

The Open Door

Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCUSA
Kingston, TN

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Session Highlights

February 20, 2022

The average in-person Sanctuary Worship attendance for January 2022 was 64; and for Facebook Live the average was around 150.

For many years, the elders have taken turns doing a monthly devotion. Kathy Banker did the January Devotion and Chuck Bunch the February Devotion.

At the February 12, 2022 Presbytery Meeting, Rev. Nancy Coleman was received into membership and will be our Interim pastor. Nancy's first

day at Bethel will be March 14, 2022. Rev. Sharon Youngs, Pastor of First Presbyterian Oak Ridge, will be Bethel's Liaison Pastor with the Presbytery while we seek a permanent pastor.

Rev. Nancy (she prefers that everyone refer to her as Nancy) was welcomed to the February Zoom Session meeting. Nancy spoke briefly to the Session (introducing herself) and then observed the rest of the meeting. Chuck Bunch will get an article into the Roane County News about Nancy and get the outdoor sign changed reflecting Nancy's name.

The youth, through the Study Team, collected the Souper Bowl Offering. Thanks to all who contributed; \$444 was collected and will help fund the RCCM Garden Grant Program.

The Session received two helpful graphs from Brenda Bunch (Finance Team) showing Bethel giving trends from 2016 through December 31, 2021.

The Study Team shared the wonderful news that they will be offering Sunday School for children, youth, and adults beginning March 6, 2022. Due to the Covid pandemic, it has been almost two years since we have been able to have SS.

More great news – Bethel, through the Service Team, will host the Love Kitchen meal in Rockwood on Saturday, May 14, 2022

Gary Griffith is making a shelf to go above the sanctuary entry door. The little shelf will hold the video camera that is used for streaming our worship service via Facebook Live. Once the camera is located above the doorway; the back pews will not have to be roped off.

Much appreciation was expressed to Rev. Paul Young who has Moderated our last four Session Meetings (November & December of 2021; January & February 2022). Rev. Coleman will begin moderating our Session Meetings in March.

Our next Session Meeting will be March 20, 2020.

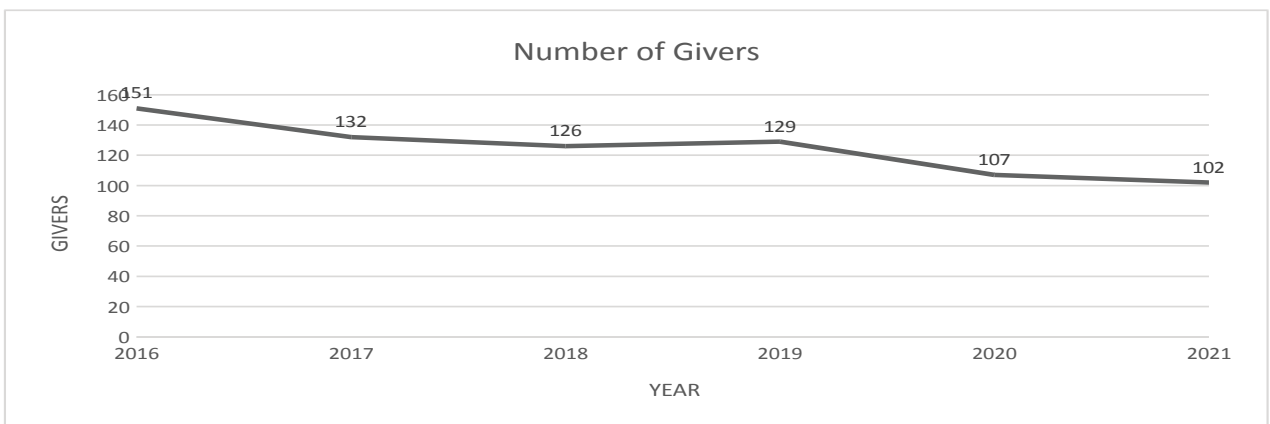
Cathy McDowell
Clerk of Session

Giving Trends Chart (2016-2021) is on another page in this Open Door.

