

Special Thanks

This Sunday we welcome **Rev. Erika Funk** as our guest for the day to lead us in worship. Rev. Funk is a graduate of UCLA and San Francisco Theological Seminary. She moved to Charlotte after seven years serving Broad Street Ministry in Philadelphia, PA. Currently Erika serves as the Director of CROSS Missions at Myers Park Presbyterian Church. She is a single parent to two amazing kiddos. **We welcome Rev. Funk to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!**

To Our Visitors

We welcome you to worship today. If you are visiting with us please feel free to speak to the pastor or one of our greeters if you have questions or want more information about Bethpage.

Bethpage is a church committed to children and families and their needs. We have a nursery and childcare for infants through kindergarten. Feel free to keep your child in worship through the Time With the Children if that works for your family. Jaymie Barrier our children's caregiver will take your cell phone number and will text you if your child needs you during worship.



6020 Mooresville Road • Kannapolis NC 28081
704-933-2209

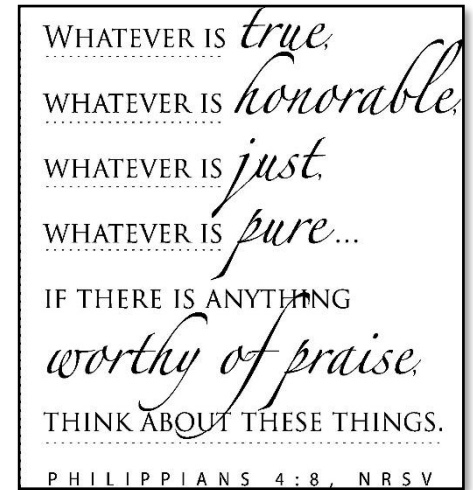
website: www.bethpagechurch.org
e-mail: info@bethpagechurch.org

Rev. Valerie Hicks
704-712-7533 • valeriedeehicks@gmail.com

Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

***"A family of faith in Jesus
Christ, yesterday, today,
and tomorrow."***

**October 29, 2023
10:00 AM**



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

OPENING MUSIC #2071 "Jesus, Name above All Names"
(Sing the Faith Hymnal)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this community of God's people. We are here to worship and praise God from whom all blessings flow.

We are gathered to celebrate our new life in Jesus. He has given us new possibilities and bright horizons.

Together, through the Holy Spirit, we have the opportunity to use our God-given skills and abilities to begin to build a better world.

We have come to be directed by the Holy Spirit, to share God's power, and to bring God glory.

Praise the Lord! The Lord's name be praised!

HYMN #361

"By Faith"
(verses 1, 4 & 5, Hymns of Grace)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy and of hope, we confess that we come with mixed thoughts and uncertain dreams. We could not meet our daily needs without the labor of others; yet we take them for granted. We are offended by slight offenses and oversights against us and yet hardly consider our own neglect of your word, our patience with evil, and our slowness to act for others. Our eyes are blind to the signs of the eternal in the ordinary moments of our lives. O Lord, forgive us. Grant us a taste of your love so we may acquire an appetite for justice. Sharpen our hunger and thirst for you, O God. Hear our silent confessions . . .
(Please take a moment for silent confession.)

RESPONSE HYMN #316 *“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”*
(verse 1, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Listen – here is the good news: Jesus said, “the one who comes to me I will not turn away.” Jesus Christ has come to forgive us in our failures, to accept us as we are, to set us free, and to make us what we were meant to be. Praise be His name!

Listen, we will. Called, we are. By God’s grace and mercy we will live in His freedom and be His disciples. Amen!

RESPONSE OF PRAISE *“Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me”*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM *“Bring Our Hearts Back Home”*

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 66:1-4, & 16-20 (Pew Bible, p. 528)

NEW TESTAMENT READING Philippians 4:4-9 (Pew Bible, p. 198)

SERMON *“Really Real”* Rev. Erika Funk

THE PEOPLE RESPOND

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from A Brief Statement of Faith

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING

Offertory

Doxology (*sung*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

God, it is our prayer that this money, symbol of all that we have received as a gift from you, will be used through our church community and beyond to further your never-ending project of renewal in our world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

GO IN GOD’S NAME

HYMN #145 *“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”*
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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