



## Bethel Presbyterian Church

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# The Open Door

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Dear  
Friends,

This summer has been filled with travel for many of us, lots of time outside and in the water for others of us and time to slow down and read a book for some of us. It has also been a time filled with angst and sorrow for many of us and for people around the world. It's been a summer of ramped up political rhetoric and divisive language. It's caused many of us to pause and think about who we are and who we want to be.

As we begin another school year and Christian education year at Bethel, these are important things to think about. Scripture and the confessions remind us that we belong to God. In baptism, we claim that belonging and promise to live God's way in the world. The prophets along with Jesus show us what God's way looks like and call us back to that way of justice, kindness and humility.

As children of God and followers of Jesus the Christ, we know we are called to witness to God's way in all that we say and do, but we also know that we lose our way, that we get caught up in the ways of the world and we fall prey to division. When that happens we no longer witness to the unity we share in Christ. The Confession of Belhar, the newest addition to the PCUSA Book of Confessions, says "this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another...together serve God in this world..."

There is much we can do to strengthen our witness to the unity we have in Christ, to God's way of justice and kindness in the world, to what it means to love God and neighbor. There will be opportunities in worship,

in education classes, in fellowship to talk together about who we are and who we want to be. I hope you will join in those conversations as we seek to be faithful together.

*Grace and peace,*  
**Wendy Neff**

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### **Inquirer's Class**

Wendy will lead an Inquirer's class on Sunday, Aug 21 and 28 from 3-4:30 in the Bethel Library. Anyone who would like to know more about the PC(USA) and Bethel in particular is invited to come. The class is open to visitors as well as long term members.

### **Back to School Pool Party**

Youth and children are invited to a pool party at Melanie Sherrod's house on Sun, Aug 14 from 4-6. Pizza will be served. Join us as we say goodbye to summer and celebrate the beginning of school. Contact Wendy if you need directions.

## Love Kitchen August 13

Bethel folks are involved in a food and fellowship ministry in Rockwood – the Love Kitchen serves 2 meals a month at the Rockwood Presbyterian Church. Local churches take turns hosting the meal, which is provided free of charge to anyone who wants to come. Bethel's next turn is Saturday, August 13. If you would like to help with food prep or serving, please contact Marge Hettrick for more details.

## Back to School Basics!

**August 14<sup>th</sup>** has been designated by Bethel's Fellowship Team as "**Undie Sunday**" – a back-to-school project to benefit children of Midway Elementary School. While many parents (and grandparents) are concerned with dressing their children for school, who of us might have guessed the great need for "undies" that many school children are lacking? Bethel's contributions will help to provide basic clothing items that school officials suggest are most requested: Girls' and Boys' Undies and Sweatpants/ Leggings-Size 5/6 and Size 7/8.

At the **August 17<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Supper**, the Fellowship Team will host a Back to School celebration. Please bring kid-friendly pot-luck dishes. We will have an Ice Cream Sundae Bar to round out this dinner as an alternative to regular monthly desserts. At the Fellowship Supper household-size **hygiene items** will be collected for distribution by Midway school officials for families in need. Items most requested include: deodorant, shampoo, bars of soap, toothpaste/ toothbrushes, combs/ brushes, etc.

## HOME Food Collection

Thank you for supporting our local food pantry and helping feed hungry folks in our community.

For the month of August our focus foods are **Cereal / Oatmeal**. These and other non-perishable food items can be brought in throughout the month and placed in the HOME collection basket in the Gathering Area. Our next in-worship collection will be Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.

## The Need for Flowers

HELP is NEEDED for providing flowers for Sunday's service!

Joan Davis grew and provided almost all of the fresh flowers which were used in the sanctuary each week. Joan recently moved to St. Louis to be near her daughter and son in law.

If you have flowers you'd like to share or a pretty potted plant, please call Nancy Braski at 376-4795. Thank you.

