

# Bethel Presbyterian Church

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# The Open Door

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## Dear Friends,

Ann Weems is one of my favorite poets. Before she died she published several books of poetry around the church year. Her books *Kneeling in Bethlehem* and *Kneeling in Jerusalem* are two of my favorites as they walk us through the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter. Her poems are so fresh and real. They speak to our excitement, our reluctance, our recalcitrance when it comes to faith. And sometimes they just speak wonder and invitation. That is how I think of the poem *Lent*

### Lent

Lent is a time to take the time to let the power of our faith story take hold of us, a time to let the events get up and walk around in us, a time to intensify our living unto Christ, a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts, a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and listen to his word, a time to touch his robe and feel the healing surge through us, a time to ponder and a time to wonder...  
Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

Indeed may our Lenten journey be a combination of windy road and fresh understandings. May it be intentional based in study and prayer and contemplation of the world and our place in it. May it lead us to repentance. May it be filled with wonder and thanksgiving as we revel in the mystery of God's providence and God's grace.

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

Too often I think we approach Lent with dread. It feels heavy, penitent and sometimes full of guilt inducing practices. But I think that is what we have made of it – not what it actually is as a gift of reflection and recommitment. So even if you may still be reluctant to get on this journey toward Jerusalem, start anyway and experience the fresh newness of God.

Grace and Peace,  
Wendy

*Lent*  
B E G I N S

## Lenten Worship and Study

**Shrove Tuesday** Pancake Supper on February 13 at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us for pancake supper and celebration with games and activities. Invite your friends to this fun fellowship event. Pancakes are provided.

**Ash Wednesday** simple supper and worship on February 14 at 6pm in the Bethel Fellowship Hall. This year we will gather with our friends from KUMC for a potluck meal of soup and bread at 6pm followed by an informal Ash Wednesday service. This service is intergenerational and everyone is welcome. Bring a pot of soup or loaf of bread to share for supper.

**Lenten Study** begins Wednesday, February 21 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will gather for four Wednesdays in Lent and share a simple meal together followed by study time for adults and activities and games for children at 6:30pm. The adult study, led by Wendy Neff, will focus on the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. If you would like to attend but do not drive at night or otherwise need transportation, please let the office know and we will arrange a ride for you.

## Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, March 29, we will again gather with our friends from KUMC at the Bethel Fellowship Hall for a meal and worship beginning at 6pm. We will experience the Seder meal culminating in the Lord's Supper.

**Good Friday, March 30,** we will gather at KUMC for worship at 6pm. This service will center around the Seven Last Words of Christ.

## Easter Sunday, April 1

Sunrise Service at 6am. Gather on the Bethel porch for joint worship with KUMC followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Egg Hunt in the Bethel Cemetery will be at 9:30 for children.

Easter Worship will be at 11am in the sanctuary.

## Special Sunday School Class

Feb 11 and Feb 18 for older youth and adults led by Rev. Andy Morgan, campus minister at UKIRK, UTK. The class will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

**The History of Hell:** The concept of Hell is one of the most complicated and charged aspects of Christianity and, for some, colors their perception of God, justice, and the role of the Church in the world. This two-week course will examine the ways that ideas of the afterlife shifted from the early Jewish understanding of Sheol to early ideas of resurrection to a place of retribution we know as hell. This course invites participants to suspend their previously held ideas on hell and look, historically, at the theological shifts that happened in the history of the Judeo-Christian tradition that yielded the current idea of hell.

## Souper Bowl Offering

We will receive the annual Souper Bowl offering on Sunday, February 4. Children and youth will hold the soup pots following worship, ready to receive your offering. The offering will support the RCCM Garden Grant Program which provides seeds and other supplies for clients to grow a garden and produce some of their own food during the summer.

## "Notes from the Choir"

The chancel choir is excited to announce that we have begun rehearsing John Purifoy's commissioned work, "Be Still." The text of the anthem is adapted from Psalms 46:10 and Micah 6:8, and we think the text, in combination with the choral and instrumental writing, truly captures the heart and ministry of Bethel Presbyterian Church. This work was commissioned last June, and will be sung during the bicentennial celebration service on June 10.

