

Bethel Presbyterian Church

203 S. Kentucky Street
Kingston, TN 37763

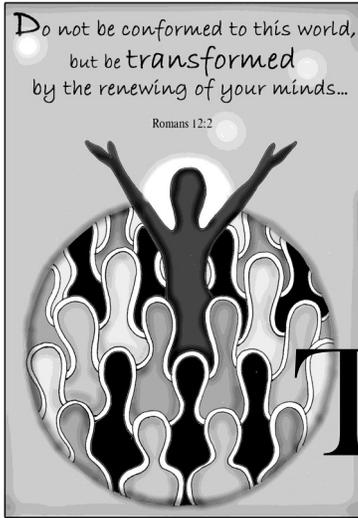
To Contact Us:

Phone: 865.376.6340

Fax: 865.376.6390

Email: 1bethel@bellsouth.net

Website: www.bethelpcusa.org



The Open Door

Volume 14 No. 9

September 2017

Dear Friends,

As I write these words preparations are being made for a white nationalist rally organized by a group called Confederate 28 to be held in Knoxville on Saturday, Aug 26 in protest of the potential removal of the Fort Sanders monument. If two weeks ago we thought what happened in Charlottesville was difficult news from another state, we now have the potential for the same in our own backyard. My prayer is that the police will be prepared to maintain order and any potential violence will be prevented. It would be nice to think we could just ignore the fact that a white nationalist group is coming to town. But short of burying our heads in the sand, we can't do that. And as the church it would be irresponsible and unfaithful to stand by and say nothing. The question then is how do we respond to groups like these that promote racism, white supremacy and often violence?

There is not a one size fits all answer to the questions. Ephesians reminds us that Jesus broke down the dividing walls between us making peace (Eph 2:14), and that we are called to

speaking the truth in love (4:15). Galatians reminds us that there is no longer male or female, Jew or Greek, slave or free (and we can appropriately add black, brown or white) for we are all one in Christ Jesus (Gal 3:28). Romans calls us to "not be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds so that we can discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect (Rm 12:2)." Jesus tells us over and over to love God and to love our neighbor.

So while there is not a one size fits all answer, every answer must be based in love, unity and peace. The church has a mixed history when it comes to confronting racism, calling it out and living our lives to end it. But we need not continue with such a mixed response in these present days. Responding out of love, unity and peace will both give us courage to stand up and speak out about racism and to work to create a community of reconciliation and peace.

We have our work cut out for us in these days. Yet each time we speak instead of remaining silent, each time we call on the transforming words of Scripture, each time we witness to the reconciling love of God in our actions, love wins. And in the end, love is the only thing that will transform hate. May these words from Romans 8:18 strengthen you and give you hope:

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to stranger.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. "
Grace and peace, Wendy

Bethel Annual Church Picnic

On September 10, 2017, we will have Bethel's Annual Church Picnic at Marge Hettrick's house at 3 pm. Marge's address is:

200 Lake Street
Harriman, TN 37748

The church will be providing delicious Barbeque, side dishes, and a bounce house to entertain the children. Members are welcome to bring their own chairs, drinks, and finger desserts to share. Come enjoy a fun time to fellowship with others.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will resume on Thursday Sept 14 and continue to meet each second and fourth Thursday of the month from 10:30am to 12pm in the Church Library. This Fall we will look at texts in the Epistles that have historically been used to curtail and prevent women's leadership and contribution in the church as well as limit their independence and freedom generally. We will use Frances Taylor Gench's book, *Encountering God in Tyrannical Texts: Reflections on Paul, Women and the Authority of Scripture*, as a guide for our study.

New members are always welcome and the beginning of a new study is a great time to come if you are a first timer.

Fair Trade Orders will be taken on September 10 and again on Sept. 17. Please see Mandy Kneis for details.

Adult Study Opportunity

Wendy will lead an adult Sunday School class Sept 10 – Oct 8 on *The Church in the Networked World*. The class will take a trip back in time to see how technological developments and advancements impacted the ministry of Bethel over the last 200 years with an eye to the future. We will discuss current technologies and networks and how they can and do contribute positively to the church being the Body of Christ in the world. We will also discuss the potential pitfalls of new technologies and how the church can help people navigate those. The class will finally brainstorm ways we as Bethel can participate in this networked world as we seek to be faithful to our calling to love God and neighbor.

