

Bethel Presbyterian Church

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The Open Door

Volume 14, No. 4

April 2017

Dear Friends,

We are halfway through Lent. In worship we have journeyed through the things that change as we reflect on our life of faith during Lent. The final Sunday in March we talked about how our seeing, or our perceptions change. In that vein, there has been much talk about immigration of late in our national discourse. The PCUSA has developed several Bible studies that give us a perspective on immigration and the response of God's people. We have used those materials in Sunday School classes in the recent past.

Many things are said in that national discourse that we either don't understand or often don't know much about. The following quiz comes from the PCUSA materials and highlights some of the complexities as well as myths surrounding around immigration. I hope it will help us all see this particular concern with new eyes as we continue to seek God's way in the world. The answers are included on page 3 of the Open Door. There is also an infographic in the Gathering Area that outlines the process to become a citizen of the US.

Grace and peace, Wendy

Test your knowledge of Immigration Facts:

1. US immigration law was last overhauled in _____.
a. 1889 b. 1938 c. 1955 d. 1996 e. 2002
2. Currently, there are _____ permanent immigrant visas available for low-skill workers, for example farm workers and landscapers, available for the whole country every year.
a. 5,000 b. 10,000 c. 25,000 d. 55,000 e. 100,000
3. If you're not a citizen of the US, you're undocumented.
a. True b. False
4. If you are a legal permanent resident (you have a green card) and you marry a citizen of the Philippines, your spouse will wait _____ year(s) to receive a valid visa to enter the US.
a. 1 b. 2 c. 4 d. 8 e. 15
5. If you have a US citizen child (a child born in the US) but you are undocumented, you can stay in the US.
a. True b. False
6. If you're a business owner who builds roofs and while on vacation in Mexico this week you meet a Mexican citizen you want to hire, you can complete the paperwork and have your new employee in the US:
a. By the end of the year b. in 1 yr c. in 3 yrs d. in 6 yrs e. in 8 yrs
7. In the US _____% of children live in a household where at least one parent is undocumented.
a. 1.5 b. 2.8 c. 7 d. 8.9

(answers on page 3)



Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 9

Palm Sunday

Worship at 11:00 AM

Community Service in the afternoon.

Thursday, April 13

Maundy Thursday

Joint worship with KUMC

7 PM at KUMC

Friday, April 14

Good Friday

Joint worship with KUMC

7 PM at Bethel

Sunday April 16

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service at 6:45;

followed by breakfast.

Easter Egg Hunt at the

Bethel Cemetery during

Sunday School

Worship at 11 AM

Save the Date:

Sunday, April 23 is special for two reasons:

The 23rd is Youth Sunday, which means that worship will be led by our youth. It is always a treat to see and hear what talents and insights that our youth have to share.

The annual Bethel Arts Ministry (BAM) art show will be Sunday, April 23. You can see the many talents of the artists displayed between Sunday School and worship and then have a chance to talk with the artists themselves during the reception following worship. We are grateful to be able to offer space for creativity to be expressed and community to be formed and appreciate the opportunity to see the art that is created through the year.

International Dinner

On April 19th, we will be having an Internationally themed fellowship dinner at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will be celebrating countries from all around the world. If you would like to host a table and provide decorations for a particular country, please contact the office at (865) 376-6340. Everyone is invited to bring your favorite international food.

Hosts Needed!

The fellowship team still has several fellowship dinners that are in need of a host. If you are interested in hosting a fellowship dinner or have any questions, please contact Rachel Gallaher at (865) 307- 9976.

Birthdays for April

- 3 Amanda Purushotham
- 4 Laura Windhausen
- 6 Mary Kathryn Willett
- 9 Bill Sides
- 10 Cathy McDowell
- 13 Sherry Burchfield
- 17 Chuck Brumley
- 19 Clay Landers
Sheryl Stadnik
- 22 Dolores Sandmel
- 23 Sophie Crocker
- 27 Sarah Applegate
David Choate
Joni Morgan
- 28 Nancy Braski
- 30 Previn Griffith Langham

Prayer Reminders:

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

George McGill

Jim & Mary B. Hines

We goofed! Last month's newsletter featured a photo and welcome notice about Adam Badger, who rejoined Bethel after being gone for awhile. Only problem was, we incorrectly identified Adam as Clay Badger. Sorry, Adam, and again, welcome back!



