

# *The Open Door*

Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCUSA  
Kingston, TN

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April 2025

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## Technology Updates

Bethel's Education Building has new WI-FI info for all three floors. Watch for "Bethel" in the name when you connect depending on your location of Fellowship Hall, Second Floor, or Third Floor. Password is Glory2God! for Education Bldg. Noticeable service improvement.

-Amy Coen

Bethel's library now has a sturdy 12-foot hdmi cord, large magnetic white board, and excellent options to use the church zoom account for your next meeting. The Fellowship Hall smartTV is also ready for more use. Check with Alfred Rybka or Amy Coen for more details.

*Hands of Mercy  
Focus Foods  
for April  
Canned Vegetables /  
Baked Beans  
Collection via Youth pulling  
wagon Third Sundays*

## April Shout Out Goes to Dan McDowell

Thank you, Dan for setting up emails for Bethel's staff and special assistants.



Thank you, Dan for last week's worship service video effort. Following the recent announcement that Facebook will begin removing Live videos older than 30 days, Bethel's Webmaster Extraordinaire, a.k.a. Dan, jumped right in to initiate a plan to store them in Bethel's Archive within our website dreamhost space. Stay tuned for more development.

Thank you, Dan for maintaining our website and for your ongoing patience with all things tech. We appreciate you!



## April Birthdays

- 3 Amanda Purushotham
- 4 Jeremy Copeland  
Laura Windhausen
- 6 Mary Kathryn Willett
- 9 Bill Sides
- 10 Cathy McDowell
- 17 Chuck Brumley
- 22 Dolores Sandmel
- 23 Sophie Crocker
- 27 Sarah Applegate  
David Choate  
Joni Morgan
- 28 Nancy Braski

# Garden Grants Program Update

The Garden Grant program is now a ministry of Bethel's Service Committee.

The grants are supported by a \$2,000 donation from our Presbytery's Hunger Fund and donations from Bethel including the youth collection of the "Super Bowl" offering. This program will give \$40 grants to 125 people to assist them in planting a vegetable garden to feed their family.

Learning to vegetable garden is a valuable skill that allows people to have nutritious produce this year and in the future.

Thanks to all the people who have worked to prepare for this project.

The youth have bagged up 500 pounds of potatoes into 5 pound bags to give as seed potatoes.

We have volunteers from the UT extension department who will offer information and advice. Chuck Bunch will be on hand to give tips on growing potatoes.

Kaylee and Alf will help with registration and Susan Holton will provide the recipients a voucher card from Ace Hardware, AgCentral Co-op or Tractor Supply. Kirk and I will be assisting as needed.

Look at the following statistics to see why this program is so worthwhile:

"Regionally, the highest food insecurity rates can be found in the South (11.4)"

Stacker compiled data using information from Feeding America to determine the insecurity for Roane County. Food insecurity statistics are as of 2021:

Roane County food insecurity by the numbers

- Insecurity rate: 16.4%
- Insecure population: 2,320 people
- Cost per meal: \$3.18
- Annual food budget shortfall: \$1,302,000"

--Elaine Steele

## Caring for Bethel's Gardens

For Bethel's gardens to look their best, they need a blanket of mulch. The saying "many hands make light work" is definitely true! Please come help if you can.

Scheduled for Tuesday, April 8 from 6-8 pm. Or Wednesday April 9 from 9-11 am.

--Elaint Steele



Seeking Sextons  
for April, May, June  
Signup sheet in  
Gathering Area.

## New Member Update

Hi. We are Randy and Pat Vickers. We have been married for 56 years. We have three grown children 10 grand children and 7 great grand children.. We are from the Chicago burbs. We have worked for Army Corps of engineers for around the past 10 years. Due to health reasons we are not longer working for them. We are enjoying living in Tennessee and have met some wonderful people.

Bethel Presbyterian membership has become a family affair for the Vickers, as they join their son, Rob, his wife, Carrie, and their grandsons, Jacob and Jonathan (also a new member), in worship and fellowship.



Several year-long devotional books are available for check-out through Bethel's Barber Library. What an amazing deal to check out a book for a year! Other selections include Bible study, historical fiction, and children's stories.

--Amy Coen

We even have the Bible on CD.

