

# Bethel Presbyterian Church Announcements

Childcare for infants and preschool age children is offered from 9:30 a.m. until noon in the nursery. The Quiet Room is available during worship.

## Our Prayer List



**Please pray for:** Jennifer Vandever (*pneumonia, home*); Titus (*struggling in the aftermath of repeated concussions, grandson of Becky Price*); Bill Evans (*hospitalized, uncle of Amy Evans Rourke*); Joni Morgan (*fractured arm*); Marilyn [Gaffin] Zellmer (*leukemia diagnosis*); Kevin (*needs a kidney, Oregon friend of Liz Singley*); Julie Barber (*hip woes*); Brenda Law (*Vernon Law's daughter*); Bill Swindler (*Fred Swindler's brother*); John (*Susan Holton's father*); Sharon Martin (*Elaine Steele's sister-in-law*); prayers for those with economic worries, health concerns, and for those living in the midst of war. Be in prayer for Esther Parish's mother and step-father in Paphos, Cyprus, as the area is under attack from Iran.

Our long-term, ongoing-list: Gerald & Sandra Augustus (*brother-in-law & sister of Brenda Bunch*); Don and Una Coffman (*Sycamore Trace*); Rickey Gallaher (*Adam Gallaher's father*); Linda Gerth; Marge Hettrick (*palliative care*); Nancy Landers; Vernon Law; Jeanette McElhinney; Jill McMaster; Anneke Oonk; Earl Price (*Becky Price's husband*); Carrie Vickers; Randy Vickers, Laura Walker.

## A PC(USA) Statement On The Escalating War With Iran



We are deeply troubled by the expanding military assault on Iran and the widening regional war it now threatens to become. As Christians shaped by the reconciling love of Jesus Christ, we grieve every life lost and every family now living in terror. Decisions of war and peace are measured not in political claims but in human lives.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has repeatedly affirmed that war must never be entered into lightly. Military force must be a last resort, and international disputes must be addressed through sustained diplomacy, accountability, and multilateral engagement grounded in international law. Our General Assemblies have called for negotiated agreements that constrain nuclear proliferation, reduce regional tensions, and prioritize civilian protection.

We are gravely alarmed that this expanding military campaign is already resulting in civilian casualties and retaliatory strikes across the region. Reports that civilian infrastructure, including schools, has been struck heighten our alarm and underscore the devastating human cost of escalation. The people of Iran, many already living under repression and economic hardship, will bear the brunt of destruction, displacement, and fear. Families across neighboring countries now face renewed instability and the prospect of a widening war. Civilians, not political leaders, will suffer first and longest. History warns us that regime-toppling interventions and open-ended military campaigns often unleash consequences far beyond what leaders anticipate.

We affirm clearly: the Iranian government's repression, corruption, and human rights abuses are real and grievous. Our opposition to this escalating military action is not a defense of authoritarian rule. Nor does our concern end with another nation's abuses. Every government, including our own, is accountable for how it wields power, and democracies must guard against actions that erode the rule of law and constitutional restraint.

Rather, our opposition reflects our conviction that bombs do not create democracy, and airstrikes do not build just societies. Lasting peace and freedom require sustained diplomacy, support for civil society, regional de-escalation, and accountability under international law. Our church has long urged:

- renewed diplomatic engagement rather than military brinkmanship
- congressional oversight and adherence to constitutional war powers
- protection of civilians as a moral and legal priority
- serious investment in nonproliferation and multilateral agreements
- a foreign policy that reduces, rather than expands, cycles of retaliation.

As Presbyterians, we confess that true security does not come through military might but through justice, restraint and accountability. We call for an immediate cessation of further military escalation and for a return to sustained diplomacy grounded in international law. The stakes are too high for impulsive action or open-ended conflict. We pray for wisdom and courage among leaders, for the people of Iran, for Israelis and Palestinians, for U.S. service members, and for all who may suffer as a result of this decision. And we recommit ourselves to Christ's call to be peacemakers in a world too quick to reach for war.

