

TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome you to our worship. We hope that you will return to worship with us again! We have a nursery lovingly and carefully attended by church members.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome into membership all who love Jesus Christ, accept him as Lord of all life, and seek to serve him as part of his body in the church. We invite you to speak to one of our elders, greeting you at the door as you leave the worship service.

SERMON NOTES

THIS WEEK AT BPC

LOOKING AHEAD

The Cabarrus County LunchPlus Club for Seniors provides a Drive Thru Lunch Pickup at BPC Fellowship Hall, Monday – Friday, 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM.

Sunday, April 25

9:00 AM – Sunday School in the BPC Fellowship Hall
 9:55 AM – Worship Service
 TBD – Latin Mission Christ Savior
 Worship in BPC Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 27

7:00 PM – Session Meeting

Friday, April 30

2:30 – 6:00 PM – Girl Scouts Archery Club (BPC field, pavilion & basement)

Sunday, May 2

10¢-A-Meal Offering to be received
 9:00 AM – Sunday School in the BPC Fellowship Hall
 9:55 AM – Worship Service
 TBD – Latin Mission Christ Savior
 Worship in BPC Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, May 4

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Quilting 101 in BPC Fellowship Hall

Thursday, May 6

National Day of Prayer

Sunday, May 9

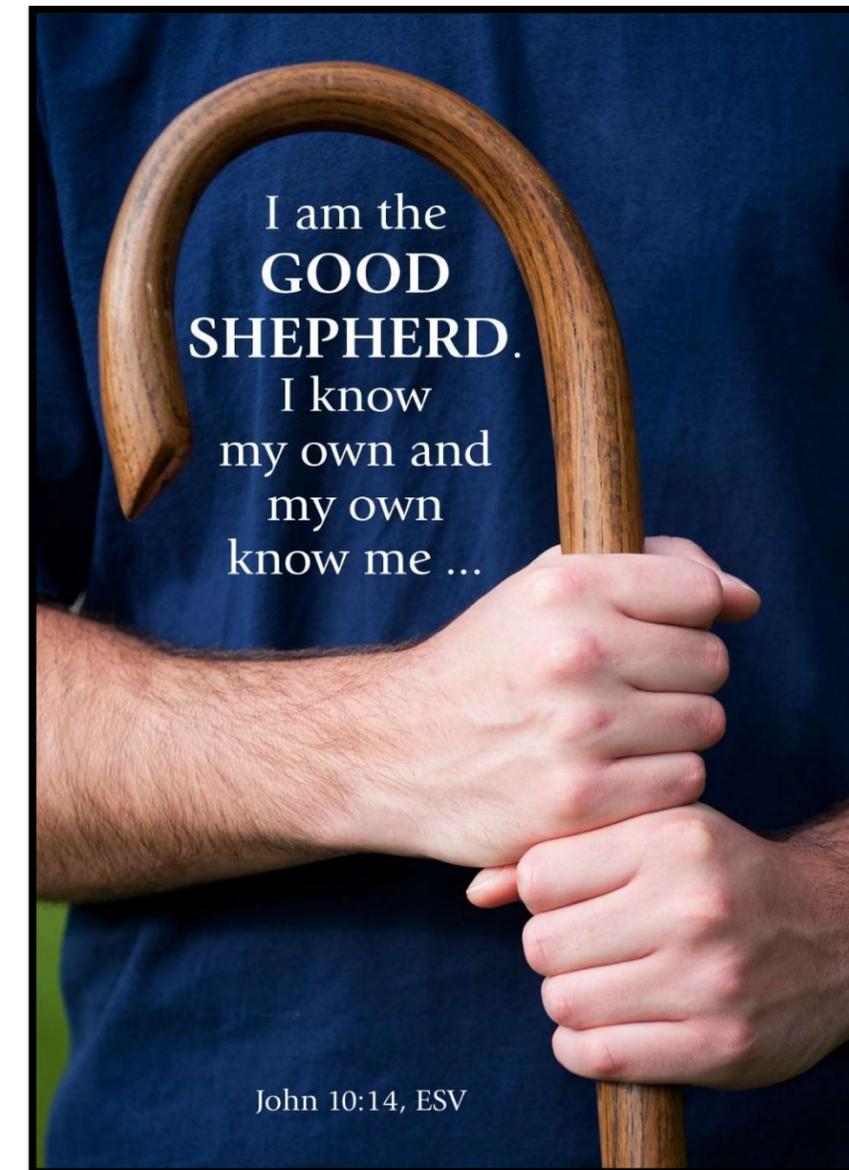
Mother’s Day
 9:00 AM – Sunday School in the BPC Fellowship Hall
 9:55 AM – Worship Service
 TBD – Latin Mission Christ Savior
 Worship in BPC Fellowship Hall

