

The Open Door

Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCUSA
Kingston, TN

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November 2021

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Hands of Mercy Food Pantry focus foods for November

Personal Grooming Items
(Soap, Shampoo, Toothbrushes,
Toothpaste, Shaving Items,
etc.)



From the Session: October 17, 2021 Session Meeting

Approved a Letter of Transfer for Jeff & Sherry Paris. They moved to Asheville, NC, and have found a new church home there.

Approved knobs with locks to be installed in the entrance doors at each end of the hallway of the third floor. Lockable doors will give a Family Promise family a stronger sense of security.

Approved calling a Congregation Meeting for November 14, 2021 to hear a report from the Nominating Committee and to elect officers.

Approved two Commissioners (Chuck Bunch & Cathy McDowell) to attend the November 9, 2021 Presbytery Meeting via Zoom.

Rev. James McTyre was our Moderator during this one hour meeting. Below are highlights Rev. McTyre shared with the session:

1. Right now, in our Presbytery it is a challenge to find Supply Pastors. It is a challenge to get Supply Pastors to drive any distance to preach. In trying to help small town churches,

the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) reached out to the United Methodists. In the Smokey Mountain Region, the Methodist Church has its church appointments filled. There are Methodist Ministers who are retired or between churches who would like to have pastoral responsibilities as Supply Pastors. Several Methodist Ministers responded – one of those was Rev. Bob Tripp, an early retired Methodist Minister in good standing; he lives in Loudon. Rev. Tripp will preach at Bethel on November 7.

2. The average search time for finding a new Installed Pastor is usually 1 to 2 years.

3. The formation of a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is “a ways down the road”, to quote Rev. McTyre.

Notes from Cathy:

Please know your session is fully engaged and working hard to understand the proper way forward. We ask for your patience and understanding. With the Congregation and the Session working together, and with help from above, we will all get through this. Please feel free to speak with any session member.

Cathy McDowell, Clerk of Session

Family Promise of Roane County

Family Promise will accept our first family for overnight shelter as soon as

October 31 – November 6.

Meals and other host church responsibilities will

be provided by Harriman United Methodist Church.

□ A big thank you to Paul and Will Jackson for their work in setting up the

rooms on the third floor for Family Promise use.

□ Bethel's third floor will serve as a static site, which means only one family

at a time will be provided accommodations on the third floor from 5:30 PM

7:30 AM. Bethel will provide food and hosting responsibilities during our

rotation, which will be once every 8 to 12 weeks. At present Bethel is

scheduled for the week of

December 19th. If you have questions, please

contact Jan Rybka at jgrybka@hotmail.com; 865-882-8836; 865-310-8836.

□ Family Promise has recently added three more support churches:

St. Andrews Episcopal in Harriman, Harriman United Methodist Church and Kingston United Methodist Church. It is an exciting time of growth and change for the program.

□ More good news. Family Promise has received a 50/50 matching grant from Belk for \$5,000.

If you wish to make a donation to Family Promise, your gift will be doubled! You can donate on the Family Promise website or

write a check to Family Promise of Roane County and put in the offering

plate or mail it to P.O. Box 605, Rockwood, TN.

We have also received a \$5,000 grant from the national Family Promise.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, November 14 immediately following worship, to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect officers. All are welcome at the meeting; only Bethel members can vote.

The nominees:

Amy Coen, Ken Dungan, Cyndi Fowler, Celia Simon for 3 year terms as elders on the Session

Kathy Banker for a 1 year term as elder on the Session
Mike McElhinney for a 3 year term as a Trustee on the Board of Trustees.

All terms will begin January 2022.

Memorials and Honorariums

In memory of Marc Sherrod from

Mark and Kathy Banker
Liz Singley

In memory of Karen Schall from

Jim and Mary B. Hines

In memory of Marianne Shadden from

Jim and Mary B. Hines

In memory of Anita Richmond from

Jill McMaster

In memory of Brenda Strickling from

Jill McMaster

In honor of Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff from

Liz Singley

Greg and Margaret Murr
Frank and Marilyn Harris

Birthdays for November

- 1 Diego Vanegas
- 2 Jack McNew
- 6 Macey Copeland
- 7 Lyric Rivera
- 13 Charlie King
- 14 Larry Koppelberger
- 16 Eyan Choate
- 27 Jim Gerberding
- 29 Cyndi Fowler
Bryson Turnbill

Equal Exchange Orders

Mandy is planning to take up orders a bit earlier since shipping has been taking longer lately. So, she will be taking orders Sunday, October 31 through November 7. This should ensure the order is received before Thanksgiving.

Presbytery Advice

YOUR PASTOR HAS LEFT - WHAT NOW?

Even in the best of circumstances, a pastor's exit is a loss. When a pastor leaves a ministry, both the congregation and the pastor need a time and a place for healing. Wounds don't heal instantly. The wounds in Body of Christ are no different. Go slow.

Here's the usual order of events in the Presbytery of East Tennessee.

1. A pastor lets the church's Session and the presbytery's Committee on Ministry know that s/he is leaving.
2. The pastor sends a letter to the congregation informing them of the coming departure.
3. The Session calls a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of asking the Committee on Ministry to dissolve the relationship between the pastor and the congregation. This meeting will normally happen after the pastor has completed her/his last day of active service in the congregation.
4. The Committee on Ministry will appoint a Minister of Word and Sacrament who is a member of the presbytery to be the Moderator of the Session and its meetings.
5. The Session, with the assistance of the Committee on Ministry, will contract with temporary Ministers to serve as Supply Pastors for one or more Sundays. Supply Pastors may contract with the Session to perform emergency visitations and other duties as agreed.
6. The Session may, with the assistance of the Committee on Ministry, decide upon and contract with an Interim or Transitional Pastor to provide longer-term stability for the congregation until another Pastor is called and installed to the congregation.
7. The congregation will elect a Pastor Nominating Committee to perform the duties of assessing the congregation's needs and searching for a new Pastor.

***Copied from <https://www.presbyteryeasttn.org/calling>

The Call Process

