

The Open Door

Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCUSA

Kingston, TN

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July 2026

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*Hands of Mercy
Focus Foods
for July
Peanut Butter / Jelly
Collection via Youth pulling
wagon Third Sundays*

Join Us in July for the sermon theme of "Leading with Love"

This July, as Pastor Beth enjoys a well-deserved vacation, Pastor Cathy Goodman and Pastor Brad will be sharing a four-week worship series at Bethel Presbyterian Church titled *Leading with Love*. Through stories from both the Old and New Testaments, we will explore what it means to experience God's love, recognize it in our own lives, and reflect that love in the way we live.

Throughout the month, we will revisit familiar passages with fresh eyes. Together, we will explore God's love woven throughout Scripture, the lives of people who felt overlooked yet were deeply seen by God, the invitation to view faith and life through the teachings and example of Jesus, and the transforming power of grace that meets people where they are. At the heart of these messages is a simple but important question: What if the Bible is more connected, more loving, and more centered on Jesus than we have ever imagined? What might change if God opened our eyes and hearts to see the Bible in a new way?

Many people today are searching for hope, meaning, belonging, and a faith that speaks to the realities of everyday life. Others have heard the Bible their entire lives but may never have considered how deeply the message of God's love runs through its pages. If someone comes to mind, consider inviting them to join us. Not because we have all the answers, but because God is still speaking, still revealing, still opening hearts, and still transforming lives.

These messages are not simply about gaining new information. They are an invitation to be open to what God may reveal. Sometimes the stories we know best still have something new to show us. Sometimes a different way of seeing can change everything. In a world often marked by fear, division, and certainty, Jesus continues to call us toward a different way. A way marked by love, grace, mercy, humility, and deeper relationship with God and one another.

Join us throughout July as together we seek to follow the One who first loved us and discover what God may be revealing through familiar stories, fresh eyes, and hearts open to God's transforming love.





July Birthdays

- 2 Anneke Oonk
- 5 Paul Wayne Jackson, Jr.
- 6 Ellen Evans Kellogg
Amy Evans Rourke
- 7 Mabel Copeland
Maris Neal
Macey Neal
- 11 Susan Cutts
Bill Martin
Orlando Vanegas, Sr.
- 14 Ryne Knies
- 16 Jan Rybka
- 19 Nancy Coleman
- 20 Darrell Guy
Veronica Kirby Poland
- 21 Dan Hyder
- 22 Anne Sides
- 27 Mandy Phillips Knies
- 28 Jonathan Dailey
- 30 Judy Yeaworth



Session Highlights June 21, 2026

Paul Jackson did the Session devotion.

Worship Attendance: the May 2026 average in-person Sanctuary attendance was 63 (actual head count).

Christian Education - Jan Rybka and Kathy Banker are leading Summer Sunday School which began on May 31, studying the Beatitudes. Vacation Bible School (VBS) is on July 25, 9:30 until 2:00 - Coordinator is Jan Rybka. The title for VBS is "The Community Garden." This Team is discussing plans for adult classes for the rest of 2026. The Session received a handout showing possibilities - any ideas about classes are welcomed.

Finance - Each Team received a detailed list of the funds under their Team, showing the amount in each account. The Session approved a motion from Finance, and indirectly from the Trustees, that half of the interest during the year, in the New Covenant/3rd Century Fund, be spent for Bethel's outreach (non-profits and mission work).

Parish Life - July - no luncheon; August 9 - Undie Sunday (any size is most

appreciated), blessing of the back packs, and kids friendly fellowship lunch.

Personnel & Staff Support - The Team is working on the annual evaluations of the church staff.

Property - During the June 7, 2026 Worship Service, there was Recognition of the Plaques for Karen & Jim Schall (Resource Room), Sam Davis (made the shelving in Bethel's Library), and Andy Avel (made the large table in Bethel's kitchen).

Service - Family Promise (FP) will be using the former FP office room for occasional counseling with FP families. Kingston Recital Series upcoming event - September 19 - Barbershop Quartets and Ice Cream at Bethel.

Presbytery Meeting - August 8 - Dianne Griffith will be our Commissioner.

**Cathy McDowell
Clerk of Session**

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

Remember



Knot Your Average Back to School Bash | August 1, 2026

Ready to challenge yourself, build confidence, and experience adventure in the great outdoors? Join us at John Knox Center on August 1 for Knot Your Average Back to School Bash, an exciting opportunity to do our high ropes course and enjoy a day of fun!

Whether you're a first-time climber or a seasoned adventurer, the Back to School Bash offers participants the chance to test their limits in a safe and supportive environment. Trained staff will be on-site to provide instruction, supervision, and encouragement as you navi-

gate elements designed to build confidence, teamwork, and resilience.

This event is perfect for individuals, families, youth groups, and friends looking for a unique outdoor experience. Along the way, you'll make memories, celebrate accomplishments, and enjoy the beauty of John Knox Center's wooded campus.

