

The Open Door

Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCUSA
Kingston, TN

Volume 21, Issue 11

November 2024

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*Hands of Mercy
Focus Foods for
November Personal
Grooming Items (Soap,
Shampoo, Toothbrushes,
Toothpaste, Shaving
Items) Collection via
Youth pulling wagon-
Third Sundays*

**Session Highlights from
October 20, 2024**

Alf Rybka did the Session devotion.

Worship Attendance – September 2024 average in-person Sanctuary attendance was 77 (actual head count) and the September 2024 average Facebook Live Worship attendance was 227.

Communication Team – October 2024 was the fourth month for the Open Door newsletter being sent via email. There were no complaints. For those who do not have email, approximately 20 were sent via USPS. A few copies of the current Open Door are available in the Gathering Area and the Open

Door is available on Bethel's website.

Faith Team – Reflections for All-Saints Day will be held on November 3. UKirk, the University of Tennessee religious outreach group for students, is hosting a fundraiser on Friday, November 15, in Knoxville. The fundraiser is a progressive style dinner to be held at Second Presbyterian. Plans are being worked to provide an Intro to Ukulele for youth on Sunday morning, November 17,

Fellowship Team – November 17- fellowship lunch pot luck after church; December 8- Hanging of the Greens soup and sandwich lunch; December 22- Christmas caroling with after party at the Pierce house; January 12- fellowship lunch pot luck after church.

Finance Team – will create a Designated Fund for contributions to the Garden Grant Program. See Service Team report.

Personnel Team – The Team presented Mike Cutts with a \$100 Lowe's gift card in recognition of his September 30 retirement. The Chair introduced new processes for gathering feedback from staff members and Session Team Chairs prior to each Session meeting. This initiative aims to ensure all concerns are acknowledged and addressed.

Property Team – The windows for the Education Building have been installed by Keith Window Company. Hopefully, the windows will reduce our energy

needs. The second hand rail has been placed on the outside steps down to the office - thanks to Larry Koppelberger. Total Comfort has ordered our 18 SEER2 Rheem HVAC system. Thanks to Amy Coen for her work preparing Rev. Beth's office.

Service Team – As of November 1, 2024 the RCCM mission of assistance will be assumed by Family Promise of Roane County; see letter in this Open Door. The Garden Grant Program will not be under Family Promise so The Finance Team recommended that The Garden Grant Program become a Bethel Ministry. The Session passed a motion concurring with this recommendation. The Garden Grant Program will be under the Service Team

Study Team – a basket of books for children to choose from to read during Sunday service was placed in Gathering area. Hanging of the Greens will be on December 8.

Time & Talent Form - to the Congregation - thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with numerous opportunities. The forms were compiled and sent to the Session and the church office.

The next Presbytery meeting is Tuesday, November 12. Amy Coen is our Commissioner and Rev. Beth will also be attending. Next Session Meeting November 17, 2024
Cathy McDowell
Clerk of Session



November Birthdays

- 1 Josh Brown
Diego Vanegas
- 2 Jack McNew
- 3 Julie Hart
- 6 Macey Copeland
Louis Kellogg
- 7 Lyric Rivera
- 9 Chelsea Richmond
- 10 Nancy Landers
- 12 Leonard Kirby
- 13 Charlie King
- 14 Larry Koppelberger
- 16 Eyan Choate
- 25 Jimmy Walker
- 27 Jim Gerberding
- 29 Cyndi Fowler
Bryson Turnbull



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

Seeking needle lovers
for Bethel's outdoor nativity figures to fix fabric rips, fake facial hair gaps, and worn weaves of cloth covering. While the list is still being made of what to refurbish, we are making a list of helpers. We might even have a Sew Saturday in November. Sign up by putting your name in the collection plate, telling a member of the Faith Team, or stopping by the church office. Continuing Bethel's tradition of an outdoor nativity scene is a great community outreach.

