



## Bethel Presbyterian Church

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# THE OPEN DOOR

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The Apostle Paul's exhortation about keeping the commandments AND a note of alarm for self-absorbed disciples: *The commandments "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbors as yourself." (Romans 13: 9-10).*

**It's important, as Christians, to know that we are obligated** in love and faith to treat one another with utmost respect and honor. To this end, the Apostle Paul emphasized commandments that had to do with interpersonal relationships and summed them up in an all-encompassing imperative to care for brothers and sisters in the faith in the same way we care for ourselves. Immediately before this passage Paul said exactly that: "Owe no one anything, except to love one another..."

**That's what Christian community is all about:** learning to love, to respect, to honor one another as we would want to be loved, respected and honored ourselves. The writer of Romans pounded this home throughout the practical section of his letter (chapters 12-16). In chapter 15, for example, he wrote: "we who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves."

I am reminded it takes a life-time of learning and practice to live up to this high biblical expectation for Christian community. I fail often. But the best way to learn is to take seriously the failures. Supernaturally, by God's gracious yet powerful Spirit, we can learn to care for others instead of living primarily for ourselves.

**To keep every follower of Christ on their toes,** Paul sounded **an urgent alarm** to watch out for human tendencies toward complacency or self-satisfaction. I often rationalize by saying "I've done enough, I've given enough, I've been abused enough, I must take care of myself now." Many other rationalizations are possible to explain the natural human tendency to withdraw from the lives of others, to insulate from their annoying weaknesses, their self-centered behaviors.

**Paul's alarm (chapter 11, verse 13) should ring in our ears every morning of every day :** "you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep (read: complacency). For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; Let us live honorably as in the day...putting on the Lord Jesus Christ, and making no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires."

The Lord is at the door. Let us live for Christ, and not for ourselves. Let us live for those for whom Christ died, and not for ourselves. Let us be alert to the fact that these days are evil, and our part now is to live counter-culture after the pattern provided for us by Christ.

Come Soon Lord Jesus,

Dan McMillan, Summer Pastor

## Wednesday Night Programs – August and September

August 21	Monthly Pot-Luck Dinner
August 28	Dr. Esther Parish will present a program on climate change and how our area of the state is predicted to be impacted by it
September 4	Dan Hyder will present a program on laws that are designed to protect the environment. Are those laws working or are they failing to protect us?
September 11	Mary Ann Smith will be our presenter. She serves on the Roane County Environmental Review Board.
September 18	Monthly Pot-luck Dinner
September 25	Penny Neal will present a series on mental health  (Specific topics to be determined later)

Dinner is at 5:45 pm

Programs begin at 6:15 pm

### Thank You

A card was received from Robert & Carrie Vickers & Family thanking Bethel for the prayers & condolences for their father, Grant Simpson.

Thank you to all attendees, volunteers, and contributors who worked so hard to make our first Bethel Children's Music Camp such a success! June 10-14 eleven children spent a fun week at Bethel with super kids' music clinician Alyssa Hunek, learning to play many different instruments and presenting a program of songs called Camper's Concerto using those instruments. It was such a fun week, the kids did great and learned so much! Volunteers came to assist Alyssa everyday and also provided food for lunches, snacks, and a pre-performance supper for the young music makers and concert attendees. Instruments were loaned to Bethel for the children's use all week and the kids received special camp tee shirts to keep as a memento of their participation in this special music camp designed just for them. Extra special thanks to Mary Hook, Peggy Shepherd, Mandy Knies, Linda Brown, Jeff Paris, Alf Rybka, Phil Walsh, Jane Walsh, Susan Cutts, Susan Garner, and the many unsung heroes that made the Children's Music Camp possible. These special activities for the children take a lot of work, volunteer help, vision, time and money to provide. Through the kindness and generosity of donors we are able to offer such activities from time to time. If you would like to contribute to make these special activities possible you can designate an amount in your financial gifts to Bethel to be used for the children's music programs. Thank you so much for making this camp possible for our children and their friends. Without you we could not do it, so, again, thank you!! You are amazing!!

