

The Open Door

Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCUSA

Kingston, TN

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January 2023

In this Issue:

Notes from Nancy
Transition Team
Session Highlights
HOME Focus Needs
January Birthdays
Calendar
Family Promise
Musical Events
New Year Ideas

Hands of Mercy
Needs for January
Canned Pasta
(Spaghetios,
Chefboyardee)

Session Highlights from December 18, 2022 meeting

Fred Swindler did the Session devotion.

Worship Attendance: November 2022 average in-person Sanctuary attendance was 68 (from Sanctuary tablet) and the November 2022 average Facebook Worship attendance was 116.

Service Team – many volunteers of all ages picked up food and assembled Christmas baskets on Friday, December 9th. Many of the same volunteers and more came to distribute the

51 baskets and 25 Angel Tree gifts on December 10th.

Study Team – there were several Advent activities (December 4 Hanging of the Greens with children's Christmas crafts and the December 14 Christmas Pageant with Ellen Dailey directing) and the December Small and Mighty youth event, with a meal and exchanging gifts and watching the Knoxville Christmas Parade. Communications Team – suggestions for the future: new church directory, work on Bethel's website, enabling the belfry bell to be rung. Faith Team – January 6 is the next recital event featuring Lyric Rivera.

Finance & Stewardship Team – November was the lowest giving month of 2022 – \$10,000 versus Bethel's normal average of \$17,000 per month. At the recommendation of the Finance Team, a portion of the 2023 Bethel Budget (Personnel and Team budgets) was approved by the Session. The remainder of the 2023 Budget will be presented to the Session in January. The minimum salary requirement for Pastors has been received from the Presbytery and will be presented to the Congregation at the February 26 Congregational Meeting. The Session approved Linda Brown as Bethel's Treasurer and Linda Brown, Chuck Bunch, and Vic King as Bethel check

signers all for 2023.

Fellowship Team – there was a successful dinner following the Hanging of the Greens.

Personnel Team – has done extensive research looking for companies that do background checks for churches.

Property Team – a fire extinguisher will be placed in Bethel's former narthex.

Bethel's Congregational/Corporation meeting will be February 26, 2023.

Elders Elect – training was completed online and with Pastor Nancy. Questions were asked of the four Elders Elect. Brenda Bunch, Jim Condon, Larry Koppelberger, and Elaine Steele will be installed to the Session on January 8, 2023.

Elders – Appreciation was expressed to the Elders who are rotating off the Session on December 31 and for the new Elders coming on in January. Presbytery Meeting – the next meeting is February 11, 2023 via Zoom. Ellen Dailey and Liz Singley were elected as the Commissioners. Anyone can attend a Presbytery meeting; only Commissioners can vote. Next Session Meeting – January 15, 2023

Anyone associated with Bethel is welcome to attend Bethel Session Meetings.

*Cathy McDowell
Clerk of Session*



Calendar of Events

January Birthdays

- 2 Thomas McGill
- 8 Paul Stadnik
- 9 Matt Hines
Marlene Woodard
- 11 Jake Horton
- 15 Jennie Morris
- 16 Tollie Banker
Isaac Shelby
- 19 Ryan Preston
- 21 Henry Coen
River Phillips
- 22 Laura Walker
- 25 Katie Dungan
Pat Hale
- 26 Jolie King
Declan Rourke
- 28 Ken Dungan
- 29 Jacob Simpson
Kirk Steele



- Jan 1 New Year's Day
- Jan 2 Office Closed
- Jan 5 TN-10 Book Club 10/ FH
- Jan 6 Lyric's recital 7:00 PM
(Sanctuary & GA)
- Jan 8 Elders Installed (11 wor-
ship)
- Jan 16 Martin Luther King, Jr
Day - Office Closed
- Jan 18 Parkinson's Support
Group / Noon / FH
- Jan 18 Fellowship Supper

- Every Sunday** 3:30 – 5:00
Grief Share (Library)
- Every Monday** 10:00 Bethel
Arts Ministry (2nd Floor)
7:00 Boy Scouts (FH)
- Every Tuesday**
10:00 Rug Hooking 2nd Floor
6:00 Tai Chi (FH)
- Every Wednesday**
6:00 -7:15 Choir Practice
Except on Fellowship Supper
Wednesday when they meet at
7:00
- Every Friday** 10:00 Tai Chi
(FH)

Rockwood Love Kitchen February 11

You are invited to donate Val-entine or red decorations for the February 11 Love Kitchen at Rockwood Presbyterian Church. Bethel will provide a meal that Saturday. Let's get creative with decorating! Nap-kins, streamers, kid class cards, or festive centerpiece items

would be especially welcome. Suggested collection for our support of the Rockwood Love Kitchen is cleansing or personal care items, such as dish wash- ing soap, spray bathroom clean- er, hair shampoo, and body soaps.