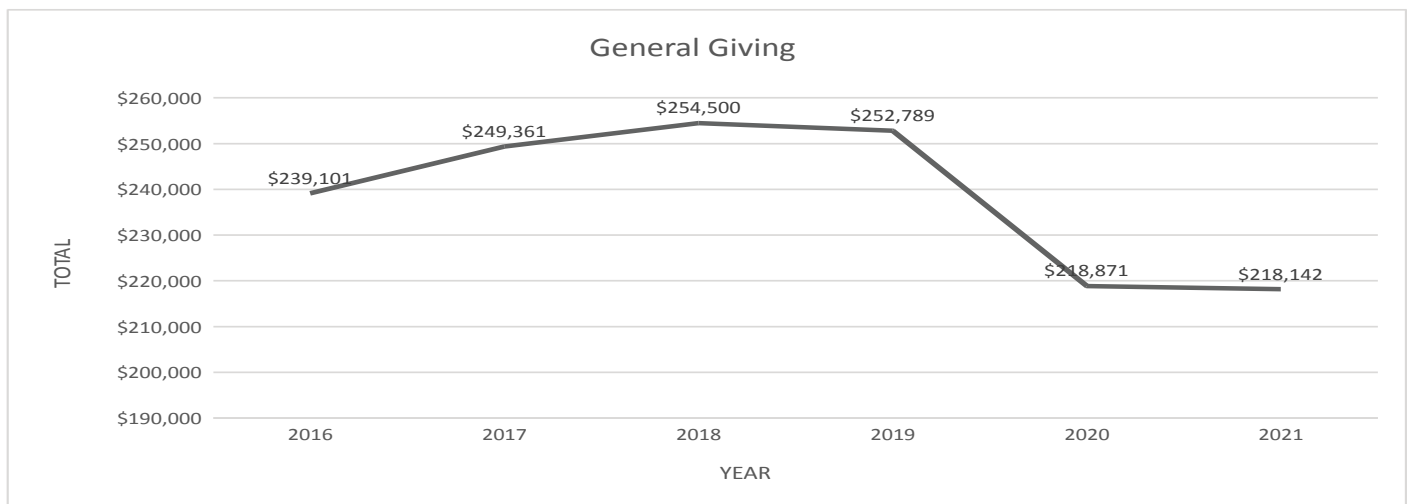
TOTAL ANNUAL GIVING AND NUMBER OF GIVERS PER CONTRIBUTION RANGE REPORT

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Giving	\$ 374,776	\$ 358,215	\$ 464,327	\$ 385,418	\$ 309,412	\$ 412,487
Designated Giving	\$ 135,675	\$ 108,854	\$ 209,827	\$ 132,629	\$ 90,541	\$ 194,345
General Giving	\$ 239,101	\$ 249,361	\$ 254,500	\$ 252,789	\$ 218,871	\$ 218,142
Number of Giving Records	460	460	460	460	460	460
Giving Nothing	309	328	334	331	353	358
Number of Givers	151	132	126	129	107	102
Total \$ Given per Giver	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,714	\$ 3,685	\$ 2,988	\$ 2,892	\$ 4,044
General \$ Given per Giver	\$ 1,583	\$ 1,889	\$ 2,020	\$ 1,960	\$ 2,046	\$ 2,139

GRAPHS



NOTE: Number of Givers has declined due to deaths, moves, change in membership, etc.



NOTE: The decline in active membership due to deaths, moves, etc., as well as the pandemic, has led to a steep decline in General Giving in 2020 and 2021.

Meet our Interim Pastor Rev. Nancy Coleman

Dear Friends,

It is with great joy that I anticipate beginning my time as your pastor on March 14. You may be aware that I have recently completed my first interim position (and first pastorate) at Providence Forge Presbyterian Church, just outside of Richmond, Virginia, where I served for eighteen months. I look forward to bringing the lessons I learned there to Bethel Presbyterian and helping to guide you through the exciting (and perhaps daunting) task of finding your next installed pastor.