Blessings,

Becky Price



## Pool Party

End the summer with a splash!  
Melanie Sherrod will host a pool party for kids on Sunday, August 4th. Please call the church office of directions.



## Volunteer Need for Christmas Food Baskets

Peggy Sheppard for many years has done an amazing job at doing the shopping for our Christmas food baskets. She now feels like she needs to turn that baton over to someone new. The Service Team has a list of food items provided in each Christmas basket. The volunteer would order or shop for the food items and then either deliver, have delivered or ask a Service team member to help pick up and take to the church. If you would be willing to help the Service Team purchase the food items for the Christmas baskets, please contact Sue Jones at 865.384.4587 (cell - call or text) or 865.376.4434 (home).

Peggy thank you for your many years of helping with this project.

## H.O.M.E. Food Collection

Thank you to everyone who contributed food for our July HOME collection, which helps to support our local food pantry and helps feed hungry folks in our community.

For the month of August, our focus food will be **Cereal and 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 in-worship collection will be **Sunday, August 18th**.

**Pull Ups and Size 4 Diapers** are in high demand!



## Love Kitchen

The Love Kitchen will be held on Saturday, August 24th. We are need of cooks, servers, and helpers. The menu will be sloppy joes, chips, cole slaw, watermelon and dessert. Please let Marge Hettrick know if you can help in any way.



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
29	River Copeland
	Jeremy Gerberding
31	Carolyn Tulley

## Reminders

- Please contact the church office if you are interested in taking a CPR class.
- Children's Sunday school Resumes on Sunday, August 11th with Rally Day!



## A Note from the Finance Team

The Finance team would like to thank everyone for their contributions to Bethel of their time, talent and resources. We are a faith based congregation believing that God lead us in accomplishing all of the things he has planned for us to do so that we can share his good news with our community and the world. The team reviews the income and expenses of Bethel monthly and strives to keep everyone informed of where we stand financially. We are falling a little behind this year in our giving and of the first six months, there was only one month where our income exceeded our expenses in the General Fund. That is not to say that we are in any financial trouble, just to say that we need to keep an eye on things for the remainder of the year. Summer months are always a little lean because people are on vacation and may not be attending regularly. If you normally give on a weekly basis, please remember that you can mail in a check for the Sunday's you will not be able to attend. We trust that God will provide, but we have to do our part also. Bethel has a wonderful, caring church family and we could not continue to do God's work without each person, from the youngest to the oldest, and everyone in between.

<b>Debt Reduction Summary</b>							
6/30/19							
			6/30/19				
Gifts, Pledges							
& Building Use		Income	\$26,812.00				
Monthly Payments				Balance			
PILP	6,500.00			507,782.82			
PET Loan	450.00			52,198.38			
	6,950.00			559,981.20			
6 months payments			41,700.00				
Shortage of income to expenses		Expense	-\$14,888.00				
Mortgage Reserve Balance			\$10,013.63				
<b>Our General Fund Giving &amp; Summary of Expenses</b>							
Updated 6/30/19							
						% of Annual	
		YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted	% of YTD Budget		Budget	Annual Bdgt
Operating Income		\$102,419.00	\$123,850.00	82.70%		41.35%	\$247,700.00
Operating Expenses		\$116,998.00	\$124,500.00	93.97%		47.23%	\$247,700.00
		-\$14,579.00					

# August 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 Book Club 10	2	3
4 Faith Team Meeting 12:15	5	6	7 First Day of School - Roane County	8	9	10
11 Rally Day @ 9:30	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 H.O.M.E collection  Session Meeting 12:15	19	20	21 Fellowship Supper	22	23	24
25 Study Team Meeting	26	27	28 Supper and Study 5:45	29	30	31

## EACH WEEK:

Bethel Arts Ministry: Art Club Monday 10-Noon & Monday 5-7 pm

Taoist Tai Chi: Tuesday 5:30 -7 pm, Friday & Saturday 9:30-11 am

Choir Practice: Wednesdays 7 pm

Yoga: Thursdays 5:30 pm