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

You are warmly welcomed to join us for Lyric and Friends in Recital on Friday evening Jen-uary the 6th, at 7:00pm. Lyric will share with us her incredible music making with her flute, and will introduce to us her new piccolo!! Lyric will be accompa-nied by the incomparable Dustin Lin at the piano. This will be a truly wonderful! exhilarating!! and not to be missed!!!

event with which to begin the new year!!! What a JOYFUL sound!! We can't wait to see you there, and to greet you at the artist reception that follows in the Gathering Area. Start the new year off just right with this latest installment of Lyric and Friends flute/piccolo recit- al!! Happy New Year!!! A gift to you from the Recital Series of Kingston.

Notes from Rev Nancy

Dear Friends,

You're receiving this newsletter as we enter into the year 2023. The busyness of Advent and Christmas is behind us (although we will still be observing the Christmas season through Epiphany Sunday on January 8), and our thoughts may now be turning toward resolutions, goal-setting, five-year plans, etc. Let me encourage you—before you find ways to fill your shiny new calendar with yet more meetings and social engagements—to take a moment to relax and reflect on the year that's passed. Make yourself a cup of tea or coffee and enjoy one of those last remaining holiday treats. Put on some comfy clothes and snuggle up with that crisp new book that appeared under your tree on Christmas morning (or was downloaded onto your Kindle). Go for a walk with a friend you haven't seen in a while to catch each other up on all that's been happening in both of your lives.

If possible, spend some time reflecting on the hard times and good times that you experienced in 2022. If you're into journaling, write down some of your thoughts. What surprised you? What gave you renewed hope? What brought tears to your eyes or a smile to your lips? What was so difficult that you weren't sure you'd make it through (yet here you are!)?

Perhaps when you get to January 2024, you will re-read what you've written and rejoice in

all that God has brought you through. Perhaps you will long for the way things were just one year ago. Whatever changes, whatever joys or sorrows this next year brings, we can be confident that God will walk through them with us, just as God did this past year...and all the years before.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8: 38-39).

Peace to you,
Nancy

Update from the Transition Team December 2022

The Transition Team took the month of December off and will resume meeting again this month. Look for more information to follow on our next congregation-wide event.



Women's Connection at Montreat

Bethel is hoping to take a group of women to Women's Connection 2023 at Montreat on August 11-13. The speaker for this event will be Kate Bowler, Professor of American Religious History at Duke University and author of several books, including *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved*. Registration opens on February 1, and it is expected to fill up quickly. Details on cost, accommodations, etc. will be made available soon. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Nancy at revnancy2020@gmail.com.



The Year Ahead

Update on submitted Earth Care Resolutions 225th General Assembly 2022

Presbyteries brought overtures to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church(USA) committing ourselves as a church, a people of faith and a social organization embodying Christian values to:

- 1) repent of our participation and growing complicity in the processes which have brought our planetary ecosystem to the tipping point of unsustainability for humans, and mass extinction of other species;
- 2) direct that all PCUSA financial investments be withdrawn from industries that contribute to the production of the two major greenhouse gasses, CO2 and methane, accelerating the timeline of the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment, and effectively end our investment in the production and use of plastics.
- 3) direct the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Church USA Foundation to increase investment in low carbon emission renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy storage in ways that complement policies to transition workers in our present fossil fuel industry into "green" and sustainable energy sector employment;
- 4) encourage all PCUSA members and congregations to study the various documents produced by the General Assembly including the most recent (2022) "Investing in a Green

Future: A Vision for a Renewed Creation" document, scripture and other related items

5) urge our congregations and members to become the needed, faithful change we seek by being carbon neutral, net-zero, or even climate positive by 2030; encourage congregations with historic or landmark buildings to retrofit their structures to the furthest extent possible.

