

# *The Open Door*

*Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCUSA  
Kingston, TN*

*Volume 19, Issue 11*

*November 2022*

## *In this Issue:*

*Notes from Nancy  
Transition Team  
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## *Hands of Mercy Focus Needs for November*

*Personal Grooming Items  
(Soap, Shampoo,  
Toothbrushes, etc.)  
Collection by Youth  
during Offering*

## *Session Highlights from October 16, 2022*

*Worship Attendance: September 2022 average in-person Sanctuary attendance was 67 (from Sanctuary tablet) and the August 2022 average Facebook Worship attendance was 148. Bonnie Phillips did the Session devotion.*

*Service Team - Christmas basket sign-up dates are October 25 - November 10. Bethel's portion of the Pentecost Offering will be given to the Roane*

*County Children's Fund. The Grief Share meetings are going well with twelve people consistently in attendance and sometimes fourteen.*

*Study Team - has begun discussion and preparations for the Christmas Season. Bethel youth (middle and high school) are participating in a wonderful activity group called Small and Mighty. This group is for small Presbytery churches that don't have enough kids for their own youth group. There is an activity once a month with a meal. At the request of the Study Team, the session approved for the Study Team to donate \$250.00 to the Small and Mighty group using funds in the Team's budget.*

*Communications Team - Jake Horton installed the 70" flat-screen TV that he had purchased for the Fellowship Hall. The TV is currently being used for Grief Share presentations and can be used for video conferencing, etc. Jake also found the missing transmitter that transmits video images to the overhead projector in the Sanctuary.*

*Faith Team - Communion was served to approximately 50 people on World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2022. Children's Sabbath was on Octo-*

*ber 23. Through the Kingston Recital Series, the Faith Team plans to make the sanctuary available for four music events this fall.*

*Finance & Stewardship Team - this Team is continuing to track and review Bethel's finances in various ways and the Team is working on Bethel's 2023 Budget*

*Fellowship Team - this Team is working on plans for various Christmas events (Caroling, Nativity Pageant, etc.).*

*Personnel Team - this Team has updated the Personnel Policies over the past eighteen months.*

*Property Team - Susan Cutts, for the Property Team, has been coordinating some plumbing repairs and HVAC work.*

*Presbytery Meeting - the next Presbytery Meeting is Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga. Amy Coen and Liz Singley are our commissioners. Anyone can attend a presbytery meeting; only elected commissioners and a pastor can vote.*

*Next Session Meeting - November 20, 2022. Anyone associated with Bethel is welcome to attend Bethel Session Meetings.*



## November Birthdays

- 1 Josh Brown  
Diego Vanegas
- 2 Jack McNew
- 3 Julie Hart
- 6 Macey Copeland
- 7 Lyric Rivera
- 9 Chelsea Richmond
- 10 Nancy Landers
- 12 Leonard Kirby
- 13 Charlie King
- 14 Larry Koppelberger
- 16 Eyan Choate
- 21 Brian Shelby
- 25 Jimmy Walker
- 27 Jim Gerberding
- 28 Andy Avel
- 29 Cyndi Fowler  
Bryson Turnbull
- 30 Jerry Harvey



## Calendar of Events

Saturday, Nov 26 - City Tree Lighting & music at Kingston Community Center 5:00

Sunday, Nov 27 - First Sunday of Advent - worship at 11:00

Sunday, Dec 4 - Hanging of the Greens: crafts 3:30, soup 6:00, worship 6:45

Sunday, Dec 11 - Choir Cantata at 11:00

Wednesday, Dec 14 - Fellowship Supper at 6:00 followed by Christmas Play

Sunday, Dec 18 - Caroling at 4 pm followed by festive snacks

Saturday, Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service at 7:00

Sunday, Dec 25 - Lessons and Carols at 11:00

The Kingston Parks & Recreation Department invites local churches to celebrate the city Christmas Tree lighting at 5:00 on Saturday, November 26, at the Kingston Community Center. Churches are invited to sing Christmas carols around tree

and enjoy a hot drink. Bethel's younger crowd is invited to play two songs on bells. Debbie Russell, 376-1356, is the Director of Special Events and Community Outreach. Come enjoy this cheerful celebration.

## Whence Came The Flowers? Poet: Wilhelmina Stitch

Who made the flow'rs? "I," said the sun,  
"Through many long hours, I made each one."  
"Twas I," said the rain, " 'twas my cooling breath  
Refreshed them again and saved them from death."

"The flow'rs came with me," cried the wind with delight;  
"There was no one to see in the depth of the night.  
I bore them to the earth on the spread of my wings.  
"Twas I gave them birth, the bright, darling things."  
" 'Twas I," said the soil. Cried the gardner, "No!  
Through my care and toil, the blossoms now show!"

