

# The Open Door

Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCUSA

Kingston, TN

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May 2023

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## Session Highlights from April 16, 2023

Ellen Dailey did the Session devotion and prayer.

**Worship Attendance:** March 2023 average in-person Sanctuary attendance was 69 (from Sanctuary tablet) and the March 2023 average Facebook Worship attendance was 111.

**Communications:** The Team is probably going to do an online Church directory, one that can be edited. They are still working on adding a microphone to the steeple so worshipers in the sanctuary can hear the bell ring every Sunday.

**Faith Team** – The Recital Series of Kingston reserved use of the sanctuary on Friday, April 28, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a Roane State Community College graduation recital. The Team discussed and voiced support for the development of Third Thursday Theology conversations held in the public space of the Maple Creek Bistro. The Faith Team

discussed and voiced support for starting up Communion visits to our shut-ins and elderly members. We purchased a lovely home Communion service set to start April 13. Each Thursday, one person from the Visitation Team of Brenda Bunch, Amy Coen, Deb Hyder, and Jan Rybka will join Nancy Coleman for home visits. Others are welcome to join this team. A Confirmation Class is being offered to our youth, grades 6-11. Youth Sunday will be held on May 14. Pentecost celebrated May 28.

**Fellowship Team** – The Ladies Luncheon is May 20. The third Sunday Fellowship Lunch is on May 21. Seventy people attended on March 26, 2023, the first time for Sunday Fellowship Lunch; April 23 was the second.

**Finance & Stewardship** – The Team is discussing having a church event to burn our mortgage papers. The Team is also considering establishing a Third Century Fund to cover building maintenance.

**Personnel Team** – Covenant with Interim Pastor (Rev. Nancy Coleman) renewed for a year.

**Property Team** – General building maintenance is being addressed, outside and inside maintenance an ongoing issue.

**Service Team** – Susan Garner provided an updated report on GriefShare. The first group met

from September 11 to December 4. Eleven completed the course. The group was a mix of Bethel members and family and the general public. The second group met from January 8-April 2 with four people. The small size contributed to a deep and rich intimate experience. The cost for 2022 Christmas Basket Food doubled going from \$2,600 to \$5,200. Roane County Cooperative Ministries had \$4,500 for the April Garden Grant program – 90 families were given \$50.00 each that could be used for plants, seeds, and fertilizer.

**Study Team** – Elaine Steele and Amy Coen coordinated a presentation by the children on March 28th. Vacation Bible will be July 15th (Saturday) on the water with the journeys of Paul as our theme. See Study Team Update for volunteers needed.

Elaine Steele spoke about the April 18 meeting she attended which was presented by Interfaith Power and Light. Their mission is to inspire and mobilize people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change.

Elaine Steele and Rev. Coleman will attend the May 16 Presbytery meeting.

Next Session Meeting – May 21, 2023

Cathy McDowell,  
Clerk of Session



## May Birthdays

- 1 Avery Parish
- 2 Jennifer Vandever
- 4 Bram Hyder
- 5 Jane Pickel  
Carol Whitnall
- 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



# Calendar of Events

Thursday, May 4, 6:30-8:30 at  
Event Center, Harriman--Family  
Promise Kentucky Derby Event

Sunday, May 7, 3:00 at The  
Princess Theatre in Harriman,  
Roane Choral Society 50th  
Anniversary Concert

Saturday, May 20, Noon, Bethel  
Annual Ladies Lunch. Reserva-  
tions May 15, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 21 after Worship,  
Fellowship Lunch, covered dish  
Fellowship Hall

Saturday, June 10, Nightin-  
gales, A Spot of Tea, and Thee  
High Tea, 2:00, Fellowship Hall

**Hands of Mercy**  
**Needs for May**  
**Canned Meat (Tuna,**  
**Chicken, Spam)**  
**May 21 Collection**

Thanks to Our  
Sunday School  
Teachers!