6) advocate through our Office of Public Witness (Washington), UN and other denominational offices..... including the pledges made to assist economically developing and emerging countries* with carbon use mitigation and adaptation;

7) advocate through these same channels for climate justice** based in national and international commitments to assist economically developing and emerging countries with recovery from the loss and damage resulting from the industrialized countries' disproportionate impact on climate change (aka, "climate debt"), as a new and proactive stewardship of the earth;

8) advocate through all PCUSA channels the implementation of the Carbon Dividend Overture 08-12, approved by Commissioners in 2018 and encourage our government to pursue other economic strategies for incorporating "externalized" environmental costs into pricing of all goods and services;

9) direct the Presbyterian office(s)..... to develop a 10 year strategy of accompaniment and advocacy before, during and after the annual COP

Work cooperatively with former

staff and volunteers to the extent possible to provide continuity across the years and in collaboration with voluntary organizations such as Presbyterians for Earth Care to provide updates and make recommendations consistent with our social witness policy.

Note from submitter: These are the resolutions as formally stated. There was 100% approval by the General Assembly commissioners. We are directed to implement these statements as our guide in our church and our individual lives in order to live as God's faithful stewards of all aspects of His creation.

***We share this information about the General Assembly and remember that we are a connectional church. These overtures were passed by representatives from presbyteries across the country. As members we are called to respect their leadership.

However, more than following the polity of our denomination, we accept these overtures motivated by the commands of Jesus to care for the world that He has created. By protecting all of creation, we protect all of humanity as well.

--Elaine Steele

John Knox Summer Camp Registration is Open

Summer Camp Registration is officially open to everyone & the rush has begun! 62 campers have already secured their space! Remember you must SUBMIT with a deposit to secure your spot.

Register at johnknoxcenter.org

Let Your Praises Ring



Souperbowl Collection

The youth will collect an offering on Superbowl Sunday 2023, February 12th. More details to follow but please keep this on your radar!

Fellowship Team Update

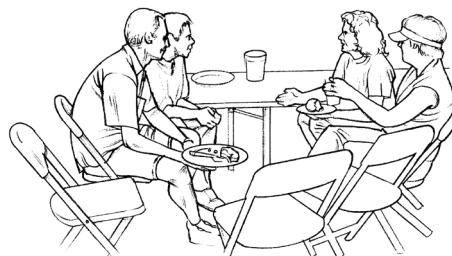
If you are interested in hosting a Bethel fellowship supper, please add your name to the sign up sheet in the gathering area. Fellowship suppers will be potluck style. If you have any questions, please email Ellen Dailey at ellendailey15@gmail.com.

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.

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.

January Fellowship Supper

Wednesday, January 18
6:00



Fellowship Meals

Caroling December 18

It was a cold day, but the sound of Christmas carols warmed the spirit of all. So many happy reunions, one household at a time; and the joy of giving and receiving song. The joyful group of Bethel people – Judy, Jon, and Sean Yeaworth, Mark Banker, Pastor Nancy, Dianne Griffith, Liz Singley, Melanie Sherrod, Rebecca, Gabriel, Grayson, and Wesley Pierce, Rachel and Mae Gallaher, Ellen Dailey, Kirk Steele, Amy and Julie Coen, Linda, Kaylee, and Brittny Brown – received a warm reception where they sang. They visited Bill Shenk, Jill McMaster, Nancy Landers, Jane Pickel, Anneke and Mariana Oonk, and Laura Walker. After caroling, there was very tasty food and great fellowship at Rebecca and Joe Pierce's beautifully decorated home. Here is a quote from one of those visited: "Thank you so much for coming to my home to carol It was a wonderful surprise and a joy to see friends in person. Your care and enthusiasm brightened my day; in fact I am still smiling when I think about it. You may not have noticed, but a neighbor on the cul-de-sac came out to listen too. She also extends her appreciation."



GriefShare Is Returning to Bethel

The first session of GriefShare at Bethel was very successful but has now ended. Plans are in place for the second session to begin in January.

GriefShare is a non-denominational, biblical support group for anyone who is grieving with the death of a family member or loved one. The sessions are open to any adult regardless of whether your experience is recent or not so recent.

The GriefShare program is made up of three elements. At each session, the participants will watch a video seminar that features top experts on grief recovery subjects and case studies of people who have been through the grief experience. After the video, the participants will spend time as a support group discussing the video content. Everyone will have an opportunity to share their story but will never be pressured to share. Each participant will have a workbook to use during the week for further personal study and personal reflection.

