

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 and OUR 10¢-A-MEAL OFFERING

- 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.

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.

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, May 2

10¢-A-Meal Offering to be received
9:00 AM – Sunday School in the BPC Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM – Worship Service

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
10:00 AM – Worship Service

Monday, May 10

7:15 PM – Mission/Evangelism Committee
7:15 PM – Worship Committee

Tuesday, May 11

7:00 PM – Christian Education Committee

Thursday, May 13

6:30 PM – Personnel Committee

Friday, May 14

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

Sunday, May 16

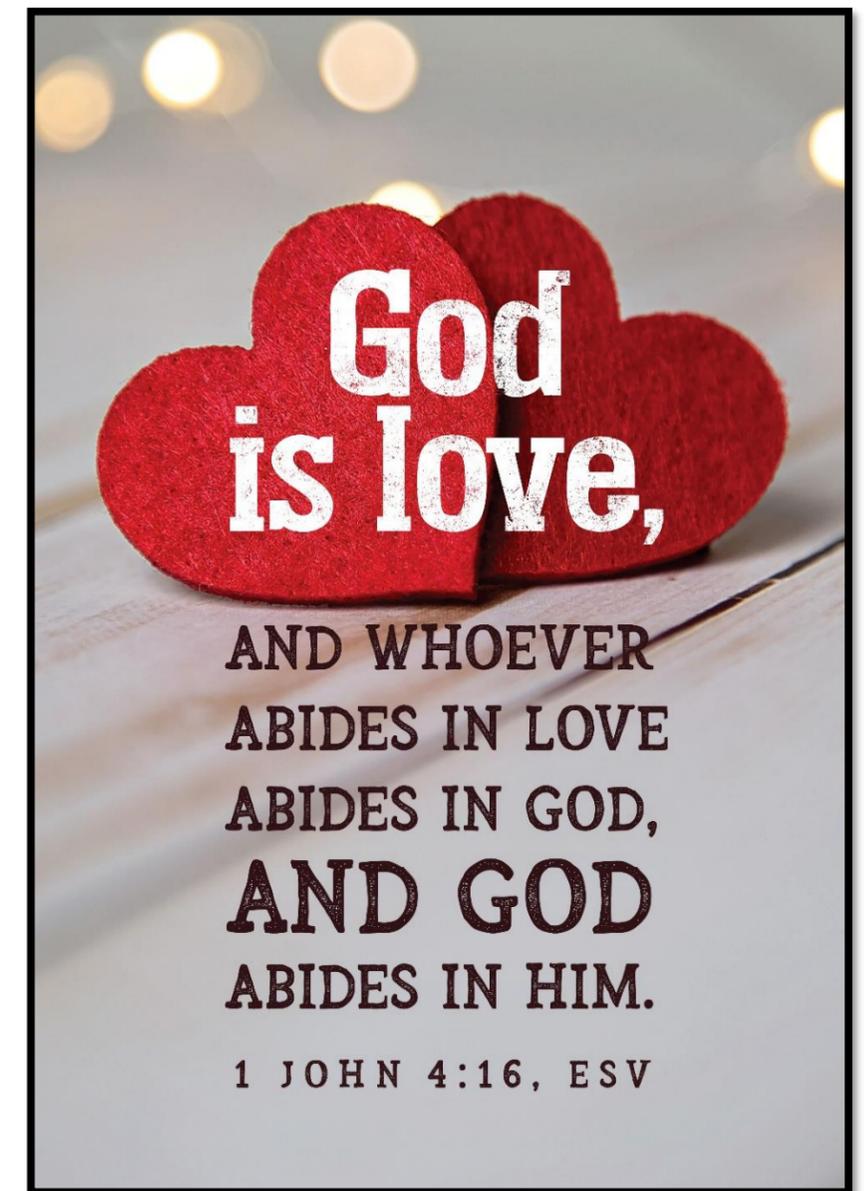
9:00 AM – Sunday School in the BPC Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM – Worship Service
11:00 AM – Congregational Meeting with Elder Election

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>



Pastor: William Watkins, CLP
6020 Mooresville Road • Kannapolis NC 28081
704-933-2209

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



**Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!
May 2, 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, May 2	Monday, May 3	Tuesday, May 4	Wednesday, May 5	Thursday, May 6	Friday, May 7	Saturday, May 8
Morning: Ps. 93; 150 1 st Read: Isaiah 32:1-8 2 nd Read: 2 Thess. 2:13-17 Gospel: Mt. 7:7-14 Evening: Ps. 136; 117	Morning: Ps. 97; 145 1 st Read: Jer. 32:1-15 2 nd Read: Colossians 3:18-4:18 Gospel: Luke 7:36-50 Evening: Ps. 124; 115	Morning: Ps. 98; 146 1 st Read: Jer. 32:16-25 2 nd Read: Rom. 12:1-21 Gospel: Luke 8:1-15 Evening: Psalms 66; 116	Morning: Ps. 99; 147:1-11 1 st Read: Jer. 32:36-44 2 nd Read: Romans 13:1-14 Gospel: Luke 8:16-25 Evening: Psalms 9; 118	Morning: Psalms 47; 147:12-20 1 st Read: Jer. 33:1-13 2 nd Read: Romans 14:1-12 Gospel: Luke 8:26-39 Evening: Psalms 68; 113	Morning: Ps. 96; 148 1 st Read: Deut. 31:30-32:14 2 nd Read: Romans 14:13-23 Gospel: Luke 8:40-56 Evening: Ps. 49; 138	Morning: Psalms 92; 149 1 st Read: Deut. 32:34-41 (42) 43 2 nd Read: Rom. 15:1-13 Gospel: Luke 9:1-17 Evening: Psalms 23; 114

The Service for the Lord's Day

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

10:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY CHIMES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(1 John 4:16, 19)

Pastor: God is love.

People: Those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Pastor: We love because God first loved us.

People: Those who abide in love, abide in God, and God abides in them.

Pastor: Come, let us worship God together!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in Jesus, our risen Lord, we have seen your glory. Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ. We are quick to accuse and slow to confess. We find faults easily in others, while ignoring our own shortcomings. We have squandered your gifts. We have turned from your ways. We have ignored your Word.

Have mercy on us, compassionate God. Pour out your Holy Spirit on our sinful lives. Wash us with your love and cleanse us with your grace, that day by day we might move closer to the people you would have us be. Amen. (Please take a moment for silent confession.)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: . . . 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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Marcia Graybeal

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 8:26-40 (NRSV)

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" [³⁷And Phillip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 4:7-21 (NRSV)

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love,

(continued →)

not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

SERMON

"Love is For All"

William Watkins, CLP

*INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from a Brief Statement of Faith)

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 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!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.