We want to urge anyone who is interested in singing with us for this special service to let one of the choir members know of your interest. We rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:00 until 8:00 in the choir room, and are always glad to welcome newcomers. Please consider adding your voice when we celebrate the 200th birthday of the church!

Mary Hook, Church Musician

## Spring must be in the air!

Bethel's intrepid volunteer reporting group has submitted not one but three articles related to gardening and environmental awareness this month. Hope you will read, heed, and enjoy!

### Bethel's Compost Bin

Many thanks to Mike McElhinney for cleaning up the compost bin on a recent cold, wintery Saturday morning. His work is greatly appreciated.

In addition to removing lots of twigs, branches and heavy stems, Mike discovered a nest of fire ants, a nest of yellow jackets, 8 plastic flower pots, as well as various pieces of plastic. These items are not acceptable.

The remaining matter has composted and can be used in the church's flower beds.

Please be more careful when adding items to the compost bin. Here's a list of items which are acceptable for the compost bin:

Fruit and vegetable scraps.

(NO MEAT!)

Egg shells (crushed)

Coffee grounds

Coffee filters

Tea bags (Make sure they are made of natural materials like hemp or cotton, and not rayon or other synthetics)

Loose leaf tea

Spoiled soy/rice/almond/coconut milk

Used paper napkins and paper towels

fall leaves; grass clippings; wood ashes from one's fireplace or stove; sawdust; shredded paper; junk mail (shredded); dead house plants (NO POTS!) flowers from floral arrangements (no oasis); wilted flowers; shredded newspapers; smashed Jack-o-lanterns; dryer lint; moldy cheese; old jam/jelly; cardboard egg cartons (cut up); peanut shells; stale cereal, crackers, chips; cooked pasta and rice; stale bread; paper bags

(shredded)

When adding items to the compost bin, please cover with soil, or bury.

The flower committee appreciates the church's co-operation in helping to keep our compost bin in good condition.

### The Master Gardeners

of Roane County will host their Brown Bag Lunch & Learn Series the 2nd Saturday of each month at 12:00 in the UT Extension Office located at [3074 Roane State Hwy.](#) in Midtown. The February session was on be "Seed Starting" with a Certified Master Gardener

This is an ongoing series which will be the 2nd Saturday of each month. Participants are asked to bring a brown bag lunch or snack to enjoy while they listen to the presentation. The Master Gardeners of Roane County are trained by University of Tennessee Extension and are part of the Tennessee Master Gardener Program. Come join us for this free class

### Becoming a Green Congregation

Or, What I had never considered about buying bananas.



Most of the bananas that we eat in the United States are grown in Latin America. How they were grown I never had really considered before reading an article in Eating Well magazine. Our regular banana is liberally doused with pesticides

sprayed from airplanes as well as applied by workers in the fields. The banana bunches are placed in bags filled with pesticides. Some of the pesticides stay in the soil and

are used by the plants that produce our bananas. Workers are exposed to toxins during application that contributes to skin disease and kidney failure. The run-off enters our waterways adding to the dead zones, and algae blooms. Wildlife is effected as well. The crocodiles below this plantations show declining health with pesticides in their blood. Researchers have found 9 different pesticides, 7 of which were banned in 2011 as Persistent Organic Pollutants, but they still have residue that remains. Pesticides have also been found in crocodiles in the US and whales and seals in other locations.

Here in Roane County it only cost 10 cents a pound more to purchase organic bananas. Ten cents!! The organic plantations like Earth University in Costa Rica are surrounded by rain forest that harbor beneficial wildlife like toucans and monkeys. The workers in organic plantations bag up their bunches as well, but instead of pesticides they are filled with chili pepper and garlic. I noticed that my organic bananas last much longer in my house, because generally organic bananas are not sprayed with ethylene gas before they are placed on the shelf.

To purchase sustainably grown bananas consider one of the following brands, Rain Forest Alliance, Turbana, EARTH University, or USDA organic. Good news is Chiquita which is not organic is working with the Rain Forest Alliance to make changes toward sustainability.