Come ready for adventure, bring a friend, and discover what you're capable of accomplishing. We look forward to seeing you at Knot Your Average Back to School Bash!

Sewing on the River | July 5-10, 2026

Whether you're an experienced quilter, a passionate sewist, or simply looking for a creative retreat, Sewing on the River offers the perfect opportunity to spend time working on projects you love in a beautiful and relaxing setting.

Join us at John Knox Center from July 5–10 for a week of sewing, fellowship, and inspiration along the river. Participants will enjoy spacious sewing areas with dedicated workspaces, comfortable lodging options, delicious meals, and opportunities to connect with fellow makers from across the region.

Guests may choose from several stay options, allowing them

to customize their retreat experience. Throughout the week, participants can enjoy sewing and sharing sessions, optional chair yoga, project showcases, games, and plenty of uninterrupted time to focus on current projects. Comfortable accommodations, free Wi-Fi, and welcoming common spaces provide everything needed for a productive and enjoyable retreat.

Sewing on the River is designed to be both creative and restorative—a chance to step away from everyday responsibilities, build new friendships, and immerse yourself in a community of people who share a love for sewing and quilting.

Registration is now open. Full payment is required at the time of registration and includes a non-refundable \$50 registration fee. Participants who need to cancel may receive a refund of all but the registration fee if cancellation is made by June 28, 2026. In the event of illness or emergency, registered participants may transfer their space to another person.

For complete registration details, lodging options, and retreat pricing visit the registration page below.

Recital Series Update

FRIDAY, JULY 24 at 7:00pm.
...The Schubert Music Club
... convenes at Bethel in the
Sanctuary to hear graduating
Roane State student VIKRAM
VENKATESH present a pro-
gram of songs and piano pieces
composed by Franz Schubert.

Vikram is very gifted as both
a singer and pianist, and is
preparing for a highly special-
ized career as a professional
vocal coach and accompanist.
At this meeting Vikram will be
presented with the Duane Starr
Music Scholarship given by The
Kingston Schubert Club. His
teachers will be present as well.
You are invited to come enjoy
this very talented young man
before he leaves to go forward
in his professional studies...
Membership in the Schubert
Club is not required to enjoy this
special event.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
at 1:00pm ... The Recital Series

of Kingston presents at Bethel
"ICE CREAM SOCIAL: BAR-
BER SHOP QUARTETS". A fun
afternoon of male Barbershop
quarters, female Barbershop
quartets, and ice cream! All are
welcome to enjoy!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27 at
3:00pm. ... SCHUBERT'S
MASS in G ... The ROANE
CHORAL SOCIETY and guest
soloists. Part of the INTERNA-
TIONAL 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 Pres-
byterian 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 follow-
ing: 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 Presbyte-
rian 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 extraor-
dinary gift of music. It is truly a
beautiful and joyful witness. A
shining light in a dark world.

Tuesday, July 14: Small &
Mighty Youth Tubing, @River
Rat & MC lunch, 10 to 2

Saturday, July 18: Memorial
Service for Marge Hettrick 1:00

Sunday, July 19: No Session
meeting in July, no potluck in
July

Saturday, July 25: Vacation
Bible School, 9:30 to 1:30

Saturday, Aug 1: Knot Your Av-
erage Back to School Bash @
John Knox

Sunday, August 9: Undie Sun-
day & Kid-friendly Fellowship
Lunch

Sunday, August 16: Session
meeting after worship

Sunday, August 16: Small &
Mighty Youth at the Water Front,
@John Knox, 2 to 5

Friday, August 28 & 29: 4th and
5th grader Preteen Retreat @
John Knox

Wednesday, July 1: Flute Recit-
al featuring Lyric Rivera

Sunday, July 19: No Session
meeting in July, no potluck in
July

Saturday, July 25: Vacation
Bible School, 9:30 to 1:30
"Intergenerational Community
Garden"

Sunday, August 9: Undie Sun-
day & Kid-friendly Fellowship
Lunch

Sunday, August 16: Session
meeting after worship

Marjorie Jean Haler Hettrick March 19, 1941 - June 17, 2026

Marjorie Jean Haler Hettrick (Marge) was born to Harold William Haler and Clara Louise Deiss Haler on March 19, 1941, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After a short time in West Virginia, the family settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she met and married Richard Wayne Hettrick (Dick) on July 18, 1959.

Their first called pastorate was to Bloomfield Presbyterian Church in Kentucky, followed by Allardt Presbyterian Church in Tennessee.

In 1966, the couple and their children, Beth Lynn and Jonathan Haler, moved to the coal mining community of Wilder Tennessee, to minister to and with families in the Appalachian mountains. Under the auspices of the United Presbyterian Church, they led a Sunday School, youth group, and morning worship. Together they worked to improve the employment and living conditions for the people of Fentress County.

In 1972, the family moved to Kingston, Tennessee, where they served the congregation of Bethel Presbyterian Church for the next 30+ years. Here, Marge and Dick put down roots and expanded their family by adopting their daughter, Teresa Ann.

