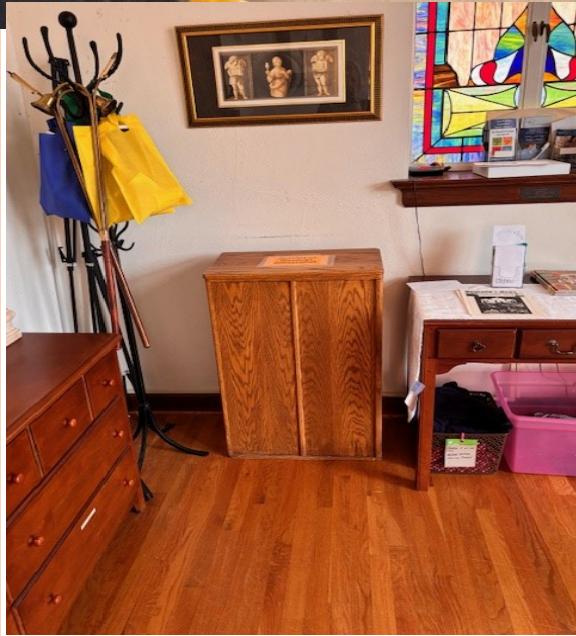
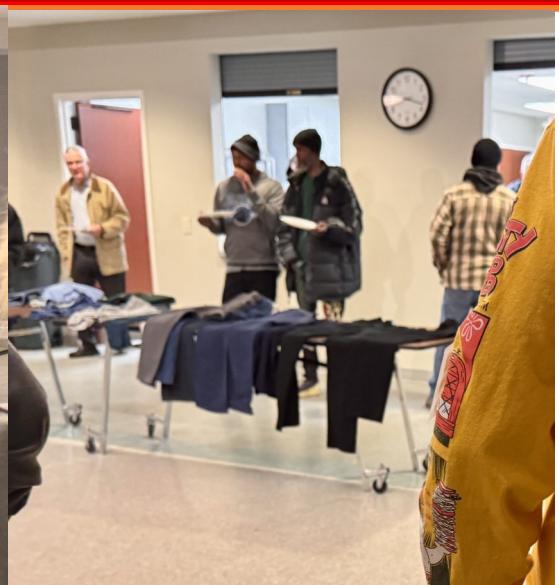


Bethany News



FEBRUARY 2026



"Showers of Blessings" continues to be a very important ministry at our monthly community breakfast. A new cabinet has been added to the narthex in church for any donations you might like to make. Thanks to the Kearns.



Kim Wiles will have her “Cookies for Apportionments” on Feb 15. Place your orders now for your favorites: Chocolate chip with or without nuts, oatmeal with or without raisins, and peanut butter. Call or text Kim at 919-475-1851.

Thank You

Many thanks to our Brthany family for all the cards, prayers, food, and visits as I went through knee surgery. We are so grateful for all of your thoughts and acts of love.

Love,
Connie & Earl



Join us for February Fellowship luncheon on February 8 immediately following the worship service. This will be various soups for “Souper Bowl” Sunday. Donations are always accepted. Watch for your invitation.



The UMM will be cooking their famous BBQ pork on March 6th, with pick-up on Saturday morning, March 7th, 8-10a.m. Price will be \$11.00/lb.

Call the church office or contact Tommy Wells to place your order.

VITAL CONVERSATIONS

Vital Conversations will be on Feb 5 & 17 at 7pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Heather Fisher to receive the readings we will be discussing.

Feb 15 we will take up an offering for the Methodist Home for Children.



Dear Bethany Church Family,

One of the first stories in the Bible is one of violence. Immediately after leaving perfect paradise with God in Eden, Adam and Eve bear two sons who will display how the knowledge of good and evil can fester in our being and come out in harmful ways. The story goes that Cain brings an offering of fruit for God and Abel brings an offering of his firstborn livestock to God. God finds favor in Abel's offering but not Cain's offering. Cain became angry about this and his head seemed to always be downcast after this moment.

God speaks to Cain in his anger, I wish God would do that for me sometimes, and asks, "Why are you angry, and why do you look so resentful? If you do the right thing, won't you be accepted? But if you don't do the right thing, sin will be waiting at the door ready to strike! It will entice you, but you must rule over it" (Gen. 4:6-7). Indeed, sin was lying in wait. It was waiting to come out in Cain at an opportune time. This knowledge of evil was not a deterrent from it for Cain but actually coercive and seductive. The anger that arose in him toward God and the resentful hate he held for his brother was a fuel for evil. Just because he was given knowledge of good and evil does not mean that he would choose good over evil. Just because God has given us the Holy Spirit, does not mean we will always listen to that divine voice.

