



Bethany Beacon

A Community of Peace & Justice

From the Pastor's Desk – A Moment of Gratitude

"...And be thankful." – Colossians 3:15

A message on gratitude may seem timelier for next month when we will be approaching the celebration of Thanksgiving. However, there is never a bad time to be thankful, and over the last few weeks, I have felt my heart be filled with gratitude. Bethany is a big part of that! So, I want to take a moment to say "thank you" to you all!



On Sunday, September 20, you all surprised me with a birthday celebration (and surprised I truly was!). Until I spotted the balloon on the table, I had no idea! Thank you for that moment of joy that has stuck with me ever since. Thank you to all who organized it, for all the cards, for the sweet treats, for the texts, and for all the happiness surrounding that day. Bethany is indeed a special place and I am grateful for you all! Thank you for being the reason others glimpse love in this world! This community is a wonderful gift – and for it, I am grateful!



Rev. Josh Fitterling, Pastor

Connect with Us!



Bethany UCC Claremont NC



@BethanyUCCClaremontNC

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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.

Catawba Valley Pride
Gratitude!

On Saturday, September 19, about 16 of us spent time greeting folks, making bracelets, sharing fans and water on a hot day, and offering Bethany joy to all who came to our booth at the event! It was a great day! Thank you to all who helped make it happen!



September 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!



September Total Offerings	\$5,115.00
September Weekly Average*	\$1,278.75
Year-To-Date Total Offerings	\$46,184.61
Year-To-Date Weekly Average*	\$1,184.22

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



Bethany to participate in this year's Hunger Walk! Sunday, October 4 at 3pm

Want to join Pastor Josh on a walk for a good cause? You can sign up here and register for the "Bethany UCC" team! Through our Outreach funds, the team will begin with a \$500 donation!

Want to add your own donation? Donations can be made online by visiting:

<https://runsignup.com/bethanyunitedchurchofchrist>

Cash donations or checks made out to "Hunger Walk" can be given directly to Pastor Josh or another walker! Have questions? Reach out to Pastor Josh!

Our Next Special Offering of the United Church of Christ to be collected October 4

On World Communion Sunday, as we remember our connection with Christ's church beyond our walls, we begin collecting the Neighbors in Need Offering. These gifts support ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. Envelopes will be included in the bulletin for the first two weeks of October. All gifts are appreciated!





SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 22 Friendsgiving Sunday

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

However, this year, we hope to invite friends, neighbors and family members to come and join us too. So, start thinking now who you might want to invite to share a meal and morning of gratitude!

May the table of Fellowship at Bethany continue to grow!

Ashure Ministry Monthly Update

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

hygiene items
(soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and other essentials)

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

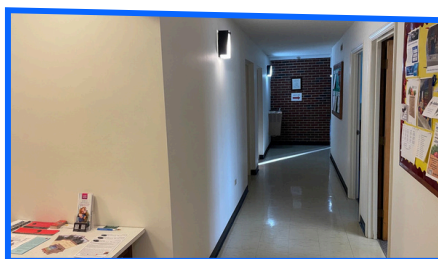


Laity Sunday – October 18 at 10:30am

As we remember and celebrate how God works through all of God's people, we honor Laity Sunday, a day when worship not led by Pastors but by the congregation!

This year, the service is themed around the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount. Utilizing a devotional resource from the Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, we will explore blessing and the ministry Jesus calls us to together!

Volunteers to help lead the service are needed. Please see Donna Ervin to learn more!



Church Work Day Gratitude!

Thank you to everyone who helped refresh our space with some new paint! From the hallway, to the Fellowship Hall, to the Little Free Library, a new coat of paint has brightened our space and was made possible by the willing hands and hearts of Bethany!

October Calendar

Thursday, October 1	11:45am – Volunteer at Ashure (Chicken packing)
Saturday, October 3	9:00am to 2:00pm – WNCA Annual Meeting
Sunday, October 4	9:30am – Faith Formation 10:30am – Worship w/ Holy Communion 3:00pm – Catawba County Hunger Walk
Monday, October 5	10:00am – Worship Committee Meeting 11:15am – Called Church Council Meeting
Sunday, October 11	9:30am – Faith Formation 10:30am – Worship
Monday, October 12	10:30am – 2027 Budget Planning Meeting
Tuesday, October 13	10:00am to 12:00pm – Volunteer at Ashure Ministry
Sunday, October 18	9:30am – Faith Formation 10:30am – Laity Sunday Worship
Monday, October 19	10:30am – Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 20	10:00am – Outreach Committee Meeting
Sunday, October 25	9:30am – Faith Formation 10:30am – Worship
Tuesday, October 27	1:00pm to 3:00pm – Volunteer at Ashure Ministry

October Birthdays

- October 1 – Lisa Goins
- October 7 – Angie Mecimore
- October 12 – Eric Ervin
- October 22 – Trish Passman
- October 25 – Vicki Smith–Canipe
- October 30 – Ruth Sanders