The class will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am Sept 10 – Oct 8. Everyone is welcome.

Adult Sunday School—Part 2

This fall the adult Sunday School class that meets in the Barber Library will take on Dietrich Bonhoeffer – German theologian and a martyr in the Nazi resistance effort. Our own Rev. Wendy Neff considers Bonhoeffer's works among the most accessible of the classics of 20th century Christendom.

After watching the documentary *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Pacifist, Nazi Resister* the last two Sundays in August, we will on Sunday September 3 start our more in-depth study by reading *Life Together*.... This brief volume "is Bonhoeffer's inspiring account of a unique fellowship in an underground seminary [It] reads like one of Paul's letters giving practi-

cal advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups."

After reading *Life Together*, we intend to take on during the winter and spring Bonhoeffer's more extensive *The Costs of Discipleship*. Bonhoeffer's provocative insights are relevant to our present moment in history and will help us contemplate Bethel's calling in this its 200th year.

We welcome anyone who would like to join in our free-wheeling discussions each Sunday at 9:30 in the Barber Library. Affordable used copies of these volumes are available on Amazon or other on-line sites.

If you have questions, contact Mark Banker: mtbanker1951@gmail.com / 865-376-2118.

Youth Events

There are two presbytery wide youth events coming up in September. The first is the Tween Retreat for fourth and fifth graders on Saturday, Sept 16 to Sunday morning Sept 17. The next is the Middle School Retreat Friday, September 29-Sunday, Oct 1. If you are interested in attending one of these retreats, please talk to Wendy for more information.

September 20, 2017 Fellowship Supper

At September's Fellowship Supper, you are asked to prepare a recipe from the Bethel Always cookbook to share and to bring at least one recipe for the new cookbook.

Bicentennial Cookbook!

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to the new Bethel cookbook. So far we have approximately 60 recipes with the goal of us having 500. We are asking for each family to try to contribute at least one recipe for each of the following categories: Appetizer, side dish, salad, main dish, and dessert. To submit recipes, go to www.typensave.com Click login. Username: Bethel200 Password: Fresh463 If you are unable to submit the recipes online yourself, feel free to drop them off at the church office and the cookbook committee will submit it for you. Please make sure to put your name on your recipe so that we can contact you if we have any questions. Thank you!

A Session Highlight

from Cathy McDowell, Clerk of Session

For several months, the elders have been working to come up with a simple, easy-to-remember phrase that describes Bethel. Many different phrases were discussed. On August 20, 2017 the elders decided on the phrase:

"Bethel Presbyterian Church...A Welcoming Community"

The above phrase will be Bethel's Mission Statement.

The session covers many areas during monthly meetings. I just try to give an occasional highlight. Full session minutes are available in the church office.

Hands of Mercy offering for September will be canned fruit and applesauce.

A note from Jackie Rylander

Many great experiences are being reawakened with the 200th birthday celebration. The Session Committees have discussed ways to share with each other and the community an awareness of our legacy, our growth, and our definition as a community of believers. The importance of sharing good food in fellowship with each other is being coordinated with cookbooks past and present. Getting ready for the open house both inside and in the garden is one of the ways many of us are spending our time. We are thankful for those who share moments in Bethel's history for our enjoyment. Wendy is enhancing our worship experience by personally writing increments of the service to further coordinate bible passages, prayers, expressions in confession, her sermons and hymns, partly because of her doctorate but mainly to

make worship more meaningful. We all were reminded how important music is in our worship experience, trying to deal with a possible change in leadership. The Faith Team has been discussing ways to expand music opportunities within Bethel. What a joy the special music has been for us all summer — harp, voices, flute, saxophone, guitars, violin. How blessed we are! Mary Hook and Rebecca Price have a vision for outreach to include youth involvement in music. Rebecca is writing a song for the kids in honor of Bethel's birthday. John Purifoy is composing an anthem for the choir for our celebration. The choir will begin rehearsals as usual in September. Stay tuned as the bells reconvene after the first of the year to enhance worship in anticipation of our celebration.