In this fit of rage evil wins out. Cain kills his brother out of jealousy, hate, and competition. He takes Abel out into a field and takes the breath away that God breathed into his parents.

God speaks again to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

Cain responds, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

This is the question I hear when people question the sanctity of human life. Am I my brother's keeper? Am I responsible for my neighbor? Am I to care for all people? If we are the Church then the answer is ABSOLUTELY! In our Social Principles, we proclaim as United Methodists that, "**all** people are of sacred worth." Sometimes I feel anger that all means ALL but it's what I choose to believe. I have to believe that every single person that God created is worthy of life, of finding that which is right and good that God is speaking about in this story. It is extremely difficult to hold such a view when we see evil acting in the world through human beings. We all have a proclivity to evil and we want retribution against things that displease us as we see in the story of Cain.

Yet God tells us that this feeling will entice us and we must master or rule over it. That is our hope for ourselves and the world. That is a part of our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. That we as the body of Christ would show what mastery of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control look like. That others would learn from these fruits and display them.

I'm sure God is looking at us right now and asking that same question that God asked the second generation of human beings, "What have you done? Listen, your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground" (Gen. 4:10). The violence and hurt that I see coming from Minnesota is devastating and violates the sanctity of human life. Violence only breeds violence if we let it. We mustn't give in to division or hate or solutions that involve taking breath from the ones that God breathed life into. Am I my brother's keeper? Of course. Is this my responsibility? Yes. It is up to us to master our response to that which displeases us and not give in to violent retribution. I think Paul says it best in his letter to the church located in the politically-charged capital of the Roman Empire, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12:21).

May you, who are of sacred worth, rule over sin and overcome evil with good,

Pastor Cole



MONEY MATTERS—thru JANUARY 18

Received on Budget **\$ 15,744.37**

Designated gifts to other funds

Building Fund	1675.00
Human Relations	275.00
Pastor's Discretionary	20.76
Urban Ministries	50.00
Reconciling Ministries	100.00





Tuesday Morning Circle

The Tuesday Morning Circle will meet on Tuesday morning, February 10 at 10:30 a.m. All women are welcome.

Tuesday Evening Circle

The Tuesday Evening Circle will meet on Tuesday evening, February 10 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Center.

UWF Evening Circle collects old toothbrushes, empty toothpaste boxes and tubes, empty floss containers, any Burts Bees containers, Entenmann's Little Bites pouches, and used razors. These items will be recycled and kept out of the landfill. Please give them to Kim Wiles or Sharon Stone.



**United Methodist Men
will meet February 10 at 7 pm
in the Fellowship Center.**



Worship Team

For February

Communion Helpers for February are Gary & Lisa Kearns

Acolyte

Feb 1	Gerhard Mels
Feb 8	Janice Stone Mills
Feb 15	James/Joshua Stone
Feb 18	
Feb 22	Heather Fisher

Liturgist

Feb 1	Casey Breit
Feb 8	Elaine Truckner
Feb 15	Kate Hankins
Feb 22	Sharon Stone

Greeters

Feb 1	John Long
Feb 8	Marian Williams
Feb 15	Maureen Bateman
Feb 18	Lynne Sprague
Feb 22	Donald House

2026 Worship Team Schedule: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wHvjMwvALCqkPbEj0ERGnpwc7YsUgYiydR9ij2oO_QY/edit?

Open & Close Church

Feb 1	John Long
Feb 8	John Rpberts
Feb 15	Kim Wiles
	Gerhard Mels
Feb 22	Earl Kirby

Ushers

Feb 1	John Long & Dan Portaro
Feb 8	Earl Kirby & Marian Williams
Feb 15	Pam Hall & Marcia Painter
Feb 22	Earl Kirby & Donald House

If you are unable to do your assignment on your Sunday please arrange for someone else to cover and notify the office of the change at least a week ahead.

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sanctuary Address: 2809 Guess Road
Mailing Address: 2903 Guess Road
Durham NC 27705
Phone: 919-477-6659
Email: bethanyumc1@gmail.com
Calendar (LINK): <https://tinyurl.com/54jvdxv4>
Website (LINK): <https://bethanyumcdurham.org/>



6	Robbie Robinson	8	Lauren Dawood
7	Chris Klein	13	Becky Couch
9	James Sprague	15	Cole Breit
7	George Stephens	17	Margaret Murphy

If your birthday is incorrect or does not show up, please let the office know.

Likewise if you do not get Bethany emails or if you have received emails and don't want anymore, please let the office know.