**Every Monday** 10:00 Bethel  
Arts Ministry (2nd Floor)  
7:00 Boy Scouts (FH)

**Every Tuesday**  
10:00 Rug Hooking 2nd Floor  
Noon SAIL Exercise Class (FH)  
6:00 Tai Chi (FH)

**Every Wednesday**  
4:30-5:30 Bell Choir Practice  
6:00 -7:15 Choir Practice  
Except on Fellowship Supper  
Wednesday when they meet at  
7:00

**Every Thursday**  
Noon SAIL Exercise Class (FH)  
**Every Friday** 10:00 Tai Chi (FH)

## Thursday Theology at Maple Creek Bistro

Thursday, April 20 at 4:00 pm  
was the inaugural gathering of  
Thursday Theology at Maple  
Creek Bistro (next to Food City,  
Kingston), led by Pastor Nancy.  
The purpose is to meet in an  
informal setting in order to have  
conversations about particular  
theological issues that might  
be of interest. Our first topic will  
be "What does it mean to be a  
Christian?" We hope to make  
this a regular gathering on the  
third Thursday of each month.  
If you'd like to join us, all you  
have to do is show up at 4:00  
on the 20th and look for familiar  
faces! We will be reserving a  
table for 10 for this first meeting.  
Thursday Theology is open to  
anyone who would like to come.  
For more information, contact  
Nancy at [revnancy2020@gmail.com](mailto:revnancy2020@gmail.com).

# Notes from Rev Nancy

Dear Friends,

As we've entered the Season of Easter, there are signs of resurrection and new life all around us: birds gathering twigs to build their nests and entertaining us with their uplifting songs; trees showing off their bright green leaves and lovely pink and purple blossoms; wildflowers and garden flowers cheering our days with their gorgeous colors. After some false starts, it feels as if spring is here at last.

We're seeing signs of change and new life in our church as well. Our sanctuary worship numbers are up. We're having increased participation in our music program, and are excited at the revival of our handbell choir. Our March fellowship meal brought in more than 70 people.

In April our visitation team got off to a great beginning, and we were able to revive in-home communion, which had been discontinued during Covid. I am enjoying having company as I go out into the community to check in with folks who are no longer joining us for in-person worship, but who are still very much a beloved part of our congregation.

We kicked off Thursday Theology on April 20th, when

twelve of us met at the Maple Creek Bistro and used the question "What does it mean to be a Christian?" as the springboard to a conversation which meandered through various topics, never quite landing on an answer to the original question! Our next gathering will be on May 18 if you'd like to join us.

This month we will begin confirmation classes with five of our youth: Kaylee Brown, Sofia Crocker, Kayedence Doss, Ryne Knies, and Grayson Pierce. We will meet during the Sunday School hour throughout the months of May, June, and July. Please be in prayer for us as we go through this journey.

In July VBS on the water will be back, with a reprisal of the Missionary Journeys of Paul theme. Be praying about how you might be involved to support this ministry to our children.

Whatever signs of new life you're seeing—whether in nature, in your own life, or in the life of our congregation—rejoice and be glad! May Eastertide find us all with renewed energy and thankful hearts.

Peace to you,  
Pastor Nancy

## Visitation/At-home Communion Team

Rev. Nancy is putting together a team to accompany her on visits to our shut-ins and others needing pastoral care. This involves one Thursday a month from 1:00-3:00 pm for

## Transition Team Update

The transition team met twice during April. During these meetings we talked about the results of the survey which was sent to the congregation. This survey is still available, and you can find the link both on our Facebook page and in the church-wide email which was sent out on Friday, April 21. Please take a couple of minutes to complete it if you have not already done so.

We are making plans for our next congregational gathering on Saturday, May 20 at the church. The exact time has not yet been determined. The emphasis will be on quiet reflection and listening to God, and there will be opportunities for prayer in the sanctuary, for walking the labyrinth, and for journaling. We will come together for a time of worship at the end.

This event will be open for both adults and for children who are upcoming fourth graders or older, with child care being provided for the younger children. More details will be made available soon.

those who volunteer. We are also planning to resume in-home communion. If you know of someone who would benefit from a visit, or if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact Rev. Nancy at [revnancy2020@gmail.com](mailto:revnancy2020@gmail.com).

# SPRINGTIME SNACKS



Whip up a plate of these cute, healthy treats!

## What you need:

- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

## What you do:

1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
4. Add the tomato as a head.
5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
6. Making different-shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!

## John Knox Summer Camp Registration Still Open

At Camp John Knox, campers ages 4 to 18 can play fun and crazy games, water ski, hold a snake, participate in engaging Bible studies, challenge themselves on the High Ropes Course, make new friends and explore God's creation. Be a part of Camp John Knox this summer!

Our congregation encourages all our children to experience summer camp and offers scholarships to help with the cost. Contact Study Team Chair - Bonnie Phillips or Rev. Nancy Coleman for additional information. Remember you must SUBMIT with a deposit to secure your spot.

