

The Open Door

Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCUSA Kingston, TN

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October 2026

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for October Pasta/
Spaghetti Sauce
Collection via Youth pulling
wagon Third Sundays

Let us
consider how to
provoke one another
to love and
good deeds ...

Hebrews 10:24,
NRSV

Christian Education Update

Seeking Sunday School teachers for upper elementary class

From January to May, are you available to teach the upper elementary class the Good News of Jesus? The class of six eager to learn children, grades 2 to 5, meet from 9:30 to 10:45 with music mixed in and lots of materials provided for your journey. Seeking a teacher and a helper. Christian Education contacts are Kathy Banker and Suzanne Lukat for all your questions.

Christian Education

From the Christian Education Team – this Fall, Susan Garner and Cyndi Fowler will be offering a four-week study of New York Times bestselling author Dr. Kate Bowler's most recent book, *Joyful, Anyway*. This book is a profound, funny, and deeply human case for joy that doesn't depend on everything getting better. You can't always be happy, but you can be joyful, anyway! Please join us at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in the Bethel library for a great time of fellowship, learning and sharing. If interested, you can purchase your book and begin reading! The book may be purchased at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Target, ABE books and other book sellers.

The schedule will be as follows:

October 4 Part IV Living Pages
221-272

You can learn more about Kate Bowler at katebowler.com



SERVICE TEAM

The Service Team – along with Mark Banker - devoted considerable attention during their September meeting to the subject of MISSION/SERVICE TRIPS. From the 1970s to 2020, Bethel groups regularly engaged in mission / service outings to locations as far away as Guatemala, New Mexico, and Michigan and as nearby as Habitat for Humanity Projects in our own backyard. Typically youth along with young-at-heart adults engaged in these outings and assisted in projects that ranged from home repairs to landscaping efforts. Our outings were always considered two-way efforts that emphasized engaging with and learning about the people who we served.

Per the Service Team's suggestion, here are some tentative details about the possibility of such a venture in July 2027. Dates for the camp are July 18-

25, 2027. Depending on plans for transportation and arrangements for related activities in the Taos area, dates for Bethel participants may range from approximately July 15 to the 1st of August.

Our primary responsibility will be to work with Camp Directors, Paul and Crystal Fort, who oversee the Camp's Middle School program. Individuals who can help teach, work with crafts, and engage in recreational activities are needed. But so is "support help" in preparing meals, etc. IF persons with skills in carpentry and related pursuits wish to join in, we are assured that Camp Loma Verde always has such needs. Costs will be contingent on our transportation arrangement and the group's preferences for activities beyond our camp duties. We will obviously need to consider the pros and cons of air versus land travel. Should we choose air travel, we will

still need rental van(s) to get to Taos. The drive from Albuquerque is around 5 hours and 7-8 hours from Denver. But flights to and from the latter airport are typically more affordable. The Taos areas is scenic and historic. Depending on group interests, we might consider a number of activities either before or after the week-long camp. Bethel may be able to provide limited scholarship assistance to participants.

If this interests you, contact Mark at mtbanker1951@gmail.com for additional information. You might also check out Camp Loma Verde's website. <https://www.lomaverdecamp.com/>. The Service Team will appreciate responses specific to a Summer 2027 outing and the broader matter of Service/Mission trips in general. We will need to make a commitment to Camp Loma Verde by at least December 1st – if we will help them next summer.

--Mark Banker

October Birthdays

- 2 Don Pierce
- 3 Linda Preston
- 4 Rick Durham, Jr.
Hannah Sherrod
- 5 Gisela Condon
Eden Sherrod
- 10 Adam Gallaher
Joe Pierce
- 12 Randy Vickers
- 15 Carrie Vickers
- 16 Mike Cutts

- 17 Jared McGill
- 19 Scott McGill
Jill McMaster
Wilder Marc Sherrod-Lewis
- 20 Eddie Kirby
Caleb Sherrod
- 24 Yvonne Rossi
- 25 Eric Windhausen
- 26 Connor Rourke
- 29 Rebecca Dailey Pierce
Will Purushotham
- 31 Julie McGill
Roger Richmond



Seeking Sextons for
November, December-
Signup sheet in
Gathering Area.

Liturgists Need-
ed for November,
December
Sign up on sheet in
Gathering Area

Free Medical Clinic of Rockwood

The Free Medical Clinic of Rockwood provides zero-cost primary healthcare and medical services for low-income, uninsured, and under-insured residents in Roane and Morgan counties. The facility is located at 450 S Chamberlain Avenue in Rockwood.