Property Committee Update Regarding Personnel

Bethel greatly appreciates the work of Mike Cutts! He used his skills to improve the church's lighting both inside and outside, including the addition of LED lights on the office side of the education building. This greatly enhanced the safety of people walking to their cars. He also worked on landscaping projects, such as trimming trees, cutting down trees and removing over-grown shrubs. He took every effort to clean and wax the floors before his departure. That is just a few of the many ways Mike diligently cared for the church. Thank you Mike!



Poinsettia Orders

You may order a red or white poinsettia to adorn the sanctuary during Advent by completing a pink form found in the Nov 3, 10, 17 bulletins or you may contact the church office. Each plant costs \$7 and may be given in memory of or in honor of a loved one. You may take the plant home on December 24 after the Christmas Eve service.

Mike retired from the part-time position at the end of September. Being thoughtful of our fiscal responsibility, personnel team and the co-chairs of the property team looked for ways that individuals, our weekly cleaning team, and "as needed" plumber and electrician could fulfill the various needs. The plan has been taken to the session and approved. This is a trial program that we hope will leave the church in good condition. You can help the process. If you notice any item that needs repaired, or an area that needs to be improved, please make Adam Gallaher, or Elaine Steele aware of the situation. There will be a clipboard by the name tags to document the need.
Elaine Steele



9 October 2024

Bethel Presbyterian Church
203 South Kentucky Street
Kingston, Tennessee 37763

Dear Bethel Friends

Thanks to support from generous individuals and churches like Bethel Presbyterian, Roane County Cooperative Ministries (RCCM) has been able to assist our neighbors with crisis support for utilities, rent, and other essential services since 1991. After much prayerful consideration, RCCM Board has decided to continue this mission by merging services into the broader efforts of Family Promise of Roane County (FPRC).

This became possible when FPRC recently expanded its mission by providing the types of assistance we have historically offered. We have been impressed with FPRC's energetic leadership, their high profile in the community, and their likely sustainability. We are convinced that RCCM's historic mission can best continue and even expand under this new arrangement.

Effective November 1, 2024, RCCM will legally merge with FPRC – with the last two months of 2024 serving as a transition period. During this time our office at Midtown Valley United Methodist Church will remain open with regular Monday and Thursday, 9:00 to noon, office hours. Volunteers will continue to serve "walk-ins" and appointments. Their input will help Family Promise Board develop appropriate policies and procedures for continuing RCCM's historic mission.

Please pray that all these changes go smoothly and constructively. We will be honored if representative(s) of Bethel can join us for a ribbon-cutting event at RCCM's Midtown Valley Church office on Friday November 1st at 2:30 p.m. to officially celebrate this important occasion.

Please know that we are counting on long-term friends and supporters like you to provide continued financial and community support for this important work under the new arrangement. Donations after November 1, should be made out to **Family Promise of Roane County** and note **For Cooperative Efforts** and mail them to PO Box 605, Rockwood, TN 37854. You will receive a Contribution Statement from RCCM for 2024 January through October donations and a statement from Family Promise for 2024 November and December and future donations.

If you or your church representatives would like to speak or meet with me directly about these matters, please contact me at 865-748-0304 or mtbanker1951@gmail.com.


Mark Banker
Chair, RCCM Board of Directors

Without BPC there would
be no RCCM! Thanks for Dick's
vision and countless Bethel
contributions in keeping it alive!

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

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

Bonfire & Hay Ride at Griffith Farm

Kids of all ages are invited to a Hayride and Bonfire at Dianne and Gary Griffith's farm on November 3rd at 5pm. We will roast marshmallows and make smores so be ready to enjoy a fun evening. If you would like a ride from the church or want additional information, please let Cyndi Fowler know.

We will leave the church around 4:45.

Paper Leaves Needed

You are invited to write down what you are thankful for on a colorful paper leaf as part of adorning a sanctuary banner for November. Leaves are in a basket in the Gathering Area. Please put your leaf in the offering plate.



These Days Devotions

Are you interested in receiving a These Days devotion booklet? These come out every three months and contain focused scripture, uplifting reflections, inspiring prayers. Please reach out to Amy Coen.