## **Spring Forward – March 8 Time Change**



It's that time once again to “Spring Forward” as Daylight Saving Time begins. Officially the changeover occurs at 2:00 am **Sunday, March 8, 2026**, and will end 2:00 am **Sunday, November 1, 2026**.

## Potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 8, after worship



You are invited to a congregation potluck lunch on **Sunday, March 8**, in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

Bring a favorite dish. Try something new. Crock pots, casseroles, cookies and such can be placed in the kitchen before Sunday school. Outlets are ready for crock pots.

Chat with someone who sat in a pew far from you. Enjoy the fellowship. Everyone is invited!

## Hands of Mercy Food Pantry Collection – March 15



Consider No Sugar Added options for donations of canned fruit or applesauce during March to the Hands of Mercy Food Pantry. All non-perishable food is welcome. Bethel's monthly collection goes straight to recipients served at 134 E. Cumberland Street in Kingston.

## **Bethel Is Seeking A Part-time Accounting And Administrative Assistant**



Effective, pleasant and compassionate communication skills with members, church friends, community groups, vendors, contractors, other staff and pastor, as well as with those who contact the church for information or assistance.

Strong computer skills with attention to detail for maintaining membership records, sending emails, setting up and using church online accounts, ordering supplies, recording contributions, paying bills, processing payroll, reconciling bank statements, and maintaining official church accounting records.

General office skills such as maintaining files, correspondence, and the church master calendar.

Proficiency in accounting software, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft Outlook, and knowledge of basic accounting principles.

Education and/or experience in administrative work and basic accounting. Ability to learn through training in specific church software.

Ability to identify and help resolve accounting issues.

Self-starter.

Love of following Christ by serving others.

Send correspondence and resumes to [betheljobs@bethelpcusa.org](mailto:betheljobs@bethelpcusa.org)

## Fellowship Beyond the Fellowship Hall

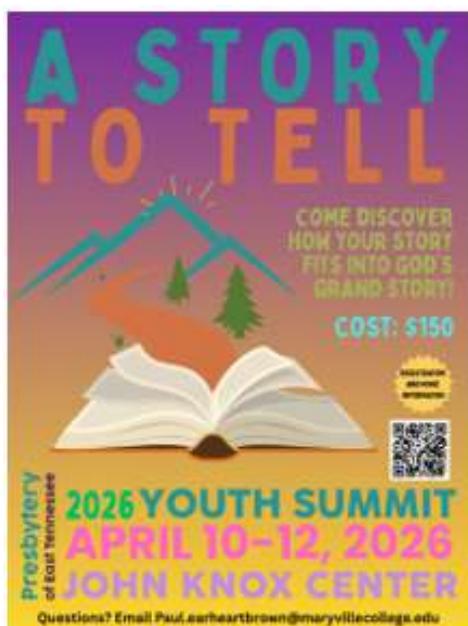
### **Nana Party – Save the date – March 28**



Linda Brown (a.k.a. Nana) is being double blessed with the addition of two babies to the Turnbill / Foulks / Brown households. Bryson Turnbill and Brandi Smith had a baby boy, Asher, on December 24, 2025. Victoria (Tori) Foulks is expecting a baby girl, Rosalee, in May 2026.

The ladies of Bethel are invited to celebrate these additions to our Bethel family on Saturday, March 28, at 5:00 p.m. in the Bethel Fellowship Hall. Event contact is Jan Rybka.

### **PET Youth Summit – April 10 to 12 – John Knox Center – A Story to Tell**



Super close at John Knox Center! Scholarships are available. Register here: <https://www.presbyteryeasttn.org/youth-summit/>

## PCUSA Mission Yearbook – Daily Reflection



The Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) has placed its Mission Yearbook online with the feature to choose a day and a topic for news about church happenings, thoughtful engagements, and outcomes around the globe. Articles precede suggested daily scripture readings.