Primary Care includes routine checkups, annual physicals, preventative care, and acute medical treatment. The clinic offers both in-person consultations and telehealth appointments. Patients have access to free or discounted medications, lab work, imaging, and diagnostic tests.

Specialized Care is provided for women's health, mental health-care, behavioral health support, and management programs for chronic conditions like Hepatitis C. Community health navigation supports and connects patients with local social resources, food, and education assistance. The clinic offers bilingual support with both English and Spanish-speaking care options.

Bethel is supporting the Free Medical Clinic of Rockwood by donating \$2000 this year.



Love Kitchen Update

You are invited to help with the Love Kitchen on Saturday, October 24, at Rockwood Presbyterian Church from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Bethel will serve pork loin, potatoes, green beans, rolls, drinks, and chocolate cake. Bethel will supply Bingo prizes for the social time following the 4pm meal. Individuals sign up to prepare food, deliver food, financially support those cooking, or serve food. The bingo prize collection box is in the Gathering Area. Contact for this outreach is Joan Pharis. pharisjc@hotmail.com
865-924-8140

A colorful poster for the 25th Annual Roane County Schools High School Band Festival. At the top, it says "Rotary Rotary Clubs of Harriman & Kingston PRESENT". Below that, "The 25th Annual ROANE COUNTY SCHOOLS HIGH SCHOOL BAND FESTIVAL" in large, stylized letters. The date is "MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026", starting at "7:00 PM" at "ROCKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL". A section titled "Bands Performing:" lists: Harriman High School, Roane County High School, Rockwood High School, Midway High School, and Oliver Springs High School. At the bottom, under "ADMISSION:", it says "Bring canned food items to donate at each entrance gate." and "All donations will benefit local food assistance programs in Roane County." There are images of musical instruments and food cans.

Recital Series Update

Kingston Schubertiade Feb 26, 27, 28

"Schubertiade"...What is that? In the 1820s, Franz Schubert was a brilliant but financially struggling composer living in Vienna. Unlike contemporaries who commanded large concert halls, Schubert found his truest audience among a tightly-knit circle of friends, poets, painters, and fellow musicians.

These early gatherings, officially dubbed "Schubertiades" by his circle around 1821, were entirely private. They took place in the spacious apartments of patrons or friends. The atmosphere was informal, laid back, and intensely collaborative.

On a typical evening in the 1820s Schubert would sit at the piano, debuting his latest art songs (lieder), piano sonatas and duets, or chamber works. Friends would read poetry, much of which Schubert would later set to music, creating his famous body of 600 lieder still sung today. The evenings frequently concluded with dancing to waltzes Schubert improvised

on the spot.

For Schubert, who struggled to gain recognition from the Viennese musical establishment, these salons were a vital lifeline. They provided him with a dedicated testing ground for his masterpieces, emotional support from friends, and financial backing from friends and admirers who bought his manuscripts.

Following Schubert's tragic death in 1828 at the age of 31, the Schubertiade tradition did not disappear; His friends continued and saw to it that the tradition expanded. Over the last two centuries, the concept transitioned from a private gathering to a public celebration of chamber music and song.

Today, the term "Schubertiade" refers to any concert series or festival dedicated primarily to Schubert's music and that of his contemporaries. Modern iterations differ from the originals in scale, but they strive to preserve the same spirit of intimacy and artistic focus.

The transition of the Schubertiade from a crowded Viennese

apartment to the global stage highlights the timeless appeal of Schubert's work. What began as a practical way for a young composer to share his art with friends has become a world-wide institution, with an ongoing international festival in Austria and satellite Schubertiades held in modern venues across the globe deliberately chosen for their exceptional acoustics and smaller seating capacities to replicate the immediate, unamplified connection between performer and listener that defined the 1820's salons. Ultimately, the modern Schubertiade ensures that the vulnerability, warmth, and camaraderie of Schubert's musical world continue to thrive more than two centuries later.

Please join us in February for your own Kingston Schubertiade, with performances of lieder, poetry readings, a piano sonata marathon, the serenely sacred Mass in G, and the famous original Sacher Torte! All are warmly welcome to attend the festivities!

Family Life Update

Thank you to the congregation for making Undie Sunday so successful.

Thank you Joe and Amy Coen for volunteering to host the church picnic on September 27.

Upcoming Dates

September 27- church picnic at the Coen's house

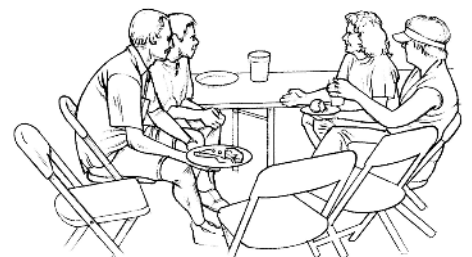
October 11- Fellowship pot luck lunch

November 8- Fellowship pot luck lunch

December 6- Hanging of the Greens soup and sandwich lunch

December 13- no pot luck

January 10- Fellowship pot luck lunch



Fellowship Meals

Session Highlights from September 2026

Joni Morgan did the Session devotion.

