



Bethel Presbyterian Church

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The Open Door

Volume 14, No. 3

March 2017

Dear Friends,

Lent is upon us. The following description of the season has been excerpted from *The Companion to the Book of Common Worship*:

What we hear during Lent is the power and possibility of the paschal mystery, and that the way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death. To appropriate the new life that is beyond the power of death means we must die with Christ who was raised for us. To live for Christ, we must die with him. New life requires a daily surrendering of the old life, letting go of the present order, so that we may embrace the new humanity. "I die every day!" asserts Paul (1 Corinthians 15:31). Resurrection necessitates death as a preceding act. The church's peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. To be raised with Christ means one must also die with Christ. In order to em-

brace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the "old self." In dying, we live.

Therefore, at the beginning of Lent, we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires, our projects, our families and even our lives do not last forever. "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). The liturgies throughout Lent try to pry loose our fingers, one by one, from presumed securities and plunge us into unknown baptismal waters, waters that turn out to be not only our death tomb but surprisingly our womb of life. Rather than falling back into nothingness, we fall back on everlasting arms. Death? How can we fear what we have already undergone in baptism?

It is the power of the resurrection on the horizon ahead that draws us into repentance toward the cross and tomb. Through the intervention of God's gracious resurrection, lifelong changes in our values

and behavior become possible. By turning from the end of the "old self" in us, Lenten repentance makes it possible for us to affirm joyfully, "Death is no more!" and to aim toward the landscape of the new age. Faithfully adhering to the Lenten journey of "prayer, fasting and almsgiving" leads to the destination of Easter.

During the final week, Holy Week, we hear the fullness of Christ's passion, his death, and resurrection. From Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and on to the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday), all of Holy Week focuses on the passion. As his followers, we travel Christ's path of servanthood through the Lord's Supper and the suffering of the cross toward the glory of Easter, all of which underscores the inseparable link between the death and resurrection of Jesus.

May this Lenten season be a time of transformation for us all as we seek to deepen our faith, follow Christ and live.

Grace and peace, Wendy

Ash Wednesday Worship

Please join us on Wednesday, March 1st (7 PM) as we begin the season of Lent. This worship service will be held jointly with Kingston United Methodist Church and will include the imposition of ashes and preparation of a banner to help us focus on the meaning of this season. All children and adults are encouraged to come. Nursery will be provided for the very young.

Lenten Adult Study

Pastor Wendy will lead an Adult Study during Lent beginning on Mar 5. The class will meet in the Fellowship Hall. If you ever feel like you complain more than you do, or there is more that needs doing in your life and the world than you could ever accomplish, or that the pain and sadness of the world is overwhelming, then come to this class. We will discuss together how we can fast from complaining and feast on prayer and service this Lent. Join us each Sunday during Lent at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall.

Women's Bible Study

Thursday,
March 9 & 23
10:30 AM –
12:15 in the
Library



Pot Luck of the Irish-

March's Fellowship Dinner has been **moved to** March 22nd at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Members are welcome to bring Irish themed food.



Save Our Saturdays is a Lenten tradition that began years ago when one of our members remarked that the hardest thing for them to give up during Lent would be "one of my Saturday mornings." Each Lenten season Bethel members, adults and children alike, are encouraged to spend one or more Saturdays in service to others in their community. The schedule for Save Our Saturdays during Lent this year is:

March 11 Love Kitchen. Marge Hettrick is the contact person – check with her to see how you can help.

March 25 John Knox grounds cleanup. Bring rakes, shovels, work gloves. Bring your own sack lunch.

April 8 Family Promise help organize for their yard sale. (Hint: donation opportunity)

Put these dates on your calendar and plan to have fun helping our community.

Great news! The bells are ringing! What an enjoyable way to be a part of making music and spreading the joy of being a member of the Bethel family. Participation in music is a lifetime hobby as witnessed by the vast age range of ringers.

Thanks to those talented folks who practice every week and to those talented enough to step in to substitute last minute. Muscles are a necessary increment to set up and dismantle the tables and carry the suitcases of bells up and down a flight of stairs. Washing the gloves and polishing the brass, tightening handles and routine maintenance are all very important.

WELCOME
New Members

Update

One year ago, Bethel made a generous donation to Roane Imagination Library from the proceeds of the Fall Festival. We put that lovely gift to work right away buying books. Please share our joy now as we celebrate two significant milestones:

-- In March, **90%** of Roane County's children (from birth to age 5) will receive a free, quality book in the mail

-- In April, we will celebrate the **250,000th** book mailed to local children since we were established in 2004.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is only possible with community support. Thank you for being part of this great program.

It's Time to the Think about Summer Camp!

Check out the flyers on the kiosk for John Knox Center, our Presbytery Camp just down the road in Ten Mile. There are postcards on the table in the gathering area that have additional information. Day Camp is for 4-10 year olds, mini camp for 1st-4th grade and then week long as well as two week longs camps for 10 -18 year olds. Bethel has scholarship money available for any child who would like to attend camp. Talk with Pastor Wendy or Karen Schall to secure a scholarship or learn more about camp.

Welcome Back!

Clay Badger grew up at Bethel and is returning after being gone for awhile.



March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Weekly Events: Bethel Arts Ministry: Art Club—Adults: Mon. 10-Noon & Mon 6:30-8:30 PM Rug Hooking Mondays 12:30 Taoist Tai Chi: Tues. 6-7:30 PM, Fri. 10-11:30 AM, Sat. 9-10:30 AM Bell Choir Practice: Wednesdays 6:00 PM Choir Practice: Wednesdays 7:00 PM Yoga: Thursdays, 5:30 PM</p>						
			1 Ash Wednesday Worship 7 PM	2 Ten 10 Book Club 10 AM	3 World Day of Prayer	4
5 1st Sunday In Lent Lenten Sunday School Series Begins Faith Team	6	7	8	9 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	10	11 Save Our Saturdays: Love Kitchen
12 2nd Sunday In Lent Daylight Sav- ings Time Begins	13 Finance Team 6 PM	14	15 Spring Break— regular 3rd Wed. activities move to next week	16	17	18
19 3rd Sunday In Lent Session 12:15	20	21	22 Fellowship Team Property Team Fellowship Sup- per	23 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	24	25 Save Our Saturdays: Cleanup at Camp John Knox
26 4th Sunday In Lent Study Team Serve Team 12:15	27 Generosity Team 7 PM	28	29	30	31	

March Birthdays

2 Dianne Griffith	14 Travis Brown
Bina Kirby	Shawn Hart
Jean Young	15 Will Jackson
3 Duie Swicegood	17 Hayden Jacks
4 Mark Preston	19 Marge Hettrick
5 Hailey Choate	26 Justin Murr
Vic King	27 Greg Murr
Dan McDowell	28 Peggy Sheppard
Robert Winsbro	29 Nancy King
8 Charlie Coen	30 Sherry Paris
9 Kathy Banker	Viviana Vanegas
12 Janna Brown	
13 Linda Choate	
Gary Griffith	

Please Remember:

Assisted Living and Nursing Homes

Wellington Place
 1098 Bradford Way, 37763
 Chris Badger, Room 107
 The Lantern
 155 Morning Pointe Dr., Lenoir City 37772
 Dick Evans
 Cornerstone Village-North
 2-1 Oak St., Johnson City 37601
 Tauno Maki
Prayer Requests:
 April Jackson
 Duie Swicegood
 Jim & Mary B. Hines