

The Open Door

Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCUSA

Kingston, TN

Volume 19, Issue 12

December 2022

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Transition Team
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Hands of Mercy Needs for December

*Baby Supplies (Diapers, Wipes,
Lotion,
Shampoo, Diaper Rash Cream, Baby
Bath, etc.)
Collected by Youth during Christmas
Eve Service*

Session Highlights from November 20, 2022 meeting

*Celia Simon did the Session
devotion.*

*Worship Attendance: October
2022 average in-person Sanc-
tuary attendance was 63 (from
Sanctuary tablet) and the Oc-
tober 2022 average Facebook
Worship attendance was 126.
Service Team - the Pentecost
Offering (\$730) which was
collected for at-risk children and
youth was given to the Roane*

*County Children's Fund. At the
October 24 Rockwood Love
Kitchen meal, there were seven
Bethel servers/helpers and 58
guests. Appreciation was ex-
pressed for the Bingo Loot that
the Bethel Family had donated.
Work is being done toward the
December distribution of Christ-
mas Baskets and Angel Tree
gifts.*

*Study Team - is finalizing plans
for the upcoming Hanging of the
Greens. Christmas Crafts will
be offered to the children and
youth and the church will be
decorated for Advent.*

*Communications Team - the
Session approved for the
church office to order three
Chromebooks for use in Sunday
School.*

*Faith Team - Appreciation was
expressed for those assisting
during Worship, for being able
to use the drop down screen
in the sanctuary, and for folks
expressing sentiments on the
Thankful leaves. The leaves
will be attached to a Thankful
Banner. Sixty people attended
the Slade Trammel Concert – a
blend of Bethel and community
people. This Team continues to
prepare for Advent.*

*Finance & Stewardship Team
- Bethel's Financial Review
for 2021 (done by Parsons
and Wright Accountants) was
received; there were no "Find-
ings."*

*Fellowship Team - continues
to work on plans for various
Christmas events (Caroling,
Nativity Pageant, etc.).
Personnel Team - continues
their work as needed.
Property Team - working to
resolve several building issues.
Presbytery Meeting - Rev. Nan-
cy and Amy Coen attended the
November 15, 2022 meeting at
New Hope Presbyterian Church
in Chattanooga. New Hope
was a very gracious host; 50 to
60 people attended. Anyone
can attend a Presbytery meet-
ing, which are held quarterly –
contact Cathy if you would like
to attend an upcoming meeting.*

*Rev. Nancy and Cyndi Fowler
have been working on a Child
and Youth Protection Policy for
Bethel's Manual of Operations.
The PCUSA Book of Order
requires this Policy. Follow-
ing discussion, the Session
approved the Policy with the
understanding that there may
be updates later.*

*Next Session Meeting - Decem-
ber 18, 2022*

*Anyone associated with Beth-
el is welcome to attend Bethel
Session Meetings.*

*Cathy McDowell
Clerk of Session*



December Birthdays

- 11 Krista Kolwyck
- 12 John Walker
- 13 Orlando Vanegas, Jr.
- 14 Bob Jones
Donna Walker
- 16 Ted Dailey
- 19 Linda Adams
- 22 Tom Pickel, III
- 28 David Standridge
Maria Vanegas
- 29 Jessica Choate
Jim Schall



Calendar of Events

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

Sunday, Dec 11 - Choir Cantata at 11:00

Wednesday, Dec 14 - Fellowship Dinner at 6:00 followed by

THE RECITAL SERIES OF KINGSTON would like to express most sincere thanks to Bethel Presbyterian Church and to those individuals who went above and beyond in helping to make the November 4th piano recital and the November 20th harp encounter workshop such special and exciting events for all who could be there to enjoy them. They were truly wonderful experiences in the gift of music and in fellowship together!! It is no small task to prepare for these kinds of offerings, but the

LYRIC AND FRIENDS, TAKE THREE! "AND PICCOLO MAKES THREE"

Yesssss! Lyric Rivera returns to us fresh from her first semester of graduate studies at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music very, very soon, and she is bringing something SPECIAL! Joining Lyric will be her beautiful, faithful flute ..AND.. seen and heard here for the first time, the long awaited, much anticipated introduction of her newbff...that gorgeous little piccolo we have all watched, waited and prayed for...and well, yes, we just can't wait to meet it...I mean, hear it!! (It feels like we should have a party to welcome this brilliant new little friend!).