Got extra hangers?

If you have any extra clothes hangers, please bring them in for the new Family Promise Thrift store in Rockwood. They could also use large plastic storage bins, with or without lids. This ministry will be a great opportunity for you to share your gently used items going forward.

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 suppers will be potluck style. If you have any questions, please email Rebecca Pierce at rebeccadpierce@gmail.com.

November 17 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

January 12- fellowship lunch pot luck after church

Fellowship Team will be coordinating a Sunday meal with Pastor Beth- sign ups to be released soon, also planning a dinner delivery sign-up to help welcome her to Kingston. She will be living in an apartment in Elaine and Kirk's house until her house is ready.

Recital Series of Kingston Update

Well, the holidays are fast approaching, ready or not. It's easy to get caught up in the rush and hooplah, and easy, because of that, to not experience the true joy, peace and real meaning of the Advent and Christmas season which is so fundamental to our faith, to the refreshment and wellbeing of our very souls.

For a respite, make plans to come join us on Sunday, December 15, at 2pm in our beautiful sanctuary for a very real Christmas blessing.

"THE BELLS OF BETHEL: A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS" will be presented for your delight and as food for your spirit. Bethel's heavenly handbell choir, directed by the lovely and beloved Judy Yeaworth, in their Recital Series debut, will offer a wonderful Christmas concert featuring all your favorites to make your Advent and Christmas merry and bright! Come hear Kingston's finest, THE BELLS OF BETHEL, and be blessed by their ethereal sound as it wafts through the air around you like an enchanting fragrance and embraces your very soul. It is pure "HEAVEN ON EARTH"!! (Which also just happens to be the name of the dessert to be served at the reception immediately following the concert!)

As always, it will be our greatest joy to see you and welcome you there!

Blessings,
Becky Price

The Recital Series of Kingston



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YOU ARE INVITED TO

A NIGHT WITH UKIRK

Dinner, Music
& Storytelling

2024
FRIDAY | **15** | NOVEMBER
6:30pm

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2829 KINGSTON PIKE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

TICKETS ARE \$20 IN ADVANCE
OR \$25 AT THE DOOR

PURCHASE TICKETS
BY VENMO @UPERKUTK,
AT THE QR CODE BELOW,
OR BY EMAILING PASTOR RACHEL AT
REVRACHEL@UKIRKUTK.ORG TO RSVP



We've Got Mail

As difficult as this time has been for our family, your kind words, prayers, and support has helped us through this difficult time.

Thank you for all those who brought food, visited, and attended the service.

Bethel meant a great deal to Wayne, and we are forever grateful.

The Jacksons

Dear Bethel Family,
Thank you so much for your prayers, good thoughts, and positive energy of behalf of my husband, Earl. Currently going through radiation & other therapies, Earl is tolerating the treatment well and we are so very grateful. Your kind words of encouragement and your under-

standing, your cards and emails and calls are so very much appreciated. (Oh yes, and the fudge ministry of Sister Peggy is delightful as well as delicious!) Earl completed his 44 rounds of radiation for cancer at the end of last week. His oldest daughter and her husband came up from Florida to be with us as we celebrated both his "graduation" from daily treatments and also the joy of his birthday. We will know more after follow ups, PET scans and bloodtests yet to come. We remain hopeful and are focused on making the most of our days and trusting in God's loving guidance
God bless you and thank you.

With love for you, Becky Price

From Pastor Beth

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Jesus said that the greatest commandment is that we should “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27) Surely part of what is involved in “loving our neighbor” is showing kindness. As someone who has recently arrived in Kingston, I have to say that I have felt both the love and the kindness of so many of my new neighbors! Kirk and Elaine Steele have graciously welcomed me (and my 2 BIG dogs!) into their home while I

wait on the renovation of my new house to be completed. Brad Parish has spent countless hours, first, helping me to find that new home on Brown Avenue and then, coordinating communication between the contractors, the mortgage company, and me. Susan Cutts has patiently answered my many questions about the church and the town. Several members of the congregation have kindly brought me meals, taken me out to dinner, or invited me to their home. And everyone has been most patient as I slowly begin to learn new faces and names. Thank you to everyone for your kindness!

