

The Open Door

Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCUSA Kingston, TN

Volume 23, Issue 8

August 2026

In this Issue:

Christian Education Update

HOME Focus Items
August Birthdays
Upcoming Events
Music Updates

Vacation Bible School was held on Saturday, July 25 and was quite a success. There were 12 children who participated in many fun activities. The title of the VBS was "God's Community Garden" lead by Jan Rybka. The boys and girls shopped for food at the Kingston Market, prepared the food, and had a great time eating it and played Avoid the Void. They ended the day by making Bee Boxes to take home. See photos on other pages in OD.

We still need Sunday School teachers for some of the classes. The new Sunday School year will start on August 2 .

Our new adult Sunday School class will start on September 13 . You will hear more about it in the coming weeks.

Hands of Mercy
Focus Foods
for August
Cereal / Oatmeal
Collection via Youth pulling
wagon Third Sundays



John Knox Center

Knot Your Average Back to School Bash August 1, 2026



KNOT YOUR AVERAGE BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

AUGUST 1ST



Get ready to kick off the school year with adventure! Join us at John Knox Center on August 1 for Knot Your Average Back to School Bash, a day filled with fun, challenge, and excitement on our high ropes course.

Whether you're climbing for the first time or you're already an experienced adventurer, this event offers the chance to step outside your comfort zone in a safe, supportive environment. Our trained staff will provide instruction, encouragement, and supervision as you tackle the course and discover new confidence, teamwork, and resilience along the way.

Knot Your Average Back to School Bash is a great event for individuals, families, youth groups, and friends looking to enjoy an unforgettable day outdoors. Celebrate each accomplishment, make lasting memories, and take in the beauty of John Knox Center's wooded campus.

Bring your sense of adventure, invite a friend, and come see what you're capable of. We can't wait to welcome you for a day that's anything but average!

August Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Alf Rybka | 20 James Condon |
| 4 Steve Jacks | 21 Amy Coen |
| 7 Jeremiah Jacks | 22 Rachel Cutts |
| 8 Brenda Bunch | 25 Frederick Morgan |
| 9 Pablo Crocker | 26 Julie Coen |
| 10 Treavor Cribbs | 29 River Copeland |
| Joan Pharis | Jeremy Gerberding |
| 15 Jason Brown | |
| 17 Margaret Murr | |
| Gabriel Pierce | |
| 18 Regina Durham | |

Happy
Birthday

Seeking Sextons for
August, September,
October--Signup
sheet in
Gathering Area.

Remember



Family Promise Thrift Store - Donation Request

From Jan Rybka & Tabitha Lawson: The Family Promise Thrift Store currently needs donations. Your left-over yard sale items will be gratefully accepted! The store currently takes items of all types, with the exception of large furniture and large appliances. Clean, working, ready to use items are ideal from closets, garages, basements, and kitchens. As a nonprofit, every dollar is vital in our efforts to prevent child homelessness.

The store is located at 501 Morgan St. in Harriman. Bring those treasures Monday through Saturday from 10:00 to 3:45.



Recital Series Update

Barbershop Ice Cream Social! Saturday, September 19, 1pm

Tennessee Stubborn, and their lovely counterparts the Sweet Madelines, will offer their specialty Barbershop Quartet sounds in a midday concert on Saturday, September 19 at 1:00pm in the sanctuary at Bethel Presbyterian Church. Yes, you read that correctly : TWO Barbershop Quartets!! Both the male quartet and female quartet will delight you with their amazing harmonies on songs both familiar and new. Come reminisce and enjoy sounds of "the good old days", harmonies that will make you melt (in a good way!), and meet the artists as you enjoy a real ice cream social with them following the concert. No charge to attend but donations for these performing groups will be accepted and are encouraged. The music is great...and so is

the ice cream! Enjoy this light hearted, family friendly afternoon with us. All are welcome!

