

# *The Open Door*

## Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCUSA

### Kingston, TN

Volume 21, Issue 12

December 2024

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#### *for December*

*Baby Supplies (Diapers,  
Wipes, Lotion,  
Shampoo, Diaper Rash Cream,  
Baby Bath, etc.)*

*Collection via Youth pulling  
wagon Third Sundays*

### Session Highlights

### November 17, 2024

Celia Simon did the Session devotion.

**Worship Attendance** – October 2024 average in-person Sanctuary attendance was 75 (actual head count) and the October 2024 average Facebook Live Worship attendance was 328.

#### **Communication Team**

– Celia Simon continues to produce the monthly Open Door and Susan Cutts emails it to most members

and mails a few copies to members who do not have email. A few copies of the current Open Door are available in the Gathering Area and the Open Door is available on Bethel's website. Alfred Rybka is printing hard copies of the Instant Church Directory for those who request one.

**Faith Team** – Guest musician Katie Yeaworth-Acopine introduced the children to the joys of playing the ukulele in a special session Nov 17. The Bells of Bethel played at the Christmas on the Lawn community event. Hanging of the Greens will be part of worship on Dec 8, a spirited cantata will be sung during worship on Dec 15, and Lessons and Carols will pack worship on Dec 29. In between, we will hold Longest Night on Dec 21, Caroling on Dec 22, and a Candle Lighting on Christmas Eve. The Schubert Club began monthly meetings at Bethel.

**Fellowship Team** – Dec. 8 - Hanging of the Greens soup and sandwich lunch; Dec. 22 - Christmas caroling with after party at the Pierce house; Jan. 12 - fellowship lunch pot luck after church; Feb. 9 fellowship lunch pot luck after church.

**Personnel Team** – A quarterly employee luncheon is scheduled for December 11th at noon at Ruby Tuesday's.

**Property Team** – the Team has decided to restart the "Save your Saturday" workdays. The final date has not been decided, but it will likely be January 11, 2025. The new HVAC system from Total Comfort has been installed for the fellowship hall. Bethel has received another generous donation which will allow for new installation of all the remaining windows in the education building.

**Study Team** – Small and Mighty for November will be a Friendsgiving gathering. Haunted High Ropes went well, four children attended. There was a Hayride November 3 at the Griffith farm; it was well attended.

Amy Coen gave a report about the November 12 Presbytery Meeting.

**Next Session Meeting** – December 15, 2024



## December Birthdays

- 11 Krista Kolwyck
- 12 John Walker
- 13 Orlando Vanegas, Jr.
- 14 Donna Walker
- 16 Ted Dailey
- 17 Todd McMahan
- 19 Linda Adams
- 22 Tom Pickel, III
- 27 Brittyn Brown
- 28 David Standridge  
    Maria Vanegas
- 29 Jessica Choate  
    Jim Schall

## BETHEL GIFT BOX SEASON

We've reached out to all the families that received assistance from us last year and hope to provide a gift box to each of those we are able to connect with. We'll seed each box with some combination of non-perishable food and personal care items purchased by the Serve Team from our budget. YOU can help by providing other kinds of items for the gift boxes. Need some ideas?

- How about some individually wrapped home-made (or store-bought) Christmas sweets or treats that we can drop into each box?
- If you're more of a craft person than a baker, how about a hand made item for each of the boxes?
- If you're in receipt of a 2025 calendar that you don't plan to use, send it to the office and we'll put one in each for however many we can.
- Got a stash of new tooth-brushes at home? Great, one can go in each box as long as they last.
- If you are able to provide a stack of coloring books or boxes of crayons for the kids in those families, we'll put one of those in each box that goes to families with kids.

We should have the RSVPs from the box recipients no later than late November, so we'll update you sometime in the month with how many boxes we're planning for and how many of those involve children. We plan to put the boxes together in time to distribute them to the families on the morning of Saturday 14 December. As you probably inferred from the above description, we're not planning to provide individualized gift items to the box recipients this year, and our letter that went out to the families lets them know that. More information to come soon, including numbers for the boxes. In the meantime, see a member of the Serve Team if you have questions.

## SAVE THE DATE!

If you are like me you better grab some paper and a pencil to write this date on your calendar. The property team will be featuring a work day on January 11, 2025. We will be taking down our Advent decorations. There will be other projects as well. We want the project to "fit you to the tee". It is always more fun to work with a friend. We will plan on a light lunch after we have our work done.

Seeking Sextons for  
Dec, Jan, Feb.  
Signup sheet in  
Gathering Area.



# Property Team Update

Property Team met on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. We completed a walk thru of the church building and found a number of items that need to be addressed. The majority of these items can be resolved by members of the property team. Adam Gallaher has worked diligently to obtain quotes for the painting of the bell tower. We should be able to finalize the selection by the end of the year. It was decided by the team to restart the "Save your Saturday" work days. The final date has not been decided, but it will likely

be January 11, 2025. This date will allow volunteers to remove the trees in the gathering area and sanctuary.