## Remember



## Save the Date

June 28th for Vacation Bible School! Your Study team is hard at work planning for 2025 Vacation Bible School and is looking forward to welcoming children, grandchildren, friends and visitors to a great VBS this year. Our theme is the Amazing Race with Fruits of the Spirit. We will need adults as volunteers to help staff some of the stations and to chaperone the teams. Our tentative time will be from 8am until 2pm but no worries if you can't stay for all of that time. Please let Cyndi know if you are available and would like to help for any part of the day. We will have a meeting with more details in late April or early May but meanwhile, please hold that date and look forward with us to a great day of learning and fun!

-Cyndi Fowler



Lakeside Market  
Coming Back Soon



# Music Updates

## JazzFest at Bethel.. Saturday, April 12 at 1:30pm

Welcome to JazzFest at Bethel! For the final concert of the season the Recital Series is bringing jazz specialists Patrick Langham and Caleb Sherrod, along with a rhythm band comprised of the finest jazz players in Knoxville, to play for you and your guests. Your Afternoon JazzFest begins at 1:30pm on Saturday, April 12 in the sanctuary. These guys will absolutely make your day!

Patrick is a professional saxophonist and makes music at jazz festivals all over the U.S. and in Europe and South Amer-

ica. He is the director of jazz studies at California's University of the Pacific, where he has taught for twenty years. He designed and implemented the jazz degree programs at the university and has won numerous awards for his work. A dynamic performer, he has a Bethel connection...he is Di-  
anne and Gary's son -in-law.

Caleb is a saxophonist and clarinetist very well known in the local jazz world, playing with the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra, the Asheville Jazz Orchestra, and others in the surrounding areas. An outstanding young artist in the field of jazz, many of you have enjoyed his playing at the Bijou in Knoxville. Caleb is also very connected to Bethel as his mother is Melanie Sherrod and

his father is the late Reverend Marc Sherrod who served as senior pastor at Bethel from 2001-2009. During that time, Caleb regularly entertained at Bethel on Friday evenings.

As always, the concert is free and all are welcome! Bring your friends and neighbors! After the concert we will enjoy authentic Cuban flan and visit with the guys and their band.

Don't miss it!

## JazzFest at Bethel.

Sat., April 12 at 1:30pm.

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## April 13

### Fellowship Potluck Lunch after Worship

## Fellowship Team Update

If you are interested in hosting a Bethel fellowship Lunch, please add your name to the sign up sheet in the gathering area. Fellowship lunches will be potluck style. If you have any questions, please email Rebecca Pierce at [rebeccadpierce@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccadpierce@gmail.com).

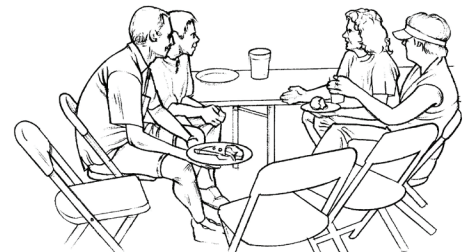
## Upcoming Dates

April 13- fellowship lunch potluck after church

May 18- fellowship lunch potluck after church (May 11 is Mother's Day)- we will recognize any graduates, including Levi Parrish.

Please submit any names that you know of to Rebecca Pierce ?? Women's Luncheon Date TBD

June 8- fellowship lunch after church



## Fellowship Meals



In memory of Jane Pickel from:

Geneva Gibson  
George and Nancy Dailey  
Bob and Nancy Patterson  
Nancy Landers  
Linda and Robert Pickel  
Brenda Fox  
Frank and Marilyn Harris  
Joe and Amy Coen

In memory of Rev. Dick Hettrick  
from

Mark and Kathy Banker

In memory of Rev. Marc  
Sherrod from

Mark and Kathy Banker

In memory of Dick Evans from  
Jim and Mary B. Hines

In memory of Tom Pickel from  
Jim and Mary B Hines

## One Great Hour of Sharing Baked Treats by Bethel Youth on Easter

Bethel's YOUTH will be preparing Easter treats at their Bake-In on Friday, April 18. These treats will be available starting at 10:30 am on Easter Sunday in the Gathering Area. A donation box to raise funds for the PCUSA One Great Hour of Sharing will be placed on a nearby table. The targets of the OGHS are ending hunger, repairing after disasters, and promoting the self-development of all people.

## Prepare for Love Kitchen Date July 12

Bethel will next serve dinner via the Love Kitchen outreach at Rockwood Presbyterian Church on Saturday, July 12.

Providing bingo prizes is another way to help the people who come. Bethel has a box in the corner of the Gathering Area to collect items. In particular, the following have been requested: body soap, large shampoo, personal care products, laundry detergent, dishwashing soap, cleaning supplies. All prizes welcome.