At each GriefShare meeting you will find encouragement and help in grieving the death of your loved one. No matter the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand how you are feeling. You will learn to recognize the symptoms of being struck in grief and how to cope with the normal emotions that come with grieving a death. You will learn

valuable information on facing life situations and you will gain renewed hope for the future.

We are making this new ministry available to others in our community as well. Invite your friends and neighbors to come with you. It is normal to feel nervous about joining any new group but we hope you will make the courageous decision to attend.

The GriefShare program lasts for thirteen weeks. We will meet on Sunday afternoons from January 8- April 2, 2023, from 3:30-5:00 PM in the Bethel Library. Each person is required to have the participant workbook which costs \$20.

To register:

Go to www.griefshare.org

Go to "Find a group" and search by zip code or by city/state

Click on "More Info"

Click "on Register for this group" to set up your account. Your workbook can be purchased here and will be mailed directly to your home.

For further information or questions, contact Susan Garner at susangarner0604@comcast.net or call 865-924-4377

New Year Ideas

1. Check out materials from Bethel's Barber Library.
 - *Read Beatrice's Goat by Page McBrier. Based on a true story, this heartwarming children's book shows how one gift changed the fate of a poor Ugandan family—especially the young girl who wanted to go to school.
 - *Listen to the Bible on CD from a collection kept on the first bookshelf.
 - *Study the life of Jesus through "Halley's Bible Handbook: An Abbreviated Bible Commentary" in the reference section.
 - *Look through the shelf on Caregiving and Nurturing.
2. Join a committee to help with the work of the church: Communications, Faith, Fellowship, Finance & Stewardship, Personnel, Property, Service, Study
3. Drop in on the Tai Chi class or take part in a rug hooking session or walk around the lake with a Bethel buddy.
4. Come to dinner, lunch, breakfast, coffee time, recital treat time. Conversation and Cuisine are a fun Bethel pair.
5. Call someone you have not seen in a while. Pray regularly for the sick, the shut-in, and those in need.
6. Lend a hand to the bell choir, lend your voice to the choir, lend your casserole dish to the next event.
7. Support mission outreach and Bethel needs with your time, talent, financial giving, and festive gusto.
8. Worship the Lord regularly with your congregational family.

--Amy Coen

Family Promise Update

The beginning of a new year brings with it memories of the past and hopes for the future. For Family Promise that includes saying goodbye to our director, Greg Chadwick, as he leaves us to pursue new adventures. We wish him and his family well and thank him for the understanding job he has done in the past 18 months.

Greg has been successful in recruiting host churches, increasing community involvement and stabilizing the program during uncertain times. More importantly, he reported at the last Volunteer Coordinators' meeting, this past year 46 people were able to avoid homelessness due to Family Promise. Additionally, many more folks were assisted with gas cards, food and case management services.

Recent additions to the host church recruits include New Midway Baptist, Bible Bikers Church and Victory Baptist. New Midway is also serving as a static sight, which means they will shelter families. They have a unique arrangement at this time, providing all food as well as shelter to the family. Case management is provided through Family Promise.

That leads to a looking forward moment. In October Angela Morris joined Family Promise as full-time 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.

Everyone loves a success story, and one was shared with the Volunteer Coordinators at our December meeting. The breadwinner of one of our families has been successful in moving from a state of unemployment to the point was earning almost \$20.00 an hour, with a management position expected in the near future.

We also celebrate with our friend Monica and her daughter as they graduate from sheltering at Bethel to moving into a duplex in Oak Ridge. Though health issues continue they are looking forward to the new year with high hopes.

I can not thank all of you enough for your support of the program. Your generosity never fails to amaze me. Happy New Year!

Presbytery-Wide Bible Studies in Genesis

Sundays 3:00-4:30pm
(in-person & online)
Led by Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff
Live In-Person Schedule:
January 8 – Second Presbyterian (Knoxville)
January 22 – Northminster Presbyterian (Chattanooga)
January 29 – First Presbyterian (Lenoir City)
February 5 – Mars Hill Presbyterian (Athens)
February 12 – Farragut Presbyterian (Knoxville)

*In-person gatherings for participants will be available each

We Got Mail:

Dear Bethel, thank you for your generous donations to Hands of Mercy. We are continuing to serve Roane County with your help. The needs are great!
God Bless,
Hands of Mercy (HOM)
Board of Volunteers

