

# *The Open Door*

*Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCUSA*  
*Kingston, TN*

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**Canned Meat (Tuna,  
Chicken, Spam)**

## **Session Highlights** **April 24, 2022**

The average in-person Sanctuary Worship attendance for March 2022 was 63 and for Facebook Live the average was 130.

For the Ash Wednesday Service, the Sanctuary Attendance was around 40 and Facebook Live was 139.

Ellen Daily did the April Devotion.

Sharon Pinner has been the Director of Hands of Mercy Food Pantry for many years. Sharon has retired; a new Director has not yet been named.

Communications Team – Some of the new audio equipment has arrived.

Faith Team – This Team will prepare for Communion the first Sunday of each month.

Fellowship Team – Ellen Daily is leading the Session on an in-depth look at Bethel's Active Roll. The elders are thinking about a letter to those on the Active Roll who have had no contact with Bethel for many many years – inviting them to come back, and letting them know they are missed and about opportunities available at Bethel. There will be a Fellowship Supper on May 18, 2022. The Ladies Day Luncheon will be May 14, 2022.

Finance Team – This Team has worked diligently to update all bank accounts to ensure that all signatories on any Bethel Bank Account are current members and active in the church. A Certified Public Accounting firm will be selected to do Bethel's Financial Review for 2021.

Personnel Team – Bethel's street sign has been updated to reflect Rev. Coleman's name. There was an article in the April 8, 2022 edition of the Roane County News about Bethel welcoming a new Pastor.

Property Team – an ad hoc committee has been formed to study the costs and feasibility of solar panels for Bethel.

Service Team – There will be a Love Kitchen meal in Rockwood on May 14, 2022. The Team is looking into reinstating the Prison Ministry.

Study Team – The children and parents enjoyed an Easter egg hunt on Easter morning at the Bethel cemetery. The Study Team plans to have all children together for Sunday School this summer with youth helping.

Rev. Coleman had compiled information for the Session about the Interim/Transition Process going forward. The Session agreed to having a Process with no Timeline.

The next Session meeting is May 15, 2022.

The next Presbytery meeting is May 17, 2022 at Sequoyah Birthplace Museum in Vonore.

**Cathy McDowell**  
**Clerk of Session**



# Family Promise

## May Birthdays

- 1 Avery Parish
- 2 Jennifer Vandever
- 4 Bram Hyder
- 5 Jane Pickel
- 6 Joe Coen
- 7 Samantha Rybka
- 8 Nidia Crocker  
Mike Skinner
- 9 Rachel Dailey Gallaher
- 10 Nancy Maynard
- 11 Erick Crocker
- 12 Celia Simon
- 16 Jim Hines
- 18 Linda Gerth
- 19 Maggie Dungan
- 20 John Carter  
Loftin Gerberding
- 23 Chuck Bunch
- 24 Marianna Oonk  
Kalyani Purushotham
- 26 Mark Patton  
Jane Walsh
- 28 Jackson Gerberding  
Robert Vickers
- 29 Donald Cross
- 30 Julie Bunch Barber  
Karen Hart
- 31 Vernon Law



Family Promise of Roane County continues to expand its efforts to assist families who are homeless or are in danger of becoming homeless.

We continue to shelter a family of two at Bethel. This family is still going through difficult times, with health and extended family issues. Please keep them in your prayers. They asked me to express their thanks for all you do.

We have a second family of three (mom, dad, 3-month-old boy) who will shelter at Harriman United Methodist. Dad is working at a fast-food restaurant. Mom will be working toward her GED.

A member of Harriman United Methodist has given Family Promise a house, which we hope to use for transitional housing. More information will follow later.

By the time this newsletter is delivered, Bethel will have completed our turn of providing meals. Delivery to two sites will be worked out. Thanks to all

who provide meals, money and gift cards. Our next turn will be the week of July 3rd.

Through the Prevention and Diversion component of Family Promise, another family with a one-year-old was saved from becoming homeless this month. Kingston United Methodist provided furniture and clothing to some of our families during the last two months. They have made the Clothes Closet available to Family Promise as needed.

Family Promise of Roane County received \$10,000 from Clayton Homes Prevention and Diversion Grant this month. It is a matching grant. This is an opportunity to double the impact of your donation.

If you have questions or concerns about the grant or other matters concerning Family Promise of Roane County, please contact Jan Rybka at 865-882-8836; 865-310-8836; [jgrybka@hotmail.com](mailto:jgrybka@hotmail.com).

## Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast

About 30 people attended and were fed breakfast, including visiting family and friends, and folks from KUMC and other area churches. It was a light turnout compared to most pre-covid years, but there was lots of good conversation, laughter, fellowship, and a great Worship Service by Rev. Coleman. The menu was biscuits with options of sausage, gravy, bacon;

bagels; muffins; fruit salad; bananas; milk, orange juice, tea, coffee and Ken's warm-from-the-oven cinnamon buns.