One of the things that attracted me to Bethel is the commitment you have to being the hands and feet of Christ in your community. I enjoyed reading on your website about your involvement with Family Promise, Hands of Mercy Enterprises, Christmas Food Baskets, Prison Ministry, and others. My

own missions experience has been long and varied, beginning with spring break mission trips as a college student at Carson-Newman. After graduation I served for two years as a youth director in Hong Kong through the Missionary Journeyman program of the Southern Baptist Convention. From 1999 through 2007 our family volunteered with Mercy Ships, a ministry of hope and healing to the poor and needy on the west coast of Africa. We had the privilege of living in England, Ghana, and Liberia during our time with Mercy Ships. Following our move to my hometown of Maryville in 2008, my husband Mark and I, along with our two youngest children, became well-acquainted with the work of Family Promise and were regular overnight volunteers when families stayed at our former church, Monte Vista Baptist in Maryville.

I joined New Providence Presbyterian Church in Maryville in 2016, was elected as a deacon in early 2017, and became an Inquirer with the Presbytery of East Tennessee later that same year. In November 2019 I was certified ready for a call by the presbytery, and in 2020 I started my position in Providence Forge.

Mark and I have four grown children: Neil, Andrew, Cara and Sam. Andrew is married to Kristen, and they have two children, Charlotte (4) and Thomas (1), who are the most amazing grandchildren in the world (although I'm sure some of you would have an argument with that!).

My first Sunday will be March 20, and I look forward to meeting many of you on that day and others in the days and weeks to follow. Peace, Nancy



- In memory of Rev. Dick Hettrick from Mark and Kathy Banker
- In memory of Rev. Marc Sherrod from Mark and Kathy Banker
- In memory of Brenda Strickling from Clay and Nancy Landers
- In memory of James Woodard from Liz Singley
- In memory of Carolyn Tully from Jill McMaster
- In memory of Moira Kop-

In Memorium

- pelberger from Jill McMaster, Gary Lemasters, Rick and Regina Durham, Frank and Marilyn Harris, Chuck and Brenda Bunch
- In memory of Jacob Murr from Liz Singley
- In memory of the Henley Family, Carl, June, Carlyle and Calvin from Anita Nerhus
- In memory of Tom Pickel from JoAnn Moore, Jim and Mary B. Hines



- In memory of Rev. Marc Sherrod from John and Carolyn Matthews
- In memory of Jacob Murr from Jim and Mary B. Hines
- In memory of Karen Schall from Jim and Mary B. Hines
- In memory of Tom Pickel from JoAnn Moore, Jim and Mary B. Hines
- In memory of Rev. Marc Sherrod from John and Carolyn Matthews

SHE'S BACK! LYRIC AND FRIENDS TAKE TWO!!

A duet flute recital will be presented on Sunday, March 6 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary at Bethel. The artists are two rising young flutists in the world of music who forged a bond early in their lives when both were students at the prestigious Interlochen Music Academy as high schoolers.. They developed not only a lifelong friendship but a performance chemistry in tandem that is exciting and palpable! Bethel's own Lyric Rivera recently graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Her good friend, Ipek Karataylioglu from Istanbul, Turkey, is in her fourth year at the Juilliard School in NYC in the studio of Robert Langevin. You are warmly welcomed to come enjoy the extraordinary music making of this lovely, young dynamic duo!

Family PromiseThe national model has made adjustments to accommodate COVID issues. Family Promise of Roane County is using a hybrid model at this time. Instead of several families rotating from church to church each week, one family is housed in one facility (called a static site) for their duration in the program. At present Bethel is acting as a static sight with plans for Harriman United Methodist to become a second static sight in the near future. Host churches continue to provide meals on a rotational basis. We now have 15 host and support churches. Greg Chadwick became the

Fair Trade Orders

Mandy will be taking orders March 6-13th. Prices on many items have increased due to supply chain issues. She will have a new price list in the Fair Trade email and on order forms on the Fair Trade cart. Questions and orders can be sent to bethelpcusa@gmail.com.

March Birthdays

- 1 Elaine Steele
- 2 Dianne Griffith
Bina Kirby
Jean Young
- 3 Mae Gallaher
Duie Swicegood
- 4 Mark Preston
- 5 Hailey Choate
Vic King
Dan McDowell
- 8 Charlie Coen
- 9 Kathy Banker
- 12 Janna Brown
- 13 Linda Choate

new director of Family Promise of Roane County in June 2021. Greg is working with several families through a new intervention and diversion program. He intervenes with landlords and agencies to assist families to avoid losing housing. In the past month intervention was successful for three families (which included 8 children). This requires continued case management, but is a cost-effective way to meet the needs of families that are 'financially on the edge'. A grant has been secured to hire a part-time case manager to help with this program expansion. Family Promise of Roane County recently received a grant from The Grow with Google Career Certificate Scholarship

Good News!