Register at [johnknoxcenter.org](http://johnknoxcenter.org)

## Study Team Update

The Study team is planning VBS on the water again this year! Our children and youth will experience the journeys of Paul on Saturday, July 15th and this means we need a little help from the congregation. Please let Cyndi Fowler or another member of the Study team know if you:

\*\* Have a pontoon boat and/or a dock you are willing to share. The dock will not be needed all day.

\*\* Have children's life jacket's and are willing to loan them for a day.

\*\* Are willing and able to assist at a location (story, craft, snack)

\*\* Can help provide snacks or supplies (yet to be determined)

\*\* Are willing to serve as a responsible adult on a pontoon boat

Thank you all in advance!

-Cyndi Fowler

## Bethel's Barber Library Update

Bethel's Barber Library has a variety of interesting materials for multiple ages groups:

(1) The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Children's Stories,  
(2) Strong's Concise Concordance And Vine's Concise Dictionary Of The Bible Two Bible Reference Classics In One Handy Volume,

3) The Thoughtful Caregiver: Surviving, Thriving and Growing in Spirit as You Care.

All are welcome to stop by the library, surf the shelves, and read something new to you.



# Roane Choral Society Celebrating 50 YEARS Concert

When the late Dr. Don King (married to Linda Zirkle King, a former Bethel member), founded Roane Choral Society he wanted to enrich the lives of Roane Countians with music, but he may not have dreamed that RCS would still be going strong 50 years later! At our first concert, "Messiah - A Service of Tenebrae" at First Baptist Church, Kingston on April 20, 1973, Bethel members in the chorus included Helen Stevenson, Connie Dahman, Alice Browning, and Bill Browning. I, too, sang in that first concert, but was not yet a member of Bethel.

Through the years there have been many more RCS singers from Bethel including Peggy Sheppard, Jim Condon, Gisella Condon, Laura Dailey, Brenda Bunch, Julie Barber, Rebecca Price, Phil Walsh, Nancy Beth Gerberding, Jackie Rylander, Marilyn Gaffin, Laura Walker, Bryan Walker, Willie Baldry, Mary Ann Hensley, Neal Dunwoody, Sherry Burchfield, Lucille Green, Tom Roostee, Lois Schier, Mary Woodall, and Doris Barber. I hope that I am not forgetting anyone.

Two RCS accompanists were former Bethel pianists, Mary Ann Hensley and Mary Hook. Over the years, Bethel members have been supportive in other ways - financially and as concert attendees.



## Special Events at Lakeside Market

May 6 Chalk  
May 13 Tour of Quilts  
May 20 Music  
May 27 First Responders

For details, go to  
[kingstonlakesidemarket.com](http://kingstonlakesidemarket.com)

(Gary may have THE RECORD as the most consistent attendee at RCS concerts! Thank you, Gary!) On Sunday, May 7, at 3:00 at The Princess Theatre in Harriman, RCS will celebrate our fifty years of singing with a reunion concert where we will remember former singers and accompanists and former conductors with tribute anthems that were special to those conductors.

Two charter members still sing with Roane Choral Society - myself and Nancy Skidmore. To honor Dr. King's dream for RCS, I will be singing a solo (accompanied by Nancy), "Climb Every Mountain"; which ends with "Follow every rainbow 'til you find your dream"; We hope to see you there at this special concert.

Dianne Griffith

## Pentecost Celebration

You are invited to WEAR RED on Sunday, May 28, as we celebrate a special birthday. Pentecost is a Christian holiday which takes place on the 50th day after Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem. The festival of Pentecost is important to Christians today because it represents the beginning of the Christian Church. It reminds us how Jesus' promise that God would send the Holy Spirit was fulfilled. The red is a sign that the good news of Jesus came to all who were there in a language they could understand from people with whom they would not otherwise have communicated.

