

The Open Door

Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCUSA
Kingston, TN

Volume 19, Issue 7

July 2022

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Session Highlights

There was no Session Meeting in June of 2022

Our Pastor Rev. Nancy Coleman tested positive for COVID on June 23, 2022. She was at home resting. We could not find a PCUSA minister to moderate our 12:15 June 26 Session Meeting, so the meeting was canceled. What follows is just shared as information.

Worship Attendance: May 2022 average in-person Sanctuary attendance was 67 (from Sanc-

tuary tablet) and the April 2022 average Facebook Worship attendance was 122.

On May 27, 2022 the Session approved by email (e-vote) up to \$4,000 to pay for the engagement of a CPA firm to complete the review of Bethel's 2021 financial records by "agreed upon procedure;" there was no one in-house to do the review.

An e-vote was approved by the Session on June 25, 2022 to purchase a new four drawer fire protection cabinet for the Bethel office. The current fire protection cabinet was purchased in 2002 (20 years old) and is still in excellent condition, but is at capacity. The office badly needs additional fire protection storage for important documents and permanent records.

Faith Team – Special music for summer Sundays is being coordinated by Judy Yeaworth.

For the May 27 Noontime Recital Series, 48 attended the event at Bethel to hear soprano Brenda Luggie perform a blend of story-telling pieces as well as folk melodies. Ms. Luggie is the

Choral Director and Associate Professor of Music at Roane State Community College. The performance was held at Bethel because of inclement weather at Southwest Point; Cake Lady Vicky Davis was brought indoors to serve delightful individually packaged cupcakes.

Finance Team – as of the end of May 2022, Bethel's Mortgage Loan Balance is \$299,389.

Study Team – The Study Team has started the summer session of Sunday School using the MarketPlace theme. The children and youth will come together to learn about life during Biblical times through Bible stories and crafts.

Cathy McDowell
Clerk of Session





Family Promise

A quick look at the past year:

June 2021

- Hired new director, Greg Chadwick
- Had seven host congregations and four support churches
- Program available for 7 months of the year
- Began to develop new approach to serving families during and post COVID.

June 2022

- Added part time case manager to staff
- 12 host congregations and four support churches
- Serving families in two static sites: family of two at Bethel, one family of and one family of seven at Harriman United Methodist.
- One family of three 'graduated' to permanent housing.
- Helped several families avoid becoming homeless through prevention and intervention grant.
- Working with KUMC Clothes Closet to provide clothes and household goods to families.
- Was selected by KUMC Clothes Closet as one of their first charities to receive monies from their profits: approximately \$4,000 thus far.
- Received \$10,000 matching grant from Clayton Homes Grant Fund, of which over half of matching funds have already been raised.

Host Churches:
Board of Trustees:

Bethel Presbyterian
Melanie Sherrod

1st Christian Oak Ridge
Steven Sherman

1st Christian and 1st Presbyterian Rockwood Sunny Ridings

1st United Methodist Oak Ridge

Harriman United Methodist
Kevin Gray

Kingston Church of Christ
Morrison Hill Christian
Christina Shuey & Miranda Goss

New Life Church of God
Julia Lovins

New Midway Baptist
Redeemer Lutheran
Saint Andrews Episcopal
Brad Jones & Chuck Schwaner

Williams Chapel & Speights
Chapel AME

Support Church:
Kingston United Methodist

Not affiliated w/host church:
Ken Beauchamp
Emily Gonzales

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jan Rybka at 865-310-8836;
jgrybka@hotmail.com

July Birthdays

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | William Buddy Patton |
| | Anneke Oonk |
| 5 | Paul Wayne Jackson, Jr. |
| 6 | Ellen Evans Kellogg Amy Evans Rourke |
| 7 | Mabel Copeland Maris Neal Macey Neal |
| 11 | Susan Cutts Bill Martin Orlando Vanegas, Sr. |
| 14 | Ryne Knies |
| 16 | Jan Rybka |
| 17 | Robinette Garner |
| 19 | Nancy Coleman |
| 20 | Darrell Guy Veronica Kirby Poland |
| 21 | Dan Hyder |
| 22 | Jeff Paris Anne Sides |
| 27 | Mandy Phillips Knies |
| 28 | Jonathan Dailey |



Notes from Rev Nancy

Dear Friends,

I write this on day 5 with Covid 19; my mom and my husband are a couple of days behind me. Since all of our symptoms have so far been fairly mild, I have become even more appreciative of those who developed both the excellent vaccinations and the amazing treatments for this potentially life-threatening illness. I am also grateful to live in a place and a time where each of these is readily available.

As I prepare for preaching this coming Sunday (July 3) about Naaman the leper from 2 Kings 5, I am struck by both the similarities and the differences between his situation and the one in which we find ourselves today. While we may manage to fool ourselves that our global pandemic is over until our own or a loved one's diagnosis jerks us back to reality, Naaman was under no such illusions. He knew, and everyone around him knew, that leprosy was nothing to fool around with. For Naaman, a respected commander in the Syrian army, to have contracted the dread disease must have been a source of great shame to him, and—with treatment options virtually nonexistent—a cause of uncertainty and fear. No vaccines, monoclonal antibodies, or antiviral drugs were available for him or his loved one. So out of desperation, he listened to his Jewish slave girl as she advised him to go over

to Samaria to see the prophet Elisha, who would be able, she assured him, to cure him of his leprosy.