Then the stars still and calm and pale, stately moon  
Sang a heavenly psalm to a long-ago tune.  
"Who made thee flowers? Not the sun, rain or sod.  
Nor man's vital powers - but the quiet thought of God."

Be part of Bethel's Flower Ministry  
Be inspired by simplicity  
Bring the outdoors in wishfully  
Share blooms of God's majesty.

Prayfully consider how you can join this Volunteer Fleet.  
Amy Coen

# Notes from Rev Nancy

Dear Friends,

I am writing this on the afternoon of our Children's Sabbath service. What a blessing it was to be led by our young people. Be sure to thank Amy and Judy for their help in putting it all together. We are also grateful to each of you parents for supporting your children's involvement in our church and helping them to prepare for this special day. Every child in our congregation is dearly loved, and we will continue to look for ways to be sure their voices are heard.

Along those same lines, at our most recent meeting of the Faith Team, we chose our theme for Advent: "From Generation to Generation." We will be using materials from A Sanctified Art, a ministry which supports worshiping communities to integrate art and creativity into their spiritual practice. Their website describes this year's Advent theme as follows: The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations... Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in—to remember how God has shown up in the past, to continue the work of collective liberation, to behold the presence of God in flesh and bone. Our Advent theme is also a call to action: what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Considering the many ways we embody, remember, and tell

the story of Christ's birth, which rituals hold the most meaning for you? What about this season will you pass on to the next generation? As we enter this holy season later in the month, we will be looking for ways to involve as many of you as possible. Whether it's lighting a candle alongside those from different generations, helping to decorate the sanctuary during the Hanging of the Greens, filling a basket with goodies for families in our community, or singing in the much-anticipated Christmas cantata, we hope that you will find joy in your participation in the festivities.

Peace to you,

Nancy

PS. If you happen to be on Spotify, our friends at A Sanctified Art have put together a 3 hour and 41 minute playlist called "From Generation to Generation...Songs for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany" to help you get into the festive spirit. This includes songs by Sarah Bercilles, Carole King, Mahalia Jackson, Harry Connick, Jr., Van Morrison, and more!

## *Transition Team Update*

The Transition Team enjoyed sharing lunch with many of you around the tables in the fellowship hall on Sunday, September 25. We heard from you that these are the things you value about Bethel: feeling the presence of God, learning how to live out our faith, knowing that our children are loved and are included in all aspects of

the church, feeling welcomed and accepted, being open to new ministries...and so much more. We also learned about the things that make you most proud. You appreciate the ways we reach out into our community through our support of programs such as Family Promise, Christmas baskets, Hands of Mercy, Roane County Cooperative Ministries, Undie Sunday, Love Kitchen, Angel Tree, etc. You also feel a great deal of pride in how we were able to come together in order to renovate our building and how the facility is now used for community activities including Scouts, tai chi, book club, Bethel Arts Ministry, Parkinson's support, GriefShare, and more.

On Sunday, November 6, we invite you to again stay after church for a pizza and salad lunch. This time we will be asking you to answer these questions: What are the events that happen at Bethel, or community events that we participate in, which we can count on happening week after week, month after month, year after year... those things that are just a part of Bethel being Bethel? Why is it that we do each of these things? Should we continue to do each of these things? Be thinking over the next couple of weeks about how you would answer these questions, and we hope to see you on November 6 to talk about it. If you are not able to attend, you are welcome to submit your answers through the church email: 1bethel@bellsouth.net.

## *Lesson and Carols Worship on Christmas Day*

### *Volunteers Needed for Ride Program*

Sometimes our members need a ride to church. If you are willing to be called for rides to Bethel on occasion, please call/text Esther Parish at (865) 405-5242 or email her at [eparish29@gmail.com](mailto:eparish29@gmail.com). Esther will compile the list of names and provide the list of volunteers to the church office.

Bethel's Faith Team is putting together a festive Lessons and Carols worship service for Sunday, December 25.

Because this service will take place on Christmas Day, securing at least 12 readers early is essential.

Please contact the church office if you are available to read scripture on this joyful occasion



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### *Volunteers are needed to sign people up for Christmas baskets in Bethel's fellowship hall.*

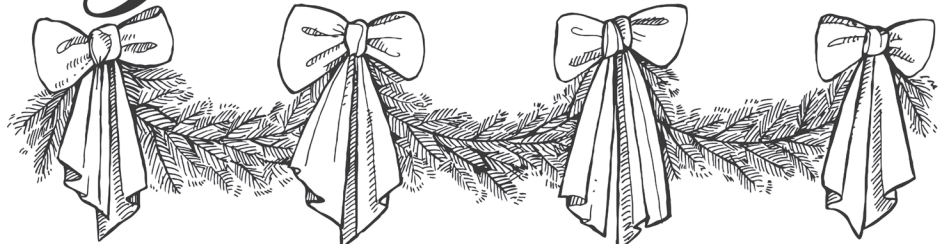
Please let Sue Lynn Johnson of KUMC know if you would like to help, and plan to come 30 minutes in advance of the listed time for some training.