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

work was done with love and with beaming smiles throughout. Perhaps the smiles are from enjoying the extraordinary and beautiful gifts of music, or from actually making heavenly sounds on those lovely harps all afternoon...or perhaps it simply comes from the very beautiful heart within. One thing I do know, these kinds of very special events truly could not happen without the dedication and gracious help of folks who care enough to go the extra mile: Bethel Presbyterian Church.

Our chance arrives on Friday evening, January 6th at 7pm in the sanctuary at Bethel. Lyric, accompanied by her fabulous collaborative pianist Dustin Lin, will be presented in recital and will debut her new instrument. This will be an exhilarating performance! If you have never heard a piccolo played in concert by one who was absolutely born to play this special instrument then you simply cannot miss this opportunity! So, come! A Pink and Blue Reception will be held in the Gathering Area afterwards. Gifts from the Recital Series of Kingston.

Notes from Rev Nancy

Dear Friends,

This is one of those years when Advent comes early, so by the time you receive this newsletter, the first Sunday of Advent may well be past. If so, you may have noticed that instead of the candle lighting being done by members of the same family, the Advent candle was lit by people who may or may not be related to one another. To go along with our theme, From Generation to Generation, each week this part of the service will be shared by four people representing different generations. I will be asking them one of these questions before the candles are lit:

What gives you hope?

What are you afraid of?

What brings you joy?

What makes you feel connected or loved?

As you prepare your hearts for the birth of the Savior, these might be good questions for you to ask of yourselves and one another. I'll go first!

I am finding hope in the new generation of young adults, people in their early twenties to mid thirties, the ages of my four children. This is a very involved generation. They turned out to vote in large numbers in the two previous national elections. They care about the health of the planet, and are doing their best to hold our leaders to account. They want their voices to

be heard. They give me hope. I am afraid of the rise in hate crimes in recent years. Hatred against Black and Asian Americans. Hatred against our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters. Hatred against the LGBTQ community. Hatred against immigrants. In this season of love and peace, I want to commit myself anew to being a vehicle of reconciliation in this fractured world.

My grandchildren bring me joy. So do the children in our congregation. The light in their faces when they discover something new. The wonderful answers they give to my questions. Their laughter and their energy. We have a lot to learn from them.

Who makes me feel loved? You do! When you drop by the office just to say hello. When you sing out with gusto when we close the service with your favorite hymn. When you give me the privilege of praying with you in moments of sorrow or of joy. When you're patient with my mistakes.

Thank you for sharing your lives with me this year. May this season of Advent be a time of hope, peace, love, and joy for you and your loved ones.

Peace to you,

Nancy



Update from the Transition Team December 2022

On December 6, immediately after the worship service, over 50 people attended a Pizza and Salad lunch with the Transition Team in the fellowship hall. After lunch, the participants broke out into groups by tables, each led by a member of the Transition Team. We talked about the events and programs of Bethel that are near and dear to our hearts, why we do them, and if we should continue doing them. For the most part, the answer to that final question was a resounding, "Yes!" When the various activities listed were compiled into a list, it was amazing to see what Bethel has done throughout the years and is still doing today.

We have completed the "Heritage" focal point and will move on to "Connections" in the new year. Team member Liz Singley is working on compiling what we have learned into a document to be shared with the congregation at a later date.





Service Team Distribution

The Service Team will soon be putting together and distributing Christmas Baskets for local families in need. Each year Bethel provides approximately 50 "baskets" filled with food items needed for Christmas dinner. We will be picking up the food orders at the Midtown Kroger on Friday, December 9th starting at 3 pm. Volunteers are needed to help Dan Hyder pick up the food and bring it back to the Bethel Fellowship Hall. At 5 pm, we will also need volunteers to help package the food for each family for distribution on Saturday morning. Additional volunteers are needed to help distribute the food and Angel Tree gifts on Saturday, December 10th from 10 am until Noon. (This will be another year of drive-through distribution.) Please come help at any of these times if you are available. For more information, contact Esther Parish by phone/text at (865) 405-5242 or by emailing eparish29@gmail.com.

Lesson and Carols Worship on Christmas Day

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.