THE SESSION OF OUR CHURCH	CLASS OF 2021
Sherry Shifflett, <i>Clerk</i> Dennis Graybeal, <i>Treasurer</i> Jenny Linebarrier, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i>	Chris Ferguson, <i>Mission/Evangelism</i> Brandi Lackey, <i>Christian Education</i> Linda VanPelt, <i>Fellowship</i>
CLASS OF 2020	CLASS OF 2022
Jean Brown, <i>Communications</i> Ed Kusper, <i>Stewardship</i> Madison Scarborough, <i>Personnel</i>	Connie Goodman, <i>Worship</i> Christel Josey, <i>Property</i> Doug Kirkman, <i>Property</i>



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John 10:14, ESV

**Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!
 April 25, 2021**

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

We are excited that you have joined us in worshipping God today. Whether you are just visiting, looking to stay or have worshipped here your whole life, it is great to worship the Lord together this day!

DAILY LECTIONARY						
Sunday, April 25 Morning: Ps. 93; 150 1 st Read: Gen. 18:22-33 2 nd Read: 1 Pet. 5:1-11 Gospel: Mt. 7:15-29 Evening: Ps. 136; 117	Monday, April 26 Morning: Ps. 97; 145 1 st Read: Jer. 30:1-9 2 nd Read: Col. 1:1-14 Gospel: Luke 6:1-11 Evening: Ps. 124; 115	Tuesday, April 27 Morning: Ps. 98; 146 1 st Read: Jer. 30:10-17 2 nd Read: Col. 1:15-23 Gospel: Luke 6:12-26 Evening: Psalms 66; 116	Wednesday, April 28 Morning: Ps. 99; 147:1-11 1 st Read: Jer. 30:18-22 2 nd Read: Col. 1:24-2:7 Gospel: Luke 6:27-38 Evening: Psalms 9; 118	Thursday, April 29 Morning: Psalms 47; 147:12-20 1 st Read: Jer. 31:1-14 2 nd Read: Col. 2:8-23 Gospel: Luke 6:39-49 Evening: Psalms 68; 113	Friday, April 30 Morning: Ps. 96; 148 1 st Read: Jer. 31:15-22 2 nd Read: Col. 3:1-11 Gospel: Luke 7:1-17 Evening: Ps. 49; 138	Saturday, May 1 Morning: Psalms 92; 149 1 st Read: Jer. 31:23-25 2 nd Read: Col. 3:12-17 Gospel: Luke 7:18-28 (29-30) 31-35 Evening: Psalms 23; 114

The Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

9:55 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY CHIMES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Psalm 23, *The Message*)

Leader: God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.

People: **True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.**

Leader: Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.

People: **You revive my drooping head . . . Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life.**

Leader: I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.

All: **In thanksgiving, let us worship God!**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, our shepherd, your care is our joy and our hope. How then have we gone so far astray? We balk at your guidance and refuse your sure provision. We turn aside from you to seek our own paths. We fail to be content with your love, so we seek more from the world, and come up empty. In your mercy, God, forgive us. Cure our fevered souls with your spirit. Lead us anew in ways that will strengthen us, to make our lives a glory to your name through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. *(Please take a moment for silent confession.)*

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the good news! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, laid down his life for us, his sheep.

People: **Jesus laid down his life for us that we might live.**
(continued →)

Leader: Friends, believe the good news!

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

(spoken by all)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE WORD

TIME WITH YOUNGER CHRISTIANS

Ed Kuser

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 3:16-24 (NRSV)

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister^[a] in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:11-18 (NRSV)

¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes^[a] it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

SERMON

"Determined to Love"

Rev. Betsy Williamson

*INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from a Brief Statement of Faith, 10.4)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church . . . 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!"

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING GOD'S TITHES & OUR OFFERINGS

Offertory

*Doxology *(Please keep your mask in place as we sing together.)*

**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

THE SENDING

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

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*An asterisk indicates that all who are able may stand.