The new HVAC system from Total Comfort has been installed for the fellowship hall. We have one more HVAC that was installed in 1998 which heats the 3rd floor of the education building.

We have a generous donation for the installation of all the remaining windows in the education building. We should have a final total for that project and will request session's approval for the

quoted amount. Many individuals have shared how much they enjoy the clear view out the windows. As the summer heat returns we will be purchasing solar shades for the windows. We have sought an additional roofing quote from Mike Jones. Our first quote was from Mason Woody. The team will discuss and make a formal recommendation to session.

If any members would be interested in being the sexton for a month, we would gladly accommodate their interest in serving.

Elaine Steele and Adam Gallaher, co-chairs

## Hanging of Greens Update

**Hanging of the Greens will be during morning service on December 8th**

**Cards for Shut ins** - these will include artistic winter picture sketched by Jan Rybka's sister Annette. To be completed by mid December so they can be mailed out in time for the holidays.

**Ornaments** – Ornament crafting starting November 17th and will continue on November 24th. Will spend first half of the SS hour on the lesson and then will pivot to ornaments. Joan Pharis will bring out other ornaments from previous seasons and have available for

December 8th.

**Craft/ Art project** – Will do this December 8th and 15th since it needs two consecutive Sunday's for the glue to dry. This gives us

**December 22nd** to catch up any children who may have missed getting to do a picture. Marilyn will make cupcakes for Hanging of the Greens, Bonnie will check with Rebecca about having the youth ice and decorate them.

**Christmas Pageant** will be organized by Rebecca and team – January 5.

## Lakeside Market

Thanks to all the Bethel folks that supported the market this summer and fall by shopping whenever their schedule allowed. A big hurray to Liz and Alf who not only helped vendors with their tents and tables, but also offered a warm welcome to all. Thanks to Susan Holton that took charge when needed. Lord willing the market, as a Bethel ministry to our community, will start again next spring.

Elaine Steele



# Music Updates

We have finally settled on Sunday, December 15 at 2:00 pm for the Bells of Bethel Christmas Concert. Thanks to Amy for discovering the high school and middle school band concerts conflicting with our original choice of December 8. We don't want Roane County music lovers to have to make a tough choice! Some personal conflicts for bell ringers emerged for December 1, as well as it being the end of Thanksgiving weekend, with people on the go. All of our ringers are available on the 15th, and Pastor Beth has given her seal of approval. We will present the choral cantata during worship that morning, and the Bell Concert at 2 p.m.

--Judy Yeaworth

Bethel Bells rang a Christmas medley at the community event at the Jim Henry Center on Nov 23 at 2pm.

The Longest Night will be observed in the sanctuary from 4 to 7. Stay tuned for more details available that week.

Our annual caroling visits with homebound parishioners will take place on Sunday, December 22, from 4-6 p.m.,

with festivities at the Pierce House following. Watch the bulletin for further information and to sign up!

Bethel's Christmas Eve service will start at 7:00. Handheld candles will be available to everyone as we sing the closing.

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## Save the dates!

**GriefShare** is returning to Bethel in 2025. The thirteen week program will meet from February 2-May 4 on Sunday afternoons from 3:30-5:00pm in the church library.

## Faith Team Update

December will be filled with a flurry of worship and music. Bethel will start Advent with a time of longing for our savior and then journey to a joy to the world. Most Sundays during December will be full. Hanging of the Greens will be part of worship on Dec 8, a spirited cantata will be sung during worship on Dec 15, and

Lessons and Carols will pack worship on Dec 29. In between, we will hold Longest Night on Dec 21, Caroling on Dec 22, and a Candle Lighting on Christmas Eve. The team is excited about the season, the décor, the variety of participation, and especially rejoicing in the hope, peace, joy, love of our Lord.

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## 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).

## December 8 Fellowship Pot Luck Lunch

December 8- Hanging of the Greens soup and sandwich lunch

December 22- Christmas caroling with after party at the Pierce house @ 6:15, bring a dish to share

January 5- Christmas Pageant at 5pm, cookies to follow

January 12- fellowship lunch pot luck after church

February 9- fellowship lunch pot luck after church

## Sunday School Update

There will be no Children's Sunday School classes on December 1st due to the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend.

## Recital Series of Kingston Update

### The Bells of Bethel: A Very Merry Christmas! December 15th at 2pm

You are warmly welcomed to join us for an exquisite Christmas recital on Sunday, December 15th at 2pm in the historic Sanctuary of Bethel Presbyterian Church in Kingston. Experience the mystical magic of Christmas in the ethereal sound of the handbells wafting through the air around you, embracing your heart, kindling the warm fires of faith in your soul, reviving your spirit, as we together welcome the coming of God's great gift of mercy to us, Jesus the Christ child, in this holiest of seasons. Come, bring your family, invite your friends and neighbors, enjoy with us this very special blessing.