Oct. 25	5:30-7:30
Oct. 27	11-1
Oct. 31	11-1
Nov. 1	5:30-7:30
Nov. 9	11-1
Nov. 10	11-1



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## *Decorate the Church*



### *Hanging of the Greens*

Hanging of the Greens will be December 4, 2022. Children's crafts will start at 4 pm in the large 2nd floor classroom. A soup and sandwich meal will begin at 6 pm in the fellowship hall, followed by an evening service. More details will be in the church bulletin as we approach the Advent season.

Study Team



*AUSTRIA AND APFEL STRUDEL!!!!*  
*Coming NOVEMBER 4TH at 12NOON!!!!*

You are warmly welcomed to come enjoy AUSTRIA AND APFELSTRUDEL!!!!...This exciting musical program by concert pianist Slade Trammell will be presented for us at 12NOON on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4th in the beautiful sanctuary of Bethel Presbyterian Church. Mr. Trammell is an extraordinary musician humbly living right here among us. By day he is the mild mannered accompanist of the Roane Choral Society, but by night (for us, by high noon) he transforms into a dynamic superhero solo artist in late Classical, early Romantic

piano repertoire! Fresh from his performance tour in Austria he offers us an exceptional musical experience of international proportions right here in our own backyard! (Well, in our sanctuary actually!) Please join us for an amazing afternoon with Slade Trammell as he transports us to Austria, complete with delicious, authentic Apfel Strudel, the trademark dessert of Austria. Slade Trammell and his Apfel Strudel appear courtesy of the Recital Series of Kingston, a gift for you in this Fall of 2022.



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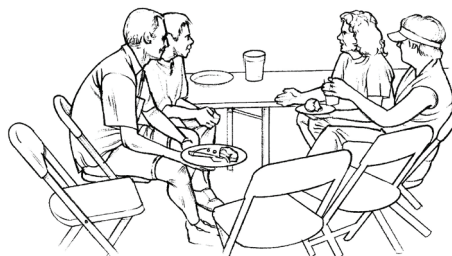
*Fellowship Team  
Update*

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](mailto: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](mailto:ellendailey15@gmail.com).

*November  
Fellowship Supper*

*Wednesday, November 16  
6:00 pm  
Covered Dish*



*Fellowship Meals*



# *Roane County Cooperative Ministries*

Dear Friends of Roane County Cooperative Ministries:

On September 1st and effective October 1st, Roane County Cooperative Ministries (RCCM) Board of Directors made two important decisions. We appointed Ms. Lisa Spegman, who had been a volunteer since 2020 and our part-time Office Manager since January 2021 to full-time Executive Director. Secondly, RCCM will move our office from our current Kingston location to the Treasure Hunt building located at 1225 South Roane Street in Harriman. Our mailing address will be PO Box 1582 Harriman, TN 37748. The move will allow us to increase our regular hours of operation assisting the needs of our Roane County neighbors and build our cooperative relationships with other organizations engaged in the multi-faceted work of serving friends in need. Please like us on Facebook: Roane County Cooperative Ministries. We have more announcements to come as we continue to grow our community assistance.

The opportunity to move into the new space became possible when Harriman's 1st Christian Church, under the leadership of Pastor Phil Merrill, secured ownership of the Treasure Hunt building in the Roane Plaza. The new location will move us closer to the center of Roane County, where

many who seek our support reside. An enhanced greeting space and considerably larger, private offices will allow us to respond with greater confidentiality for those seeking our assistance. A top priority, once our transition is completed, will be recruitment and training of additional RCCM and Salvation Army volunteers. For more information about volunteering, please email Lisa at [Lisa@OurRCCM.org](mailto:Lisa@OurRCCM.org).

RCCM's cooperative working relationship with The Salvation Army's Roane & Morgan County Service Unit is continuing. Diane James, who spearheads that effort, will have an office adjacent to Lisa's.