The kitchen crew --- Celia Simon, Ken Dungan, and Liz on prep; and on cleanup, Elaine Steele, Ken Dungan, Celia Simon, Gary Griffith, and Liz. (information from Liz Singley & Elaine Steele)

# Notes from Rev Nancy

Dear Friends,

Happy season of Easter to each of you! For the next few weeks leading up to Pentecost Sunday on June 5, we will be celebrating the resurrection of our Lord, while at the same time observing all the signs of new life occurring in the natural world around us. What an appropriate time for the official beginning of Bethel's transition process.

Now that I have had a few weeks to settle in and start getting to know folks, it is time to put together a transition team. This team (for which I will serve as facilitator) will be charged with guiding the congregation through the transition process. They will help us to look at the following five focus areas in preparation for electing the PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee):

(1) Heritage: How have we been shaped and formed?

What have been our successes and failures?

(2) Leadership: How do we organize for effective leadership?

What kind of leaders do we need? How do we honor outgoing leaders and equip new leaders?

(3) Mission: What is our core vision? What are our values? Where do we place our focus? Who and what is God calling us to be?

(4) Connections: Who do we relate to beyond ourselves? Who is our neighbor?

(5) Future: How do we move forward? What are our next steps? How do we achieve our goals and dreams?

We are looking to the congregation for input on who should serve on this team and are asking each of you to write down the names of four people on the form below.

These people should exhibit the following qualities:

- Trusted and respected by the congregation
- Prayerful
- Regular attenders (attendance may be virtual)
- Able to listen and hear all perspectives
- Open to change

Please take time to pray about these names before turning in the form. You may place the completed form in the offering plate on Sunday morning, drop it by the church at your convenience, or send it by mail to Bethel Presbyterian Church, 203 S Kentucky St, Kingston, TN 37763. You can also submit from Bethel's Facebook page via Messenger. Please feel free to write down your own name if you are interested in being a part of this team. I appreciate your input and look forward to the days ahead as we continue to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance for Bethel's future.

Peace to you,  
Nancy



*"When we study together, we learn together, we work together and we prosper together."*

*--Barack Obama*

## TRANSITION TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

After prayerful consideration, I would like to recommend the following people for the Transition Team of Bethel Presbyterian Church.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

## *May 14th Love Kitchen*

Bethel will be hosting a Love Kitchen meal at the First Presbyterian Church of Rockwood on Saturday, May 14th at 4:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to provide food and to serve about 55 people. Volunteers and food will need to arrive by 2:30 pm to prepare. The menu includes chicken salad, pasta salad, rolls, jello pretzel strawberry salad, brownies, and drinks. Please contact Joan Pharis if you can help out and/or if you need recipes for these items.

## *Ladies Luncheon*

The Annual Bethel Ladies Luncheon will be held Saturday, May 14th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Our lunch will be catered by Bettye Rose Bakery in Kingston. The cost is \$7 per person. The deadline to RSVP is Monday, May 9th!

## *Fellowship Dinner*

The first fellowship dinner in many, many months will be held Wednesday, May 18th at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. We will serve a set menu of meat and vegetarian lasagnas, baked spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert, and drinks. The meal will be served by designated members who will be masked and gloved, per our current Covid-19 precautions here at Bethel. We will celebrate our 2022 graduates: Pedro Crocker, Roane County High School and Mandy Knies, ETSU (Master's degree).

## *LUNCH WITH LYRIC!!*

On May 27th at 12Noon please join Lyric Rivera for lunch and be delighted once again by her beautiful music making on her magic flute! Well, it's not really magic, of course, but she creates magic with it it seems every time we hear her play!! . This time Lyric will be enchanting us at the amphitheater at Kingston's Southwest Pointe, which is a lovely setting on the river, with seating built into the hillside behind the fort's welcome center. Park at the welcome center and take a short walk around the gravel path to the seating area. Limited handicapped parking is available at the site, and someone will be available to shuttle by car anyone who feels they may have difficulty walking the path. Picnic lunches are available to preorder from Bettye Rose Bakery in Kingston (contact Becky Price to arrange order at [rebeccabprice1@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccabprice1@gmail.com)) and will be delivered to you at the concert...or feel welcome to pack a lunch yourself and bring it to enjoy as Lyric shares music with you in the great outdoors! In case of rain, hail, sleet or snow we can't speak for the post office and your mail delivery, but the concert will be held at Bethel Presbyterian

*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



# *Coloring Page*

*Happy Mother's Day*