*World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement observed in more than 170 countries. This year's theme, "I Will Give You Rest: Come," inspired by Matthew 11:28–30, was chosen by an ecumenical group of Nigerian women, who also prepared this year's worship materials.*

Read it here: <https://pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/march-6-2026>

## One Great Hour of Sharing – Easter 2026 – PCUSA Special Offering



*Every OGHS gift makes a difference in the life of the most vulnerable of God's people.*

Churchwide Special Offerings are the single, largest way Presbyterians join together to make a lasting impact in the world. They make it possible for a single congregation to participate in larger work that we would not be able to do on our own. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) supports **ministries of compassion through causes addressing hunger**, disaster, poverty, climate change, and immigration / migration and refugees.

## **MINISTRY IN ACTION – Bethel's Free Laundry Night**



Consider the impact of clean clothing on your dignity at school and work, on your health, and on your pocketbook. Around 2018, Bethel did just that and decided to try out an event at a local laundromat. The cost of one load was \$5 then and the cost to simply wash in 'the big one' is \$8.50 today. Drying is extra. Bethel held periodic laundry nights at Hunter's Coin Laundry until a Covid crash that no one saw coming. We resumed as soon as we could and today we share news of the event with some teachers.

On January 13 starting at 6 p.m., there was a flurry of activity with multiple loads for everyone who walked through the door. The old and young, the ragged and tired, came for quarters and soap, social engagement and snacks. How great it would be to have one every month going forward. Although the Service Team is heavily involved, the congregation is encouraged to jump right in there at any time. The team is looking for possible expansion of more months, additional funding sources (Bethel's 2026 budget amount is \$750), and perhaps community partners.

*What can you do?* Provide laundry detergent, snacks, on-site assistance until the last load is done, and prayers for those struggling to pay for rent, food, transportation, and clean laundry the rest of the month. Contact Liz Singley for more details. The next Free Laundry Night is Tuesday, March 10, at 6 p.m.

## Bethel's Calendar Radar



### On Bethel's Calendar Radar:

Saturday, March 7, Set your clock forward at bedtime for Daylight Saving Time

Sunday, March 8, Congregation Potluck Lunch after worship

Tuesday, March 10, Free Laundry Night at Hunter's Laundromat, 6:00 to 8:00

Saturday, March 14, Love Kitchen 25th Anniversary, Rockwood Presbyterian, 4:00

Sunday, March 15, Hands of Mercy food pantry collection, canned fruit & applesauce

Sunday, March 15, Session meeting after worship

Sunday, March 22, Small & Mighty Soup Bags Service Project, 4:00 to 6:30

Thursday, April 2, Maundy Thursday worship, 7:00

Friday, April 3, Good Friday worship at noon

Sunday, April 5, Easter (sunrise worship 7:00 a.m., egg hunt 9:29 a.m.)

Thursday, April 10 to Sunday, April 12, Youth Summit at John Knox Center

Saturday, April 11, Love Kitchen, Rockwood Presbyterian Church, eat at 4:00

Sunday, April 12, Congregation Potluck Lunch after worship

Saturday, April 18, Kingston Lakeside Market, Day One, 8 to 11

Saturday, April 18, Presbyterian Women of PET, Spring Gathering, Chattanooga, 10:00 to 2:00

Sunday, April 19, Session meeting after worship

Sunday, April 19, "Kingston Recital Event" in sanctuary at 3:00

Sunday, May 3, Congregation Potluck Lunch & Senior Graduation Recognition

Sunday, May 17, Session meeting after worship

Friday, May 22, "Kingston Recital Event" in sanctuary at 7:00

Saturday, June 13, Love Kitchen, Rockwood Presbyterian Church, eat at 4:00

Monday, June 22, the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will convene in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from June 22 to July 2, 2026. 'We are all connected.'

## Contacting Bethel

Temporary Office Hours are Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 to 12:00.

Please use the emails below to contact Rev Beth, Judy, Linda, or Cathy.

## How to Contact Bethel



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Kingston, TN 37763



865-376-6340



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