Bethel Sunday school will resume March 6, 2022. There will be classes for all ages. We are excited to offer a new class for young adults. A member of the Study Team will be in the gathering area to answer any questions. We look forward to seeing you there.

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| | Gary Griffith |
| 14 | Travis Brown
Shawn Hart |
| 15 | Will Jackson |
| 17 | Hayden Jacks |
| 19 | Stacey Copeland
Marge Hettrick |
| 26 | Justin Murr |
| 27 | Amy Gurtis
Greg Murr |
| 28 | Peggy Sheppard |
| 29 | Nancy King |
| 30 | Sherry Paris
Viviana Vanegas |

Program. This grant provides technical training for up to 20 people. The training results in Google certifications in one or more of the following areas: IT Support, UX Design, Project Management, and Data Analytics. Google is in partnership with many high-tech companies seeking people with these certifications. These certificate programs are available to anyone associated with Family Promise of Roane County, including volunteers and our partnering agencies. Nationally, these jobs have a wage earning range from \$50,000 to \$67,000 a year. Some of the areas of greatest need are food and gas gift cards and money for auto repairs and crisis issues (high utilities, medical needs, etc.)

Roane County Cooperative Ministries

Thanks to all of you who made "Souper Bowl Sunday" donations that will once again support Roane County Cooperative Ministries' Garden Grant Program. This will supplement a grant that we will receive from the Presbytery of East Tennessee's Hunger Program. If you were unable to make a donation but would still like to help, we welcome your support. Just get a check to the church office to BPC with a designation to RCCM. If you prefer a more "modern"

donation approach, get with me and we will work it out.

Over the past 30 years, Bethel has contributed to RCCM in essential ways. Of course, Dick Hettrick's vision and hard work over more than a decade made RCCM a reality. Many others from Bethel volunteered in the office and worked directly with neighbors who needed assistance in paying for utilities, rent, and countless emergency matters.

Several Bethel members, including Roger Richmond and Sue Jones have served unselfishly on the RCCM Board of Directors, and Kirk Steele is currently a board member. And for more than ten years, John

Leitnaker, who grew up at Bethel, served as volunteer Executive

Director, and led RCCM through an important transitional era. In recent months, Paul Jackson and Alf Rybka have been essential volunteers, and Brenda Bunch recently completed a required financial review for us. With John Leitnaker's retirement last fall, RCCM entered yet another transitional era, and as always we need and greatly appreciate your support and prayers. We now share our office (across Stinnett Street from the Kingston Post Office) and outreach with the Roane County arm of the Salvation Army. Our part-time, (minimally paid!) office Manager, Lisa Stegman and Board member / Salvation Army volunteer, Diane James along with volunteers maintain regular office hours during which they serve those who seek our assistance.

Temporarily those hours are 9 a.m. to noon on Monday and Thursday, but when things "get back to normal," we hope to return our "regular" hours: 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesday and Thursday. We encourage Bethel friends to visit during office hours to learn more about our work.

Looking ahead, we know that continued financial support and volunteers from Bethel will be essential to our work.

- We need additional volunteers to help meet and gather essential information from those seeking assistance during regular office hours.

- Our long-time book keeper is hoping to retire soon, and we need a replacement for her. It is not essential that this person be an accountant. He/she should be acquainted with basic book keeping practices and able to use the software program, QuickenBooks. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, let me know, and I can provide more details.

- We also hope to find someone who has experience in grants solicitation, grant writing, etc.

Finally, in this current phase of RCCM's history, we are especially committed to the second word in our name: Cooperative. We are working more closely than ever with other helping agencies in the county. Many of these, like Family Promise, already benefit immensely from Bethel support.

Thank you for taking time to read this. You can contact me any time if you have questions or would like to help RCCM in any way. MTBanker1951@gmail.com; 865-748-0304. Mark Banker, Chair of RCCM Board of Directors.

Roane County Schools Spring Break March 14-18