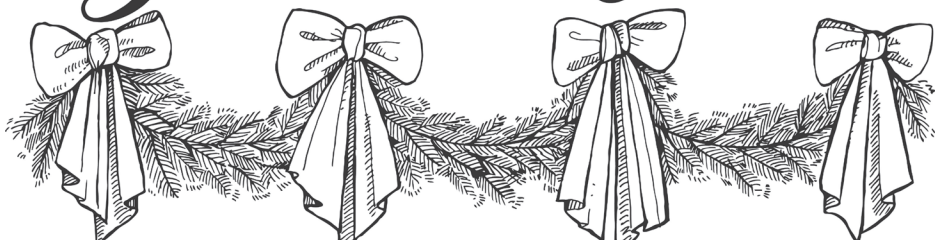
Please contact the church office if you are available to read scripture on this joyful



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



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. Look for more details in the church bulletin. Please join us to help decorate the church.

Study Team

Let Your Praises Ring



The Bethel Bells will ring in the new year with gusto, beginning rehearsals the first Wednesday in January. We plan to meet from 4:30-5:30 each Wednesday in the downstairs choir room, and there is absolutely NO experience required. If you read music already, it won't be difficult at all, and if you have never played an instrument, it will be easy for you too! We will teach you everything you need to know about when and how to ring your bell or bells, and I promise the experience will be uplifting! Come make new friends and contribute to the glory of our worship services at Bethel Presbyterian Church. If you have questions or need more information, call or text Judy Yeaworth at 615/579-7170 or email judyyeaworth@gmail.com.

Christmas Cantata Sunday, December 11 during worship!

Psalms 98 says, "Sing for joy to the Lord, all the earth; praise him with songs and shouts of joy! Sing praises to the Lord!" Please join us for the 11:00 worship hour on Sunday, December 11, when the Bethel Choir will do just that. "Sing Gloria!", a Christmas cantata by Lani Smith, renowned organist and composer, is a retelling of the traditional Christmas story in words and music. You will hear familiar carols along with original songs, and your spirits are sure to be lifted as we prepare our hearts once again for the coming of our Savior. Gloria in Excelsis Deo - Glory to God

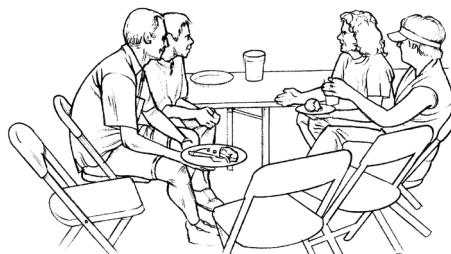
Fellowship Team Update

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.

December Fellowship Supper

Wednesday, December 14
6:00 followed by
Christmas Play



Fellowship Meals



Choir News

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 December will be Fellowship Supper evening, when we will practice 4:30-5:30 to accommodate dinner and Christmas play. Come join us - all are welcome!

Recap of 2022 Year of

As we approach the end of the Year 2022 and consider where our church stands financially, we have much for which to be grateful. As the pandemic became less threatening, we were able to resume gathering in person, to continue our ministry, and to serve our community. Even though money has been tight, we have been able to meet our obligations, support our missions, and provide meaningful worship opportunities to our congregation. This all has been accomplished in spite of a steady decline since 2016 in the number of contributors to the church, as well as a sharp drop in the total amounts contributed since 2018. In 2016, we had 151 contributors and that number had dropped to 126 in 2018. By 2022, the number of families or individuals financially supporting the church had dropped to 96.

The decline over these years is primarily due to death, relocation, or moves in membership. With an aging congregation, this is not surprising, but the pandemic has certainly exacerbated the problem.

We are grateful for the generosity of the current 96 and for the departed saints who gave so generously in prior years. We are able to continue Bethel's ministries because of this generous giving and because of the stewardship exercised by those who preceded us. They set aside funds to help us through shortfalls like this. Even if we cannot cover 2022 expenses with 2022 contributions, we have savings to be used for the shortfall.

God has been faithful to Bethel for over two centuries. Please consider prayerfully your giving to the church for the remainder of 2022.

Bingo item requests from Rockwood

- Laundry Supplies
- Cleaning supplies both Kitchen and Bathroom.
- The teenage girls love the perfumy stuff, of course!
- Cute hair clips/claws — Sparkly, jeweled, butterflies, animal faces, etc.
- Toys/games for all ages (especially for preschool & elementary school ages) — Picture card games (Go Fish, memory games, etc.), small plush toys, small Pixar or DC action figures for girls and boys, My Little Pony, etc.
- Jigsaw puzzles (e.g., 300–500 pieces; no more than 500, please)
- Cake mixes/icing
- Brownies/cookie mixes
- Band-Aids
- Small first aid kits
- Nail polish/nail decals — Consider kid-safe, water-based, peel-off nail polish like PiggyPaint

Liz Singley is the point of contact for more info and for delivering these items to Wilma in Rockwood.