I suppose it is a part of human nature to be hesitant to put ourselves into the hands of so-called “experts”—or so-called “prophets”—especially when the treatment they recommend goes against what we've convinced ourselves is true. Naaman wanted a quick fix: appropriate words accompanied by the waving of the hand... then voila, instant healing and a speedy trip back to his command post! And so, I suspect, do most of us. But God has different ideas. God had something for Naaman to do. Before healing could come, obedience was required.

For Naaman it was fairly simple, “Go, wash in the Jordan seven times.” For us it may be more difficult. “Go, call that person you haven't spoken to in over ten years.” “Go, hang out with that teenager who needs a positive role model.” “Go, give a listening ear to that difficult co-worker.” Whatever is required for our own healing, may we be willing to take that first step. And so, may we be made whole.

Peace to you,

Nancy



“When we study together, we learn together, we work together and we prosper together.”

--Barack Obama



“I will pour out my Spirit on all people.”

Joel 2:28, NIV





FARMERS' Market

We Got Mail from a Farmer's Market Vendor

To Bethel Church,

I just wanted to say "Thank You" again for allowing us to be a part of the Farmer's Market. The Market has truly been an asset for our little town. Please accept this small gift as appreciation for all you do for us. May God richly bless you all.

Rick & Anita Barnett, Cowgirl Mack's Goat Milk Soap & More

Remember, Lakeside Market is open every Saturday 8-11 am

Sunday Study in Maryville

New Providence Presbyterian Church and St. Paul AME Zion will sponsor a six-session, Sunday study titled *Becoming the Beloved Community: Through Understanding Systemic Racism*. This session is a follow-up to last summer's study on bias. The 2022 study will take place at 7:00 p.m. in Westminster Hall at New Providence.

Remaining dates are July 10 and 17. The focus will be on racial history in East Tennessee. Presentations will cover St. Paul AME Zion Church, AME Zion history, New Providence Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (USA-PCUSA), Maryville College, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), including HBCUs in Tennessee, and the Beck Cultural Center. Several speakers will guide us in this important study. This is the second quarter of a four-quarter study which we hope will produce tangible outcomes for our larger community. We welcome you to join us! Contact Jan or Alf Rybka for car-pooling opportunities.

Fellowship Supper

July 20, 6:00 pm
Covered Dish
(Like we did before Covid)

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



Update and Ask from Study Team

Summer Sunday School continues as the children and youth classes are enjoying a “market place” experience, learning about foods, animals, traditions and practices of the early Christians.

Our plans are to return to a “normal” Sunday school class environment as the school year begins again in the Fall. We still need your help. We need at least 2 teachers and 2 helpers for the Fall classes – a pair for each class. You do not have to have teaching experience – there are curriculums and resources available to help plan and create lesson plans. We only need your willingness to serve these children we as a congregation have made a

commitment to. We can break this up in to smaller segments if that would help you decide, even taking a 6 week segment would be helpful.

If you think you might be interested or would just like more details, please see Cyndi Fowler or Bonnie Phillips. We know everyone is busy these days but we will not be able to launch our fall classes without your help. Thank you!

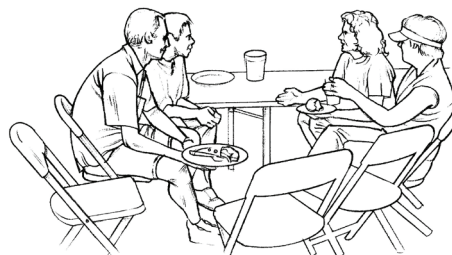
Thanks to Our
Sunday School
Teachers!



Fellowship Team Update

If you are interested in hosting a Bethel fellowship supper, please add your name to the sign up sheet in the gathering area. Fellowship suppers will be potluck style. If you have any questions, please email Ellen Dailey at ellendailey15@gmail.com.

The Fellowship Team would like your input. If you have food allergies or preferences, please use the QR code to complete this form. If you do not have a smart phone, you may email Ellen Dailey at ellendailey15@gmail.com.



Fellowship Meals



SCAN ME

Bethel Choir News

The Bethel choir will be on summer break from June 6 through Labor Day. Please consider sharing any musical talents, vocal or instrumental, in our summer worship services. All ages welcome! Please contact Judy Yeaworth at 615/579-7170 or judyyeaworth@gmail.com.

If you enjoy singing but aren't ready to solo, please consider joining our choir when we resume in the fall. We meet on Wednesdays at 7 pm and all are welcome - no experience necessary!

When
words fail,
Music
speaks

*"I will pour out my Spirit
on all people."*

Joel 2:28, NIV