And always rejoice in the Lord.

Landscape Committee - two volunteers needed

Would you like to plant/maintain an area around our church? We have two places that need caretakers. The first place is the small area at Bethel's street sign. We need someone to plant flowers in the area bordered by rock and keep the small area weeded. The second place is immediately on your left as you enter Bethel's south parking lot. A redbud and dogwood tree and other plants are already there — we need someone to keep that small area weeded.

Thank you for your consideration. If you would like to volunteer for one of these areas, please see Cathy McDowell. Thank you.

Support for Caregivers

At its August meeting, the Session affirmed the need to support those in our congregation and community who are caring for loved ones with dementia and Alzheimer's. Plans are underway to offer a few Lunch and Learn classes in October. Watch for more information.

Roane County Cooperative Ministries Get- ting Ahead Classes



september

Bethel has adopted the latest Getting Ahead Class. That means we need volunteers to prepare meals each Sunday between Aug 20 and Dec 10. There are signup sheets in the Gathering Area or you can email the office with the date you would like to serve. Meals begin at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. You can expect to serve 12-18 people total.

In addition to serving meals, volunteers for childcare are needed each of those days from 6-8pm. Again there is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Area. If you can offer transportation to participants as needed, please contact Wendy.

International Peace- maker Alla Soroka to speak at Bethel Sept. 24 at 6 PM

Alla Soroka lives in Odessa and has been actively engaged in peacemaking work with at-risk children and youth in the Ukraine since 2005. Her work began with the Odessa Regional Mediation Group, providing a restorative justice model for incarcerated and at-risk young people. She is trained in the "Alternatives to Violence" program developed by the Quakers and serves as their Ukraine coordinator. Along with a team of volunteer facilitators, she teaches nonviolent strategies and communication skills to groups, including incarcerated young men.

Birthdays for September

- 3 Liam Choate
Tammy Holloway
- 4 Shara Cross
Lisa Pickel
- 6 Kathy Francis
- 7 Brad Parish
- 10 Adam Badger
Dick Evans
Bobbie Martin
- 12 Amber Jacks
- 14 Laura Dailey
Eli Jacks
- 15 Sue Jones
- 16 Jackie Rylander
- 18 Corey Preston
- 20 Pat Harvey
- 24 Grayson Pierce
- 27 Frank Harris
Dianne Russell
Bill Shenk
- 29 Chris Guy
April Jackson
Jeanette McElhinney
- 30 Marianne Shadden

Prayer Reminders

In Assisted Living and Nursing Homes:

Wellington Place
1098 Bradford Way, Kingston
37763

Chris Badger, Room 107
Alexander Guest House
83 Kentucky Ave., Oak Ridge
38730

Dick Evans
Corner Stone Village - North
2-1 Oak St., Johnson City 37601

Tauno Maki

At Home:

Jennifer Human
April Jackson

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

New Member Welcome

Last month we welcomed our newest member, Jennifer Kolwyck, but her photo was not available when we went to press. We have it now, so please join us in welcoming Jennifer and her delightful daughter Krista into the Bethel family!



September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
EACH WEEK:		<i>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. 10-11:30 AM / Yoga: Thursdays 5:30 PM Choir Practice: Wednesdays 7:00 PM</i>				
					1	2
3 Faith Team 12:15 PM	4 Labor Day	5	6	7 Ten 10 Book Group 10:00 AM	8	9
10 Fair Trade Orders Taken Study Team 12:15 Church Picnic at Hettrick's 3 PM	11 Finance Team 6 PM	12	13	14 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	15	16 Presbytery Pre- Teen Retreat @ John Knox Center
17 Fair Trade Orders Taken Hands of Mercy Offering Session 12:15	18	19	20 Fellowship Team 5:30 PM Property Team 5:30 PM Fellowship Supper 6:30 PM	21 International Day of Peace	22	23
24 Serve Team 12:15 International Peacemaker 6:00 PM	25 Generosity Team 7 PM	26	27	28 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	29	30
					Presbytery Middle School Retreat @ John Knox Center	