## Memorials

In memory of Marc Sherrod from Andrew and Patsy Buchanan  
Mark and Kathy Banker  
In memory of Jacob Murr from Liz Singley  
In memory of Rev. Dick Hettrick from Mark and Kathy Banker  
In memory of Karen Schall from Jim and Mary B. Hines  
In memory of Anita Richmond from Jim and Mary B. Hines  
In memory of Jerry Morris from Jim and Mary B. Hines  
In honor of Susan Garner from Lynne Spires

Marilyn Harris

# *The Recital Series*

You are warmly welcomed to enjoy a very special summer event  
Nightingales, A Spot of Tea, and Thee  
High Tea\*\*

(with a purpose)

Saturday, the 10th of June, at 2:00pm

In the Fellowship Hall

Bethel Presbyterian Church

In celebration of

The coming birth of a precious little boy to first time parents  
Josh and Katie Yeaworth-Acopine

Katie is the daughter of Judy and Jonathan Yeaworth

Judy, of course, is our wonderful music director

Finger foods and delicious delicacies, full steaming pots of aromatic teas, an appearance by Miss Manners, games, stories, gifts for the new mom and coming baby\*, exquisite musical offerings with surprise artists, a time of fun and fellowship with a flavoring of elegance and a dash of the mischievous. Come have fun as we celebrate together!

A gift to you from

The Recital Series of Kingston

and hosted by the Choirs of Bethel

Erata:

\*Gifts are NOT required, but if you would like to bring or give a baby gift you certainly may. If suggestions are needed know that Katie is registered on line at [www.babylist.com](http://www.babylist.com) ... simply put in Yeaworth or Acopine to access their registry.

\*\*Yes, you may dress up and wear a big fancy tea hat if you wish (what fun!)...BUT it is not required at all. Truly, come as you are, or come as you wish...just come! and enjoy this time of giving thanks for the joyful blessing of new life.

Rebecca Price

## **Fellowship Update for May**

*Annual Bethel Ladies' Luncheon*

*Saturday, May 20, 2023*

*at 12:00 pm (noon) in the Bethel Fellowship Hall.*

*Women of all ages are invited to attend our luncheon celebrating mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, and all women.*

*We will enjoy a catered lunch and fellowship together.*

*The cost is \$9.00 per person. The deadline to register is Monday, May 15th.*

*\*\*\*To celebrate women, we will be collecting feminine hygiene products to be distributed at local schools.*

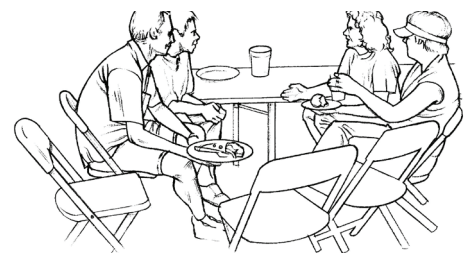
*"I will pour out my Spirit  
on all people."*

Joel 2:28, NIV



## **May Fellowship Lunch**

Sunday, May 21  
after Worship



**Fellowship Meals**

# Family Promise Update

## Graduation

Graduation is a time of year that brings warmth – a sense of completion, a time to look at what possibilities the future holds. This year, Family Promise is housing two high school seniors. Both have worked diligently to complete their high school coursework. One is graduating with a high school certificate marking the completion of their education. One is finishing at the top of their class and graduating with a two-year degree from a local community college.

While an exciting time, the uncertainties of their past few years have, undoubtedly, shaped them as they prepare for their futures. As you look around at the graduation ceremonies you attend this year, remember that not all children are given the same advantages. Some have a community of support to love and guide them and some don't. Some have lived in cars. Some have lived with family members or other adults that aren't their

parents. Some have moved in with friends. Some share a tent in the woods. Others have moved four plus times this year due to housing insecurity. For some, high school will be the paramount of their education. For some, it will only be just the beginning.

One of our goals here at Family Promise is to ensure that all the children that come through our program have a better future and we are proud to celebrate our two graduates. As you partner with us, you're helping us provide a brighter, more stable future for these children and their families by allowing them to focus less on the stresses of their daily life and more on preparing for their futures after that they envision after Family Promise.

Congratulations to the class of 2023!

Charles Elmore,  
Executive Director  
Family Promise Roane County

## Save-the-date for Family Promise of Roane County Kentucky Derby Event: May 4, 2023 – 6:30 to 8:30

at the Fredrick Gates Events Center (second floor of Harri-man City Municipal Building). Here is your chance to dress for the derby, enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, stick pony races, music, and fun with other supporters of Family Promise of Roane County. All this for a fraction of the cost of going to the derby itself! Tickets are \$50.00 per person. See Melanie Sherrod or Jan

## New Bethel T-Shirts Available

Step into summer with a cool, crisp white Bethel T-shirt. Available in the Gathering Area, the short-sleeved shirts (L, XL, 2X) have a navy outline of the church on the front and an interesting timeline on the back. Pick up yours today.

*Avery Parish  
Oak Ridge High School  
2023*