Americans on the average eat 10 pounds of bananas a year equaling an additional \$1.00 spent to purchase organic bananas. I am not sure why it took me so long to figure out the benefit of organic bananas, but I am glad I finally did.

-Submitted by Elaine Steele

## Dear Bethel Friends,

Would you like to own a piece of Bethel's history?

Many years ago when Bethel decided to install a pipe organ, I bought the church's old Hammond organ.

My younger daughter took lessons from Nancy Hassel, our church musician at the time. Alas, alack, there is now no one at my house who has the time/ talent/ or interest in playing the organ so I would like to give it to someone who does have an interest in it.

If you are interested, please call me at 789-7235 and I will give you a description of the instrument.

Thanks,  
Dianne Griffith

## Fellowship Team

. We will NOT be having a fellowship dinner on February 21st. We will be serving a simple supper in conjunction with our Lenten Bible Study.

The Annual Congregational meeting is on February 25 and we will be having a potato and salad luncheon in the fellowship hall to go along with this. Ask Wendy if you have any questions....



## Help Wanted:

Our nursery population is growing, and that's a wonderful thing! We could always use extra hands on Sunday mornings to help tend to our babies and toddlers. If you would like to be a part of this joy-filled ministry, there's a sign-up clipboard on the table just outside the nursery door. We need help during both the Sunday School and Worship hours. Please sign up for as much or as little as you feel led to help out. Linda Gerth, our main nursery worker, or Karen Schall or Jan Rybka will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

## Birthdays for February

- 2 Rebecca Shelby
- 4 Bonnie Anderson  
Mark Banker
- 5 Jon Rybka
- 8 Brenda Strickling
- 11 Esther Parish
- 13 Jennifer Kolwyck
- 14 Pedro Crocker
- 15 Callahan King
- 17 Mary B. Hines
- 18 Sarah Dungan  
Liz Singley
- 19 Melanie Sherrod
- 23 Phil Walsh
- 24 Karen Schall
- 27 Jennifer Choate  
Deb Hyder

## Our newest baptized members:

Krysta Kolwyck, on the left, who was baptized December 24.

On the right: Mabel Copeland, shown with her family,. Mabel was baptized on December 10.



In memory of Bill Shadden from:  
Melanie Sherrod  
Jim and Karen Schall  
Jim and Mary B. Hines  
Betty Ulrich

In memory of Dick Evans from:  
Melanie Sherrod  
Jim and Karen Schall  
Greg and Margaret Murr  
Judith Delaney  
Betty Ulrich

In memory of Jacob Murr from:  
Greg and Margaret Murr

In memory of Rev. Marc Sherrod from:  
Mark and Kathy Banker  
Wilson and Chris Lowry

In memory of George and Aline Terry from:  
JoAnn Moore

In memory of Rev. Dick Hettrick from:  
Mark and Kathy Banker  
Jim and Mary B. Hines

In memory of Sam Sheppard from:  
Francis and Mary Sue Hammer

# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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 Choir Practice: Wednesdays 7:00 PM Yoga: Thursdays, 5:30 PM						
				<b>1</b> Ten 10 Book Group 10 AM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Communion Sunday Souper Bowl Offering	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Older Youth/ Adult study on Hell led by Andy Morgan, UTK Faith Team 12:15	<b>12</b> Finance Team 6 PM	<b>13</b> Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6 PM	<b>14</b> Ash Wednesday Simple Supper at 6 PM; Worship at 6:30; joint with KUMC at Bethel	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Older Youth/ Adult study on Hell led by Andy Morgan, UTK Hands of Mercy Offering Session 12:15	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Lenten Study Simple Supper @6 PM; Studies for kids and adults @6:30	<b>22</b> Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon	<b>26</b> Generosity Team 7 PM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Lenten Study Simple Supper @6 PM; Studies for kids and adults @6:30	NOTE: Fellowship Team, Property Team, Study Team and Serve Team may meet at a different time this month due to changes in scheduling. Please check with your committee chair for the most up-to-date information.		