Brought to you by the Recital Series of Kingston. Enjoy! SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27 at 3:00pm. ... SCHUBERT'S MASS in G ... The ROANE CHORAL SOCIETY and guest soloists. Part of the INTERNATIONAL SCHUBERT FESTIVAL and sponsored jointly by The Kingston Schubert Club and the Recital Series of Kingston at Bethel Presbyterian Church. Everyone is warmly welcomed to enjoy this gloriously serene sacred work



Of course, nothing like this would be possible without the

support of you, of Bethel Presbyterian Church, and of those who give so willingly to the Recital Series efforts with your financial donations, your time, your talents, and your prayers for this ministry of outreach to our community. Going above and beyond in sheer physical help and use of their talents and personal time to help bring these beautiful and unique programs to fruition, the Recital Series wishes to acknowledge and sincerely thank the following: Reverend Beth McCrary, Judy Yeaworth, Dianne Griffith, Elaine Steele, Kirk Steele, Alf Rybka, Peggy Sheppard, Liz Singley, Amy Coen, Celia Simon, Linda Brown, Adam Badger, the Service Team and Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church. What you have achieved and given to one another and to the surrounding community is the warmest of welcomes and a comfortable home in which to experience the life changing love and light of Christ through God's extraordinary gift of music. It is truly a

Family Life Update

August 9- Undie Sunday, Donate Undies to elementary and middle and high schools

Blessing of the Backpacks,

Kids Friendly Fellowship Lunch

September church picnic. Date coming soon!





Produce & meat locally sourced!



Elaine's Earth Care Tip #34:

Visit local thrift stores for secondhand goods. New-to-you & conserve resources

Elaine's Earth Care Tip #82:

Keep tires properly inflated: Under-inflated tires create rolling resistance, causing your engine to burn more fuel. Check your tire pressure monthly to improve fuel economy.



Upcoming Tech 4 All Workshops to be held in Bethel's Barber Library:

Visit us at <https://tech4alltn.org>

Karsyn Davis, Program Coordinator, Tech 4 All Tennessee

Tech 4 All Tennessee
3hr Digital Smart @ Bethel Presbyterian 8/11

3 hr
203 S Kentucky St, Kingston, TN 37763
Digital Smart is an introduction

to essential technology skills for everyday life. Participants learn how to use email, Google Chrome, Google Search, Google Drive, Google Calendar, and other commonly used Google tools to communicate, stay organized, access information, and navigate the digital world with confidence.

3hr Excel Essentials @ Bethel Presbyterian 8/13
203 S Kentucky St, Kingston, TN 37763

Excel Essentials introduces participants to the fundamentals of Microsoft Excel. Topics include organizing information, creating spreadsheets, using basic formulas, managing data, and applying Excel skills to personal, educational, and workplace tasks.

3hr Workforce Readiness @ Bethel Presbyterian 8/24
3 hr
203 S Kentucky St, Kingston, TN 37763

Workforce Readiness helps participants prepare for employment opportunities by developing professional skills and job-search strategies. Topics include resume development, interview preparation, job searching, workplace communication, professionalism, and strategies for long-term career success.

Recent Memorials



Terry & Charity Robbins	for Youth Camp
Elizabeth Singley	In memory of Marge Hettrick
Mark & Kathy Banker	In memory of Marge Hettrick
Alf & Jan Rybka	In memory of Marge Hettrick
Cynthia & Michael Wakefield	In memory of Marge Hettrick
Wakefield Baptist Church	In memory of Marge Hettrick
Mark & Kathy Banker	In memory of Marge Hettrick

Reminder: Copies of each month's Open Door are accessible from Bethel's website: 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.

Music Makes your Heart Sing

The chancel choir and the bell choir will take a break during the summer. If you would like to provide special music during Sunday worship, please contact Judy Yeaworth. Instrumentalists, vocals, bell quartets, and joyful noise enthusiasts – be encouraged!

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203 South Kentucky Street
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