## Recent memorials:

In memory of Ruth Ann Ludwig from Phil and Jane Walsh

In memory of Jack and Sue Muecke from Dave and Helen Stevenson

In memory of Lucy Webb from Mark and Mary Lou Bristol

In memory of George Warlick from Phil and Jane Walsh

## Bethel's Landscape

As we end summer and approach autumn, many of you might notice that our flowers are beginning to look seedy. This is natural and the seeds will feed many birds over the coming weeks. Goldfinches are already appearing at the bird feeders and will soon find the seeds in our natural landscape. If you are fortunate, you just might be at the church when a flock of Goldfinches settle on the coneflower and rubeckia seedheads. As part of the National Wildlife Backyard Habitat, providing year round environment is important. Later in the fall, we will clean up the debris.

We hope many of you got to meet our new duck family.

## Birthdays for August

- 3 Alf Rybka
- 4 Steve Jacks
- 7 Jeremiah Jacks
- 8 Brenda Bunch
- 9 Pablo Crocker
- 10 Treavor Cribbs  
Joan Pharis
- 15 Jason Brown
- 17 Margaret Murr  
Gabriel Pierce
- 18 Regina Durham
- 20 James Condon
- 21 Amy Coen
- 22 Rachel Cutts
- 25 Frederick Morgan
- 26 Julie Coen  
Jan Parker
- 29 Jeremy Gerberding
- 31 Carolyn Tulley

## Prayer Requests

Assisted Living and Nursing Homes:

Wellington Place  
1098 Bradford Way,  
Kingston 37763

Chris Badger Room 107  
TN Veterans' Home  
1 Veterans Way, Knoxville 37931

Jan Parker  
Cornerstone Village-North  
2-1 Oak St., Johnson City 37601  
Tauno Maki

At Home:

Bill & Bobbie Martin; Mary B. & Jim Hines; Marianne & Bill Shadden; Nikki Robbins; Larry Strickling, Molly Cooper (*Chris Badger's daughter*).

# The Open Door

## Family Promise of Roane County

The mission of Family Promise of Roane County is to serve homeless children and their families. Bethel is committed to this mission by serving as a host congregation, promising to house up to four families for one week quarterly.

Families will be housed in our classrooms during the evening and fed supper and breakfast by us. During the day children will follow their regular schedules and unemployed adults will go to our Family Promise day house to participate in social services activities that will allow the family to become sustainably independent. For more detailed information on the national program see FamilyPromise.org. Until our local website is up, you can follow us

on our Facebook Page, Family Promise of Roane County.

Present status of program development:

- We have 11 of the 13 host churches needed.
- We have 6 support churches.
- We have a donated 15 passenger van for transportation
- We have HUD day house for \$1.00 a year. It is being renovated at this time.
- We have had three large successful fund raisers.
- We have many donations stored at the day house awaiting our opening.
- We have 501-(3)C status.

We need:

- approximately \$100,000 to hire staff and to cover program operations cost.

- opportunities to talk with any groups/individuals who are interested in the program.
- for you to sign up for AmazonSmile, a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Family Promise.
- for you to sign up for Kroger Community Rewards®. Once you sign up online, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card!
- If you would like additional information, please contact Jan or Alf Rybka at [jgrybka@hotmail.com](mailto:jgrybka@hotmail.com);
- 310-8836 (Jan's cell); 882-8836 (home).

## August 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 10 Ten Book Club 10:00	5	6
7 Faith Team 12:15	8 Finance Team 6:00	9	10	11	12	13 Love Kitchen in Rockwood
14 "Undie Sunday"  Pool Party 4:00	15	16	17 Fellowship & Property Teams 5:30 Fellowship Supper 6:30	18	19	20
21 Session 12:15 Inquirers' Class 3:00	22 Generosity Team 7:00	23	24	25	26	27
28 Study Team 12:15 ServeTeam 12:15 Inquirers' Class 3:00	29	30	31	EACH WEEK: Bethel Arts Ministry: Art Club: Mon. 10-Noon & Mon 6:30-8:30 PM Taoist Tai Chi: Tues. 6-7:30 PM, Fri. 10-11:30 AM, Sat. 9-10:30 AM		