

The Open Door

Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCUSA
Kingston, TN

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Session Highlights March 20, 2022

The average in-person Sanctuary Worship attendance for February 2022 was 55; and for Facebook Live the average was around 130.

Amy Coen did the March Devotion.

Rev. Nancy Coleman began her time as our Interim Pastor on March 14, 2022. March 20 was Nancy's first time to moderate a Bethel Session Meeting. Thank you Nancy, for being with Bethel.

In light of new CDC guidelines and declining numbers in Roane County, the Session has made the following changes to our COVID policy:

- Masks will now be optional inside the building. However, our strong preference is that, for your own protection, those of you who are unvaccinated will continue to wear masks.
- Food may be served inside the building. Those serving food should wear masks and gloves.
- For the time being, the offering will continue to be collected with ushers coming to each side of the pew instead of passing the plate. However, other items – such as palm branches for Palm Sunday – may be passed out.

In-person Sunday School began on March 6, 2022. Three adult classes and three children's classes are being offered. The new young adult class began successfully.

The nursery is available during Sunday school and worship, thanks to the return of Chelsi Doss, our nursery worker.

Ellen Dailey is working on a Parish Care List for the elders.

Bethel has received a \$750 Technology Grant from the Presbytery of East Tennessee. The Grant will be used to offset

part of the cost of the new computer in the church office.

The Finance Team recommended, and the Session passed a motion to approve there being an online donation link on Bethel's Facebook page. You will see the Give to Bethel link at the beginning of our Facebook page as a Pinned post. This link was added for the convenience of those who use Facebook. Thanks to Jake Horton for adding this link.

General repairs: Thanks to Gary Griffith for working with Woody Bros. to repair the flashing on the kitchen roof and the steeple. The cost of the repair was \$ 450.

The Session will again meet in person, after Worship, beginning at the April 24 meeting – this will be the first completely in-person meeting in over two years. Normally, the Session meets the third Sunday of each month; the April meeting will be on the fourth Sunday due to Easter being on the 17th.

Communion

will be served on Easter Sunday, April 17, using prepackaged wafers and juice. If you plan to attend virtually, consider picking up a set from the church office during the week.

Susan out of office April 18-29

Since Susan will be on vacation April 18-29, volunteers to answer the phone are needed from 9 am to Noon for ten days. It is easy, involving taking messages and transferring calls to the Pastor's office. Please call Bethel Office 865-376-6340 to sign up.

*Happy
Birthday*

April Birthdays

- 3 Amanda Purushotham
- 4 Jeremy Copeland
Laura Windhausen
- 6 Mary Kathryn Willett
- 9 Bill Sides
- 10 Cathy McDowell
- 13 Sherry Burchfield
- 17 Chuck Brumley
- 19 Clay Landers
Sheryl Stadnik
- 22 Dolores Sandmel
- 23 Sophie Crocker
- 27 Sarah Applegate
David Choate
Joni Morgan
- 28 Nancy Braski

Mortgage Interest Rebate

Many of you know the mortgage that funded our last renovation to Bethel is with a Presbyterian program called Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc. or PILP. This organization acts much like a savings and loan, in that they offer investment opportunities in the form of notes with varying maturity options, then use these funds to lend money to churches for building projects. The mortgage payments in turn are used to repay the notes with interest at maturity. As an incentive for investors, PILP has a program which rebates interest paid by Bethel, if sufficient investments are in sponsorship of Bethel mortgage. Thanks to our congregation and the Presbytery of East Tennessee, the invested fund sponsoring Bethel have always exceeded those necessary to receive our rebate. So, once again this year, we received a check rebating \$1,811.11 in interest. While this rebate is less than the previous year's \$2,526.07, we paid less interest in 2021 because of a generous bequest from Tom Pickel, which significantly lowered the loan balance. Thank you for your support of the PILP with your investments and thank you for your support with your contribution toward our mortgage payments.

Piccolo Fund

In appreciation for all the beautiful music Lyric Rivera has shared with our Bethel family over the years, the Session voted to offer the congregation an opportunity to contribute to the cost of her new piccolo. If you choose to participate, make your check out to Lyric Rivera Piccolo Fund . A basket for these contributions will be labeled and placed in the Gathering Area and in the church office. You can also contribute by Pay-Pal referencing the Lyric Rivera Piccolo Fund and using Bethel's address. These gifts are not deductible as contributions for tax purposes. Lyric plans to perform this summer at the amphitheater, so we would like to collect as much as we can by May 1. She has been a blessing to us. Let's try to return the favor.