Volunteer Assisted Senior-Friendly Transportation in Roane County

Round About Roane is designed as a senior-friendly, door through door transportation program for Roane County residents 60 years of age or older who need rides for essential trips including medical, grocery shopping, and social service appointments.

A transportation manager who is housed at the Senior Services Department will coordinate the rides and schedules. It is a United Way agency from Mid-East Community Action Agency. Their telephone # is 865-354-0450

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M., based on volunteer driver availability. The riders of Round About Roane are 60+ years old, do not drive, live independently in their own homes or apartments, are mobile, are able to communicate and understand, can walk unassisted or with the use of a cane/walker, and can afford a minimal cost for transportation.

Annual rider membership is \$25.00 and a roundtrip ride costs \$6.00. All rides will be paid in advance to Round About Roane. Volunteers will not handle money. Volunteers should contact their automobile insurance agent to discuss liability issues. Primary coverage is through the volunteer's auto insurance. Driver must be over the age of 21, have a valid TN driver's license, and proof of insurance. Volunteer drivers must complete training and required

Family Promise Update

1. This is the text of the beautiful thank-you card that Amanda, a mother in our prevention program, wrote to our Family Promise volunteers and supporters.

“Family Promise Volunteers, Thank you! May the Lord bless each person involved with this ministry in Jesus name. Thank you to each and every one of you that have played a role to me and my children’s life. Because of you all serving your purpose for God, you help keep hope alive for people like me. Being a single mom of two boys in school has not always been easy for me. Because of y’all we have got to keep our home plus I have had gas to get kids to school and back, I’m also able to follow your example and am able to give back to the community volunteering at my local church New Life Church of God and because God ordained each and every one of you at the right time, I am now finding out the true meaning of

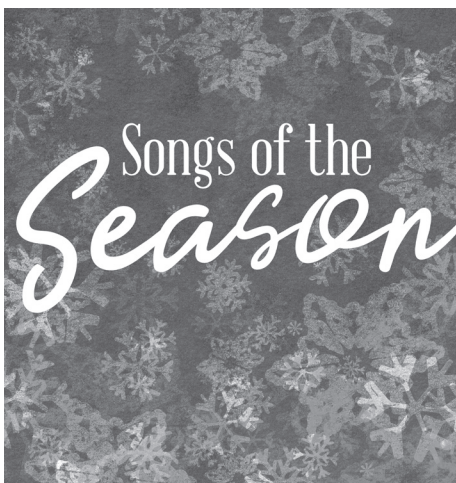
life and what it truly means to live. Because for a long time I was in a deep depression and just felt like giving up on life. So thank you with all of our hearts for being such a bright beam of light for a wrench like me! Sending much gratitude and love from the bottom of my heart.
Love, Amanda (Kids: Trenton and Evan)”

2. Family Promise of Roane County is excited to welcome Angela Morris as our new Case Manager. In this role, Angela will be working with all families enrolled in FPRC, ensuring that their needs are met, and that they successfully graduate the program and find safe and stable housing. In the past, Angela has worked as an advocate for children with severe behavioral issues. Angela also has a passion for animals, and enjoys volunteering with animal rescues. Angela is excited to be part of FPRC, and she stated that she feels grateful and blessed to be part of the program.

Year End Giving

It is hard to believe that 2022 is fast coming to an end. As we prepare for the coming Advent and Christmas seasons, our hope is that we can all find things to be thankful for and look forward to the coming year. Please prayerfully consider the ways you can support Bethel, whether it is with time, talent or financial contributions. We are a family, and working together we can continue to support each other and our community in a way that is pleasing to God. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to make Bethel such a special place to gather and worship. If you are considering making a year end gift, please remember that all gifts must be in the church office no later than 2 p.m. on December 30 or postmarked by December 31 to count as a 2022 contribution. You may also make a donation online through the Bethel website (<https://www.bethelpcusa.org/give>). Giving through Required Minimum Distributions from IRAs or gifts of appreciated stock may be options that you would like to consider.

Please check with your tax



Thanks to All!

Wilder, Hannah, Alex and Melanie are grateful for your generous gifts, cards, and expressions of love in celebration of Wilder’s birth. Mom, Dad and baby are doing great and your gifts are fabulous! Many many thanks to all!!