## Thanks from Pickel Family

The family of Jane D. Pickel wishes to extend thanks to those persons who have been so kind to offer condolence at her passing. We are appreciative of the delicious snacks provided at the memorial service and meal provided for family following her graveside service. This thoughtful kindness allowed us the opportunity for visiting with friends and extended family. Thank you!



# From Pastor Beth - Ready for Easter!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
With the beginning of the month of April, the season of Lent is almost at its end. And that means that Easter is almost upon us! I hope you will join the entire Bethel family in marking this most important Christian season.

□ April 13 is the 6th, or final Sunday of Lent. That day, of course, is also known as Palm Sunday. During worship we will re-enact and celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Everyone is invited to meet in the Gathering Area about 10 minutes before 11:00 to join in the Palm Sunday Processional.

- During Holy Week there will be 2 special services of worship. On April 17, Maundy Thursday, there will be worship with communion at 7:00 p.m. On Good Friday, April 18, there will be a simple worship service at 12 noon.
- On Easter Sunday, we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection with 1) a sunrise service at 7:00 a.m., followed by Sunrise Breakfast; 2) an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids at 9:30 a.m., 3) worship at 11:00 a.m.

Please join us during this special time of the Church year!  
In Christ,  
Beth



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Reminder: Copies of each month's Open Door are accessible from Bethel's website: [bethelpcusa.org](http://bethelpcusa.org)  
Also, copies of each week's bulletin announcements and a link to Bethel's online directory.  
Print copies are available in the Gathering Area.



As always, we will have Easter Sunrise Service on Easter Morning on the Patio outside the Fellowship Hall, starting at 7 am. After the Sunrise Service, breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall. The menu is yet to be determined. If you have an opinion about what you want us to serve, please contact Susan in the Bethel Office and she will pass information along to Liz Singley and Celia Simon for planning.



"Hope the choir does some hip-hop for Easter!"



APRIL 2025

[HTTPS://FAMILYPROMISEROANE.ORG](https://familypromiseroane.org)

# Welcome Alyssa!

**Alyssa Cook was selected to be the interim executive director after our previous director, Charles Elmore, gave a 60 day resignation. Alyssa was an intern at Family Promise coming in through the UT College of Social Work internship program that Charles created during his first week as director more than two years ago.**

## STAY CONNECTED:

- OUR 3RD ANNUAL KENTUCKY DERBY EVENT - JOIN US IN WINNING THE RACE AGAINST FAMILY HOMELESSNESS ON MAY 2ND FROM 6:30PM-8:30PM - COST OF ATTENDANCE IS \$50.00 PER PERSON. THIS EVENT WILL HONOR JAN RYBKA AND DONNA SMITH FOR THEIR SERVICE TO FAMILY PROMISE OF ROANE COUNTY.
- CALL OUR DAY CENTER AT (865) 245-8255 TO SIGN UP FOR A DAY TO LOVE OUR GROUNDS - TEND THE GARDEN, PLANT FLOWERS, MULCH LEAVES, ETC.
- THRIFT STORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED. PLEASE CALL US AT (865) 209-3934 TO VOLUNTEER.
- VOLUNTEER CASE MANAGERS NEEDED. PLEASE CALL (865) 209-2596 TO SIGN UP FOR A TRAINING SESSION.

## Our Leader Leaves

Charles Elmore's time with Family Promise has come to an end. He turned in a 60 day resignation on January 28, 2025 and his last day was March 30, 2025. Charles' legacy will be the programs he created during his time at Family Promise including his partnership with The University of Tennessee College of Social Work, outsourcing as case management with the exception of direct support to partnership agencies to ensure current trends were being followed and his added internships the ETHRA and WIOA to ensure that extra support was available for our program and its guests.

In addition to working on program improvements, Charles also opened up Family Promise Thrift at the request of one of his employees who enjoyed thrifting at other area thrift stores and wanted more to do to fill her time.

Charles also leaves Family Promise as their longest employee, breaking the company record by seven months.

HELP US SERVE MORE FAMILIES THIS YEAR  
THROUGH ONLINE GIVING AT

WE HAVE AN AMAZON WISHLIST AT:  
[HTTPS://AMAZON.COM/REGISTRIES/GL/GUEST-](https://amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-)

*Bethel Presbyterian Church*  
*203 South Kentucky Street*  
*Kingston, TN 37763*



*April 2025*