As a partner in ministry, Marge was called to make the Gospel visible and tangible, leading activities such as Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Peacemaker Retreats, and more. Throughout her life, Marge was involved in Scouting, Home Demonstration Clubs, dog rescue and

fostering, prison ministry, and addressing needs in the community wherever she saw them arise. Marge enjoyed feeding people, and for a time partnered in a catering company. She was known for always having a place at her table for anyone who found themselves alone, and many benefitted from her hospitality.

Marge was also a life-long artist. She loved exploring a variety of hand crafts, such as quilting, embroidery, pottery, and most recently rug-hooking. Family, friends, and the church were blessed by her skills with banners, vestments, costumes, and myriad other delightful creations.

After her husband's retirement, Marge continued to be an active member of the Bethel congregation and the community, participating in Love Kitchen, Bethel Arts Ministry, Family Promise and Parkinson's support group.

In 2020, she moved to Asheville, North Carolina, to be closer to her family. She continued to seek ways to serve others in her new neighborhood. Shortly after her move, doctors discovered a recurrence of a previous cancer. After successfully living with the cancer for over five years, Marge chose to discontinue treatment and focus on her quality of life. With the support of hospice, family, and beloved caregivers, she was able to enjoy more than seven months of renewed friendships, favorite foods, and finding joy and beauty in the flowers and wildlife that surrounded her home.

Marge passed away peacefully in her Asheville home on June 17, 2026. She was preceded in death by her parents Harold and Clara, her husband Richard, her sister Susan Louise Haler Gribble, and her daughter Teresa. She is survived by her daughter Beth Hettrick Berry (Clay), son Jonathan Haler Hettrick (Allyson), grandchildren Christopher Aaron Berry, Benjamin Hettrick (Berry) Rosenkoetter, and Rebecca Carroll Hettrick.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 pm on July 18, 2026, at Bethel Presbyterian Church, 203 South Kentucky Street Kingston, Tennessee. The service will also be live-streamed on the Bethel Presbyterian Church Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064618816789>

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to: Bethel Presbyterian Church in support of their Laundry Love Ministry: <https://www.bethelpcusa.org/give/> Family Promise of Roane County: <https://familypromiseroane.org/> Checks are preferred and may be mailed to Family Promise of Roane County, P.O. Box 605, Rockwood, TN 3785 Or the scholarship fund that Marge created in memory of her husband, Richard Hettrick. Checks noting "Hettrick Scholarship" in the memo line may be mailed to Warren Wilson College; PO Box 9000; CPO 6376; Asheville, NC 28815, or via <https://www.warren-wilson.edu/giving/make-a-gift/> entering "Hettrick Scholarship" in the designation field.

General Assembly Update

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has officially begun. Commissioners and Delegates had their first plenary Tuesday morning, virtually, to open the Assembly followed by committee work online this week. You may pop in on committee meetings if you wish. Schedules and links are at <https://pcusa.org/ga> and updates on the work of GA can be found at <https://myga.pc-biz.org/>. General Presbyter Wendy Neff, PET commissioners and delegate will be in Milwaukee for the General Assembly plenary on Saturday, June 27, until Thursday, July 2. Please keep

them in your prayers over the coming days.



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:

07/06 - 11am - 2pm - Veterans Benefits & Resources

07/07 - 9am - 12pm - Digital Smart Google/Chrome Basics

07/09 - 12pm - 3pm - AI Literacy Workshop

07/13 - 11am - 2pm - Financial Literacy Workshop

07/14 - 11am - 2pm - Excel Essentials Workshop

07/15 - 11am - 2pm - Workforce Readiness Workshop

07/16 - 11am - 2pm - Cyber Safety Workshop

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

Available classes <https://calendly.com/tech4alltn>

Karsyn Davis, Program Coordinator, Tech 4 All Tennessee

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.

Summer Sunday School/VBS Update



Summer Sunday School – Jan Rybka and Kathy Banker have volunteered to teach Sunday School during the summer from May 31st until August 2nd. The time will remain the same as regular Sunday School 9:30-10:30 and music at 10:30. The class will be inter-generational (K-6) and use games and activities to reinforce topics that have been learned throughout the regular Sunday School year.

VBS – Jan Rybka has also volunteered to be in charge of Vacation Bible School which has been tentatively set for Saturday, July 25th. The title is “Community Garden”

which will stress building community. The youth will review the creation story and Matthew 25. They will go to the Kingston Market, which is a community project that provide vegetables, fruits, meats, breads and goodies for sale. The youth will return to the church to plan and prepare their lunch. After lunch, they will participate in a Community Garden activity designed to build team skills and reinforce Matthew 25.

Kathy Banker and Suzanne Lukat Christian Education Team
Co Moderators

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!

	How to Contact Bethel
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	Music Director Judy Yeaworth bethelmusic@bethelpcusa.org
	Bethel Treasurer Linda Brown betheltreasurer@bethelpcusa.org
	Clerk of Session Cathy McDowell sessionclerk@bethelpcusa.org
	

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