The Bells of Bethel, a profoundly beautiful gift, all for you... Merry Christmas!!  
With love from The Recital Series



## Advent Music Updates

The month of December will be filled with special music at Bethel Presbyterian! Beginning on Sunday, December 1, the Bells of Bethel will ring in the Advent season with a lovely prelude incorporating three hymns: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Watchman, Tell Us of the Night, and Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence.

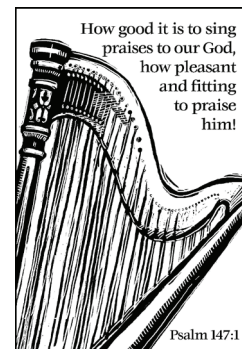
Sunday, December 8, will be our Hanging of the Greens celebration with special music included as always.

On Sunday morning, December 15, the choir will present Touched By a Child, Touched by a King, a Christmas cantata by John Purifoy, during our 11:00 worship time. The music incorporates several familiar carols and includes eight parts woven together with a touching narrative.

Also on December 15, the Bells of Bethel will present a program of Advent and Christmas music at 2:00 p.m., followed by a reception and delightful treats in the gathering area.

Our annual caroling visits with homebound parishioners will take place on Sunday, December 22, from 4-6 p.m., with festivities following at Joe and Rebecca Pierce's house. See other announcement in this Open Door.

Lessons and carols will take place on Sunday, December 29 during our 11:00 worship. Come ready to sing some of your favorite Christmas hymns as we share the beautiful story of our Savior's birth!



## Every Angel Needs a Harp

Do you know of an angel in need of a harp to play? Becky Price is making room for new instruments and will be selling some of her existing harp collection. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in purchasing one of the harps please contact Becky at

rebeccabprice1@gmail.com or call her at 865-466-1561. The various sized instruments available range in price from \$250. to \$3,000. Perhaps a beautiful Christmas gift for someone special in your life, maybe even for yourself!

## From Pastor Beth

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,  
Since before Halloween, merchants have been decorating their stores with reindeer, Santa Clauses, and inflatable snowmen. They have been telling us "tis the season to be jolly" and to buy, buy, buy.

However, for those of us in the Church, the season of Christmas does not begin until December 25th. And before we Christians are to "be jolly" and celebrate Christmas, we are called during the season of Advent... to watch patiently.... and to wait longingly... for someone who is coming.

For me the hymn which best captures the mood of the season of Advent is O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (# 88 in our hymnbook.) In the lyrics of the first verse, I hear a fervent prayer that God will come and rescue the people of Israel, whose homes and communities were destroyed by an invading army, and who were then carried off to live in exile in a far-away land:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
In the minor key of its music, I  
hear the deep mourning and the

painful longing of the people of Israel (and of all hurting peoples) for a Savior to come soon, and relieve them of their suffering.

Finally, in the refrain, comes a word of hope that will grow louder and louder throughout the season of Advent, and finally become a shout of joy on Christmas morn:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

I invite you to come to worship during the season of Advent to wait for the One who is coming.

In Christ,  
Beth

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## The Schubert Club

The Schubert Club had its initial meeting at the end of October with informative presentations and delightful performances by pianist Slade Trammell and soprano Rebecca Price. The meeting was well attended and Kingston's first Schubertiade was officially formed. Plans were discussed for future garden parties, musical events, and student scholarships. The next meeting of The Schubert Club will be on Monday, December 2, at 4:15pm at Bethel Presbyterian Church. A movie on Schubert's life will be shown and musical presentations by soprano Dianne Griffith and pianist Slade Trammell will be enjoyed. Lite snacks will be provided. All are welcome! For more information contact Becky Price at [rebeccabprice1@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccabprice1@gmail.com).





DECEMBER 2024

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

## Christmas and The Tennessee Residence



**Family Promise of Roane County was selected to be one of five featured nonprofits at this year's Tennessee Residence Christmas Home Tour.**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- OUR THRIFT STORE AT 215 W. ROCKWOOD STREET, ROCKWOOD IS OPEN TUESDAY-THURSDAY FROM 10AM-4PM AND SECOND SATURDAYS.
- JIM HENRY EVENT CENTER'S CHRISTMAS ON THE LAWN IS NOVEMBER 23RD FROM 11AM-4PM.
- CHRISTMAS MARKET AT THE VICTORIA IS NOVEMBER 23RD FROM 10AM-4PM.
- WE'VE BEEN SELECTED AS A FEATURED NONPROFIT AT THIS YEAR'S TENNESSEE RESIDENCE CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR.

### Tennessee Residence Christmas Home Tour

Family Promise of Roane County was selected to be one of five nonprofits to be featured on this year's Tennessee Residence Christmas Home Tour. Tickets to the tour can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tennessee-residence-2024-christmas-tours-tender-tennessee-christmas-tickets-1048166794097?> A group of board members, volunteer coordinators, and community volunteers assembled to decorate the tree mid-November to prepare it for the tour.

We will also be featured on this year's Tennessee Services Twelve Days of Giving, where Tennessee First Lady Maria Lee will share of Amazon wishlist and our giving link to ask her followers to give gifts and money to support our program. Those links are also listed at the bottom of this newsletter.

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-)

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