Some folks have asked me what I would like to be called. Please just call me, Beth. In some of my congregations, small children have called me “Pastor Beth”, but I don’t mind children of any age simply calling me by my first name. Whatever parents prefer for their children to use is fine with me. I look forward to visiting with each of you at church and in your homes.
(Please feel free to stop by the church anytime for a chat! I am typically in the office Monday-Thursday, 9-12:30. My door is always open.)
In Christ,
Beth

The Schubert Club

Initial Meeting: Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 4pm
Location: Library/Sanctuary Bethel Presbyterian Church
The Schubert Club is a gathering of musicians and music appreciators in the heart of Kingston with a mission to honor, inform, enjoy, and share the life, works and musical ideals of the composer Franz Schubert...“the people’s composer”...through scholarship, performance, comraderie, and appreciation of his works. Schubert’s brilliant compositions may never have been heard by us today had it not been for the grassroots efforts of his friends who created opportunities for their performance. At our initial meeting pianist Slade Trammell will perform one of Schubert’s beloved works!
We welcome you to join us in this beautiful and important endeavor...

Mid-South Festival of Choirs

On September 13 and 14, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians hosted the first annual Mid-South Festival of Choirs at Idlewild Presbyterian Church in Memphis. Dianne Griffith and I had the privilege of attending, along with more than sixty choir directors and singers representing thirteen churches from Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, and Mississippi. Under the direction of Landry J. Duvall, the Idlewild Director of Music and Organist, and accompanied by Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music and Organist at Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Memphis, we prepared eight lovely and diverse anthems for presentation at the final worship service on Saturday afternoon. Friday evening’s worship service included an inspiring and very meaningful blessing and

commissioning of all church musicians in attendance. Dr. Scott delivered a breathtaking concert at the lunch break on Saturday, along with an improvisatory postlude incorporating themes from our anthems at the closing service.

We made many new friends and encountered some old ones as well, with lots of time for fellowship during meals of Memphis barbeque and deli treats. A breakout session for questions and answers along with suggestions for more opportunities for cooperation and collaboration within our family of faith was most helpful, and plans are already underway for a second event next year in East Tennessee. Thank you so much for your support in enabling me to attend this wonderful event!
Judy Yeaworth



NOVEMBER 2024

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

Join Us for Another Ribbon Cutting!

JOIN US AS WE JOIN EFFORTS!

November 1, 2024
1625 Roane State Highway
Harriman, TN 37748



Family Promise of Roane County
Roane County Cooperative Ministries

Ribbon Cutting at 2:30pm

Family Promise will assume Roane County Cooperative Ministries on November 1st. Please join us as we celebrate our union.

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.

Roane County Cooperative Ministries Joins Family Promise

Family Promise of Roane County and Roane County Cooperative Ministries will become one as they officially join efforts on November 1, 2024. RCCM has been a nonprofit serving the needs in Roane County since 1991 and has served more than 10,000 individuals in its thirty-one-year history.

In a letter to partner churches, RCCM Board Chairman said, "We have been impressed with Family Promise's leadership, their organization, their staff, their high profile in the community, and their success at helping Roane County residents avoid homelessness. Both organizations, we are confident, can best continue RCCM's original mission of serving the Roane County Community by formally joining together." Family Promise of Roane County is honored to continue their efforts by serving at risk adults and seniors.

HELP US SERVE MORE FAMILIES THIS YEAR
THROUGH ONLINE GIVING AT
[HTTPS://FAMILYPROMISEROANE.ORG/DONATE.](https://familypromiseroane.org/donate)

WE HAVE AN AMAZON WISHLIST AT:
[HTTPS://AMAZON.COM/REGISTRIES/GUEST-VIEW/2J5L6UZBBEIQK](https://amazon.com/registries/guest-view/2j5l6uzbbeiqk)

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

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