship



A special congregational meeting has been officially called to discuss two critical projects at the church.

Attendence of church members is requested. Visitors are welcome too!

October 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. We are also grateful for every gift of time and talent that has nurtured our shared life and tended to space within our care!

October Total Offerings	$4,665.00
October Weekly Average*	$1,166.25
Year-To-Date Total Offerings	$50,849.61
Year-To-Date Weekly Average*	$1,182.54

**We again exceeded our offering goals and we are grateful! Additional funds help us cover unexpected expenses in nurturing our shared life together.*



Bethany Goes to the Theatre! - Sunday, November 29 at 3pm

Join us as we see "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at The Green Room Community Theatre in Newton!

Ticket orders must be given to Nancy Rockett by Sunday, November 1st. Tickets cost $20 for adults, $18 for seniors, $16 for students, and $10 for children under 12.



Friendsgiving Sunday Worship & Lunch Sunday, November 22

This year, we will once again be hosting a covered-dish luncheon the Sunday before Thanksgiving following worship.

We also hope to invite friends, neighbors and family members to come and join us too. Grab a postcard invitation to give to someone. Share the Facebook event from our church page. Or simply ask a friend to join us!

May the table of Fellowship at Bethany continue to grow!

Ashure Ministry Monthly Update

For the month of November, the requested pantry items are:

flour, cornmeal, or sugar.



Donations of food, plastic bags, and egg cartons can be placed in the baskets outside the sanctuary. And thank you!

All Saints Sunday, November 1 – 10:30am

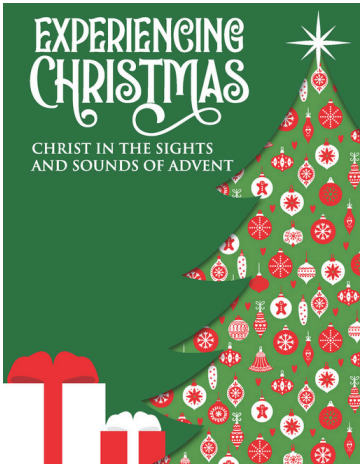


Join us for worship as we gather in remembrance of the dear ones in our lives who have passed away and hold a special place in our hearts.

Before worship begins, everyone will have a chance to light a candle at the front of the sanctuary and/or add a name to the list of those remembered today.

Together, we will recall the promises of our God which embrace us in this life and life everlasting.

Join us for an Advent Journey toward Christmas!



Things just look, smell, taste, and feel different this time of year! Join us as we prepare ourselves for Christmas and as we take time to cherish the experience of this holy season.

Each week, our worship will center on a different theme:

Nov. 29 – *Do You See What I See?*
Dec. 6 – *Do You Hear What I Hear?*
Dec. 13 – *Do You Taste What I Taste?*
Dec. 20 – *Do You Feel What I Feel?*

May our experiences of this season bless the celebration yet to come!

Poinsettia Orders Coming Soon!



If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone, order forms will be available in the church bulletin beginning November 1.

Help us beautify our sanctuary for the blessed season of Advent and the glories of Christmas!

November Calendar

Sunday, November 1	9:30am - Faith Formation 10:30am - All Saints Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion (Special Congregational Meeting to follow)
Monday, November 2	10:00am - Special Council Meeting
Thursday, November 4	11:45am - Volunteer at Ashure (Chicken packing)
Sunday, November 8	9:30am - Faith Formation 10:30am - Worship led by Rev. Maria & Rev. Frank Spada
Tuesday, November 10	10:00am to 12:00pm - Volunteer at Ashure Ministry
Sunday, November 15	9:30am - Faith Formation 10:30am - Worship
Monday, November 16	10:30am - Church Council Meeting
Sunday, November 22	10:30am - Friendsgiving Sunday Worship w/ Lunch to follow
Monday, November 23	10:00am - Preparing the Sanctuary for Advent
Tuesday, November 24	1:00pm to 3:00pm - Volunteer at Ashure Ministry
Sunday, November 29	9:30am - Faith Formation 10:30am - Worship 3:00pm - "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at The Green Room Community Theatre



November Birthdays

November 8 - Nancy Rockett
November 10 - Norma Boggs
November 23 - Victoria Fogarty
November 27 - Kathy Naish