--Chuck Bunch, Ken Dungan



Notes from Rev Nancy

Dear Friends,

Let me first of all tell you how much I appreciate the warm welcome that I have received since beginning my time with Bethel on March 13. It has been great to meet so many of you in person and to speak with others on the phone. I look forward to continuing to get to know more of you in the days and weeks ahead.

Some of you may be asking, "What exactly does an interim pastor do?" It's a great question! Of course, I will be doing all of the things that a pastor normally does: leading worship on Sundays; visiting people in the hospital, in their homes, and elsewhere; moderating our Session meetings; keeping regular office hours at the church; and so on. In addition to these tasks, an interim pastor—ideally one with some specialized training—helps to lead the congregation through a time of transition. As we go through the interim period, we will be asking ourselves three overarching questions about our church:

Who are we?

Who is our neighbor?

Who has God called us to be?

Each one of you has a special role to play in helping to answer these questions over our next months together. It is a process that must be led by the Holy Spirit, and it's not one that can be rushed. How well we answer these questions will to a large extent determine how well prepared we are to move into the future God has for us.

In next month's Open Door, I will give you more specific information about the interim process and ways that you may be involved. In the meantime, here are two other questions for you to be thinking about:

What was it that brought you to Bethel?
What is it that causes you to stay?

I would love for you to drop by my office sometime and give me your answer to these two questions!

Peace to you,

Nancy



Easter Egg Hunt

Bethel kids, toddler through 5th grade, will have an Easter egg hunt during Sunday School time on Easter Sunday. They will meet in the Gathering Area at 9:30 am and walk together to Bethel Cemetery for the egg hunt.



Easter Sunrise Service

Easter Sunrise Service will begin at 7 am on the Back Patio. All are welcome to bring friends.

Easter Breakfast after Sunrise Service

Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall after the sunrise service is over. Donations will be accepted.

Faith Team Update

The Faith Team assists the Pastor in worship preparation and special services planning. Members are drawn from the choir, the church musician, and interested volunteers. This team also oversees advertisements in the local news media in coordination with the Communications Team. The Faith Team ensures there are candles and decor for worship, complementary music, communion elements and servers as well as liturgists, ushers, and acolytes.

At present, the Faith Team is focusing on meaningful worship experiences and getting more of the congregation involved. Let Amy Coen or Susan Cutts in the church office know if you can help.

- Can you coordinate volunteers to cover ushers or liturgists or acolytes?
- Can you arrange décor or assist with All Things Candles?
- Are you ready to up your game in the music department?
- Would you be available to read scripture, recite poetry, or provide special music in another language on Pentecost Sunday, June 5?
- Do you want to join the team meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 via Zoom?
- --Amy Coen

Music Opportunities

The NoonTime Recital Series of Kingston will offer three recitals for you to enjoy at the amphitheater located at Southwest Pointe in the coming months. You are warmly welcomed to enjoy the following:

Friday, April 29..... Roane State Blue Grass Band

Friday, May 27..... Lyric Rivera, Flute and Piccolo

Friday, June TBA..Brenda Luggie, Soprano

These concerts are free and open to the public. The concerts are short, begin at 12noon and last approximately 30 minutes. As they take place during the noon hour and are in an outdoor setting you are welcome to bring a sack lunch if you so desire. Though the seating is comfortable, it is built-in outdoor seating, so if you prefer a back to your seating or extra cushioning you may wish to bring your own stadium seat or cushion.

The Noontime Recital Series is a gift to the residents of Kingston from Rebecca Price. Please direct any questions to her at rebeccabprice1@gmail.com.

*When
words fail,
Music
speaks*

Facebook Donate Link

A permanent “pinned” post has been added to the top of Bethel Presbyterian Church’s Facebook page. The post provides a link, <https://www.bethelpcusa.org/giveFB>, which may be used by people wishing to make a financial gift to the Church. Clicking the link will lead to the Giving Center located on Bethel Presbyterian Church’s website. From there, users may process financial gifts to the Church via PayPal. Gifts may be designated for use in specific funds within the Church, or they may be designated for use “where it is most needed.”

All financial gifts to Bethel Presbyterian Church are deductible for tax purposes, and users may request to receive a receipt to document their gift. While PayPal does charge a very small fee for processing financial gifts to the Church, this fee is paid by the Church and does not affect the total amount of the gift or the total amount of tax deduction available.

As always, we appreciate the gifts of all of our members, whether in time, talent, or financial contribution, as we continue to do God’s work together

--Jake Horton



Easter Coloring Page