Dear Friends,

Consider the following facts from the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) and from "mentalhealthministries.net":

- In any given year, 26% of adults in America suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder.
- Mental illnesses affect all of us, regardless of age, gender, economic status or ethnicity.
- 20% of U.S. service members who served in Iraq or Afghanistan suffers from major depression or combat stress (PTSD)
- 50% of all chronic mental illnesses begin by age 14 and 75% begin by age 24.
- One in ten children and youth has a serious mental health condition.
- Depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide.
- 60% of adults with a mental illness did not receive mental health services in the previous year
- 20%-25% of jail and prison inmates and youth involved with juvenile justice live with a serious mental illness.
- One life is lost to suicide every 15.8 minutes. The suicide rate for older adults is 50% higher than the national rate as a whole
- 60% of individuals with a mental health issue go first to a spiritual leader for help

Silence of the church on this topic only reinforces the stigma.

People with mental problems are **not** a statistic. They are our neighbors. They are members of our congregation and members of our families. They are in every walk of life. Our faith calls us to compassion. We are to care for the sick. Healing and wholeness are at the heart of our lives together.

Because a problem of this magnitude will not just go away and because we are compelled to take action, the Bethel Study Team wants to begin a conversation about mental health issues. We hope to provide education and to help to de-stigmatize these issues. We want to help our church become a healing presence in the lives of those who struggle with these disorders.

Please plan to join us for a six week study during the Sunday school hour beginning on April 23. If you have questions or are interested in helping with this new ministry you may contact Wendy or Susan Garner at 865-376-2591 or susan-garner0604@comcast.net.



The answers (quiz begins on p. 1):

1. 1996 – in 2002 Homeland Security took over the old Immigration and Naturalization Services but no real changes to policy were made.
2. 5,000 –
3. False – there are four categories: citizen, non-immigrant (*those here to study or work without the intention of becoming a citizen*), immigrant (*those with green cards; recently 12 million people applied for 55,000 spots*), undocumented (*those who crossed borders without visas and those who overstayed student or tourist visas*)
4. 8 years – <https://travel.state.gov/content/en/immigrate.html> has more information about the immigration process and wait times. This is a very complicated process. There is an infographic in the Gathering Area that outlines that process.
5. False
6. 6 years – the above website also outlines wait times for employment; this is a complex process of paperwork, trying to fill the job with US workers, proving that a US worker doesn't want the job and leaving the job vacant while trying to hire a foreign worker. It also costs a significant amount of money.
7. 7% - this number actually only represents children from kindergarten to 12th grade so may be slightly higher when considering all children from birth to 12th grade.

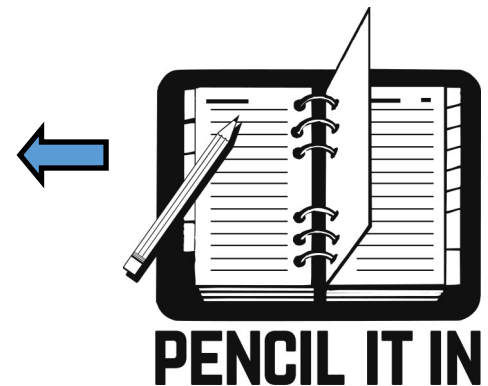
Bethel's Big Birthday Bash

Bethel Presbyterian Church has a very special birthday coming up – in June of 2018 we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of our church. We plan to kick off a year-long celebration beginning on June 4 of this year. We have tons of activities in mind; beginning with a kick-off celebration in early June, an old-fashioned 4th of July celebration, an Open House in the fall, and concluding with a big celebration in June of 2018, along with a re-enactment of the drama "A Church Called Bethel." Plus lots of other goodies like cook-books, oral and written histories, a time capsule, and tons of food and fellowship.

Needless to say, 2017-18 promises to be a VERY busy year, and we will need lots and lots of helping hands! We're hoping to put together a group of volunteers to help us pull this off. So far, we've identified a need for the following groups:
Publicity Team
Historians
Steering Committees for:
Kickoff Event this June
July 4th Celebration
Fall Open House
June 2018 Celebration and "A Church Called Bethel."

On Sunday, April 30th we'll have a brief time after worship to meet with folks from the Birthday Steering Committee, to hear your thoughts, share ideas, and give everyone a chance to sign up to help wherever they feel led to contribute.

