

Bethany Beacon

A Community of Peace & Justice

From the Pastor's Desk - Embrace Kindness

"Be kind to one another..." - Ephesians 4:32

The other weekend, I was attending a festival outside of Knoxville. It was huge and, to get to the festival, we parked a distance away and took a shuttle bus. On our way back to the car, we sat across from two women. They were holding a very tired child and had arms filled with bags. When the bus stopped in the parking lot and it was our turn to disembark, they looked at us and said, "you go first". A simple act of kindness. We thanked them and, then I turned to them and asked, "Do you need a hand with your bags?" They said no but they appreciated the offer. Another simple act of kindness.

Kindness builds compassion and connection. And like these simple examples show us, it can often cost us very little. This year, in honor of America's 250th Anniversary, the United Church of Christ, is encouraging us to complete 250 acts of kindness. So today, I am inviting us into a shared challenge. Beginning in July, every bulletin will include a slip of paper for you to write a kindness you have done. Place these in the offering plate - for every kind act is indeed an offering to God. And let's see what our kindness can do together!



Rev. Josh Fitterling, Pastor

Connect with Us! **Bethany UCC Claremont NC** **@BethanyUCCClaremontNC**

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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**.

Celebrating our Shared Life at Bethany!

This past month was filled with joy, mission, and working together! Here is a look at some of what we shared in June:

We sent $830 to Fostering Hope!







We worked around the church!









Thank you to all who donated and helped us roll coins! We collected $330, with an additional gift of $500 from our endowment for outreach. We are also grateful for all who helped on our work day and tended to projects around the church!

We welcomed new members!









We celebrated love!







Welcome, Vanessa, Michael and family! And congratulations Angie & Eric!

For your part in it all and for your prayers through it all, thank you!

Monthly Update

Thank you to all who volunteer and/or donate to Ashure. Our contribution to their mission is deeply valued.



For the month of July, the requested food item is **SNACKS FOR KIDS!**

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!

Help us Create our Songs & Stories Sunday Worship for August 30

Do you have a favorite hymn that is meaningful to you? Let us know! Please share your hymn suggestion and story with Pastor Josh in writing. As many of these hymns as possible will be included in our service on August 30.



June 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.

June Total Offerings	$5,351.61
June Weekly Average	$1,337.90
Year-To-Date Total Offerings	$29,748.61
Year-To-Date Weekly Average*	$1,144.17

**We continue to meet our goal! Your generosity helps us cover the unexpected expenses we experience. We are grateful for you!*



Bless You, Teachers! Tissue Collection Drive

Between now and August, we will collect boxes of tissues, a classroom essential, to share with the staff of Catawba Elementary this fall! Tissues can be stacked on the front pews in the sanctuary. More information will come soon!

July Calendar

Sunday, July 5	10:30am - Worship w/ Holy Communion
Thursday, July 9	11:45am - Volunteer at Ashure (Chicken packing)
Sunday, July 12	10:30am - Worship
Monday, July 13	10:30am - Stewardship Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 14	10:00am to 12:00pm - Volunteer at Ashure Ministry
Sunday, July 19	10:30am - Worship
Thursday, July 23	5:30pm - Ashure Volunteer Dinner at Abernethy Laurels
Sunday, July 26	10:30am - Worship
Monday, July 27	9:30am - Outreach Committee Meeting 10:30am - Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 28	1:00pm to 3:00pm - Volunteer at Ashure Ministry

July Birthdays

July 8 - Tim Naish
July 17 - Caleb Johnson
July 31 - Vanessa Fogarty





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!