Now in my second year as chairman of the RCCM board, I will continue efforts to strengthen the board by adding members with a variety of backgrounds and skill sets. I am also engaging in collaborative conversations with agencies both within and beyond Roane County who, like us, are adapting to changes in our communities and in the nature of poverty. We continue our ecumenical relationships to Roane County's Faith communities as we reach out to other charitably inclined organizations and individuals. Please feel free to contact me at [mtbanker1951@gmail.com](mailto:mtbanker1951@gmail.com) or 865-748-0304 if you have questions or suggestions related to these important changes in our work.

As always, we truly value your friendship and support for Roane County Cooperative Ministries.

Mark Banker  
Chairman of the Roane County Cooperative Ministries Board  
Facebook: Roane County Cooperative Ministries  
Website: [www.OurRCCM.org](http://www.OurRCCM.org)  
Office Phone: 865-376-4779  
New Mailing Address: PO Box 1582 Harriman, TN 37748  
New Location: 1225 South Roane Street Harriman, TN 37748

We can do so much more together!

## *HARP ENCOUNTER* *11/20@2pm* *HARP ALERT!!*

A few years ago Becky provided little harps for Bethel's birthday celebration to four children who had participated in a special study of music with her. These children came to rehearsals, and began providing occasional music in our worship services at that time. It became clear bigger harps were needed so Becky purchased four harps a little larger in size, and the four children who committed to coming to midweek rehearsals learned a little bit about that angelic musical instrument and performed one Christmas Eve on those harps. One child fell in love with it and continues to practice on her own and perform on one of those harps for you periodically in worship, which is a truly beautiful experience for all. Though Covid ended the regular midweek time together, Becky continues to get requests from children...and adults...to experience the harp. People are curious about it. They just want to touch it! It is a special instrument... Well, on NOVEMBER 20TH ten folks will get their chance!

At 2 p.m. on the afternoon of Sunday, November 20, harpist Amy Carty will have her gorgeous Lyon and Healy concert pedal harp in our sanctuary, along with about 10 other smaller harps provided by Becky and comprised in part by those instruments already here given to the children as mentioned earlier. **THIS IS YOUR OPPOR-**

**TUNITY** to sign up to participate in this workshop, A HARP ENCOUNTER with Amy, to learn about the harp, to touch and play a harp...she will even let you touch and play a little on her big concert harp!! (With respect, absolutely!) You will even learn a simple song to play on the harp that very day! And yes, Amy will demonstrate and play gorgeous things on her pedal harp!

Many of you will remember Amy. She is the delightful 17 year old young lady with the long flowing red hair who did a harp recital for you last year in Bethel's sanctuary the day after Thanksgiving. She was wonderful! This year she started studies at Indiana University and is loving the extraordinary instruction she receives there as she prepares for her career in harp performance. Amy shared with Becky that she absolutely loved giving a recital for Bethel last year and is very excited to share in this way on November 20th with the lovely folks at Bethel while she is home from college.

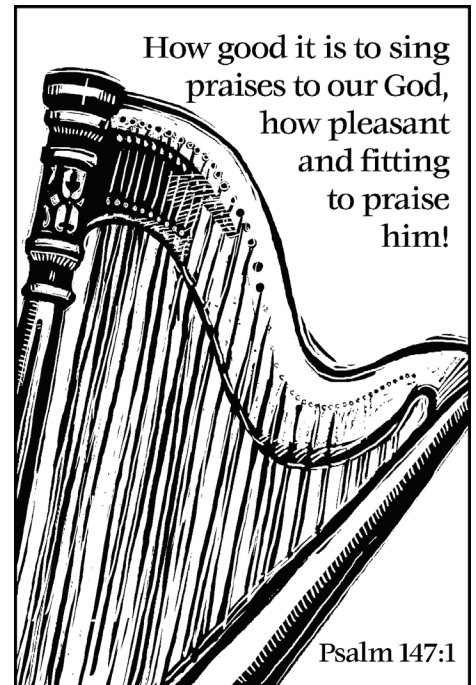
If you or your child or grandchild would be interested in participating in this workshop with Amy please sign up as soon as possible in the church office or with Becky Price directly. We only have a certain number of harps so space is limited to 10. The participants are welcome to invite their families and friends to observe as a quiet and supportive audience.

Amy Carty appears as a gift to the children and adults of Bethel Presbyterian Church from the Recital Series of Kingston, with great joy! Happy Thanksgiving!



## *Choir Practice Resumes*

The Bethel Choir will try out an earlier practice time for the next few weeks. We will still rehearse on Wednesday evening, but we'll sing from 6:00 to 7:15 pm (one hour earlier). The exception in October will be Fellowship Supper evening, when we will revert to the 7-8:15 slot to accommodate dinner. Come join us - all are welcome!



How good it is to sing  
praises to our God,  
how pleasant  
and fitting  
to praise  
him!

Psalm 147:1