Questions? At present, the steering committee is made up of Scott McGill, Jeff Paris, Roger Richmond, Karen Schall, Alf Rybka, Sherry Burchfield, Mark Banker, Laura Dailey, and Cyn-di Fowler. Feel free to talk to any one of us, or join us if you can. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 18 at 6:30 in the library



Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP)

During Bethel's annual meeting we discussed the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) that provided the mortgage for building project. The PILP is a non-profit corporation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), created to provide low-cost loans to congregations, of the PC(USA), like Bethel. PILP seeks to partner with congregations to determine the best financial results for the project. Individuals, churches, and Presbyteries invest in PILP to provide funds to support the lending program, similar to the original concept of Savings and Loans. You heard that "designating" your investment can support a

particular church, in our case Bethel. What does this mean? The PILP website explains:

In order to borrow funds at the Program's base interest rate, congregations commit to building an investment base equal to 20% of the initial loan amount. When the investment level exceeds 20%, the church can earn rebates on their interest paid. Rebates are paid at investment levels of 35%, 50%, 75% and 100% and could reduce their effective interest rate on the loan by as much as one full percentage point.

When you make an investment and "designate" it in support of Bethel, you can help us qualify for the rebates. By lowering the cost of our mortgage, we can repay the loan faster or

direct the savings back into the mission of the church.

Investments are notes like Certificates of Deposits (CD) at banks. You may invest as short as 6 months up to 5 years. At the end of your term, you may reinvest for another term or withdraw all or a portion of your investment. Through the generosity of the Presbytery and many member of Bethel, we have been able to receive the interest rebates. To learn more about the program, visit their website, pilp.pcusa.org or call (800) 903-7457, x5865.



- WHAT: 2ND ANNUAL FAMILY PROMISE OF ROANE COUNTY RUMMAGE SALE
- WHERE: KINGSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST FAMILY CENTER/120 WEST SPRING STREET
- TIME: APRIL 7TH AND APRIL 8TH FROM 9 - 3 EACH DAY!!
- WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU: AS YOU ARE CLEANING OUT THIS SPRING - PLEASE REMEMBER US! WE NEED ALMOST EVERYTHING!

WHAT WE WILL NOT ACCEPT: TV'S, OLD COMPUTERS, CAR SEATS AND HELMETS. NO LINGERIE OR SWIMSUITS.

WE WILL ACCEPT CLOTHING- HOWEVER - CLOTHING GUIDELINES - WE WILL ONLY ACCEPT CLEAN CLOTHING DIVIDED BY MALE/FEMALE OR CHILDRENS. PLEASE SEPARATE BABY CLOTHING.

**** WE WILL TAKE DONATIONS ON**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 4TH FROM 9 - 1 AND THEN FROM 5:30 - 7
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5TH FROM 10 - 3**

**IF THIS DOES NOT WORK FOR YOU PLEASE HAVE YOUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
CONTACT DONNA SMITH (617-4936) OR JENNIFER WATSON (466-5833)!**

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE DONATIONS OUTSIDE THE FAMILY CENTER IF NO ONE IS THERE.

April 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|-----------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 5th Sunday In Lent Faith Team 12:15 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Ten 10 Book Club 10 AM | 7 8 Family Promise of Roane County Rummage Sale 9-3 @ Kingston Church of Christ | |
| 9 Palm Sunday | 10 Finance Team 6 PM | 11 | 12 | 13 Women's Bible Study 10:30 Maundy Thursday—Joint Worship w/ KUMC 7 PM @ KUMC | 14 Good Friday—Joint Worship w/ KUMC 7 PM @ Bethel | 15 |
| 16 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 6:45 Egg Hunt during Sunday School Worship @ 11 | 17 | 18 Birthday Cele- bration Steering Group 6:30 | 19 Property Team 5:30 Fellowship Team 5:30 Fellowship Supper 6:30 | 20 | 21 | 22 Earth Day |
| 23 Adult SS Series on Mental Health begins Youth Sunday BAM Art Show Session 12:15 | 24 Generosity Team 7 PM | 25 | 26 | 27 Women's Bible Study 10:30 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 Big Birthday Celebration Q&A Session after worship Prison Ministry at MCCX | Weekly Events: Bethel Arts Ministry: Art Club—Adults: 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 Bell Choir Practice: Wednesdays 6:00 PM Choir Practice: Wednesdays 7:00 PM Yoga: Thursdays, 5:30 PM | | | | | |