Worship Attendance: the average in-person Sanctuary attendance for August 2026 was 61 (actual head count).

Christian Education - The new adult Sunday School class began on September 13 and goes through October 4. Cindy Fowler and Susan Garner are facilitating the book Joyful, Anyway by Kate Bowler.

Finance - Each Team received a detailed list of the funds under their Team, showing the amount in each account for August. Several additional Financial Statements showing the General Fund in August 2026 were received.

Parish Life - the Church Picnic was on September 27 at the Coen's home. Appreciation was expressed to Joe and Amy for hosting this year's picnic. Hanging of the Greens will be December 6.

Personnel & Staff Support - Joni Morgan will coordinate with Jan Rybka on nursery needs. Regina Durham will coordinate with Rev. McCrary regarding banners. Joni Morgan will coordinate with Jan Rybka and Nidia Crocker regarding cremains bags. Jan is the reference for cremains bags material and

Nidia has volunteered to hand sew additional cremains bags.

Property - the batteries in the fire protection cabinet have been replaced. The Property Team has signed a contract with Admiral Septic Solutions for Bethel's lift station.

Service - The Farmer's Market will continue through November 21, 2026 with the Fall Market being under the leadership of Herman Radke. The September 8, 2026 Community Laundry Night was good.

The Trustees sent the Session a report showing the status of Bethel's four CDs and the value of our New Covenant Third Century Fund.

East Tennessee Presbytery
An email was received from the Presbytery of East Tennessee, asking whether Bethel would consider hosting the Tuesday, May 11, 2027 Presbytery Meeting? Rebecca Pierce stated that the Parish Life Team could handle the food-related issues that day. But we would need lots of volunteers to help with many other things including parking, greeting, registration of commissioners, sound system, setting up and taking down tables/chairs, etc. Following discussion, a motion was approved by the Session for **Bethel to host this May 11, 2027 Presbytery Meeting.**

At the September 13, 2026 Congregational Meeting Julie Barber, Joe Pierce, Amy Evans Rourke, and Carol Whitnall were elected as elders for the Class of 2029 and Chuck Bunch will be a new Trustee as of January 1, 2027

**Cathy McDowell,
Clerk of Session**





Once a Yellow Jacket... Always a Yellow Jacket!

ANNE HORNER Day

CELEBRATE HER 88th Birthday!

Drop in and say thank you to one of CMS's most beloved teachers and wish her a happy 88th birthday.

We'll have old yearbooks laid out and a proclamation made by Mayor Creswell to recognize Anne Horner Day.

What: ANNE HORNER DAY – CELEBRATE 88TH BIRTHDAY

Date: OCTOBER 18TH SUNDAY

Time: 2-4 PM

Location: CMS LIBRARY

Who: HER FORMER STUDENTS, HER FRIENDS, AND FAMILY.

CHEROKEE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Let's come together to celebrate a true CMS legend!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
 What a great church picnic we had on September 27 th ! The weather was beautiful, the food was FANTASTIC, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed conversing with each other. Many thanks again to Amy and Joe for hosting the picnic this year.

Sunday, October 4 th is World Communion Sunday -- a day to remember our Christian call to "... to do justice and to love kindness and walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8) As we gather around Christ's table that day to share a meal together, I'd like to ask that you please remember those in our own community who are struggling to put food on their tables. I mentioned during announcements last Sunday that my neighbor (who volunteers regularly at Hands of Mercy) told me that the pantry has seen a significant increase in the number of families asking for food assistance. So, during the month of October, please be generous with your gifts of Pasta and Spaghetti Sauce (or any other non-perishable food items) for H.O.M.E.

Thank you for caring about our community.

In Christ,

Beth

Calendar Radar

Sunday, October 18: Session meeting after worship

Sunday, October 18: Small & Mighty Board Game Olympics @Farragut Pres. 4pm

Saturday, October 24: Presbyterian Women - Retreat @John Knox

Saturday, October 24: Love Kitchen at Rockwood Presbyterian

Recent Memorials



September Memorials

In memory of Rev. Dick Hettrick
from

Mark and Kathy Banker

In memory of Rev. Marc Sher-
rod from

Mark and Kathy Banker

In memory of Marge Hettrick
from

Sheila Renfro
Gina Renfro Evans
Karen Miller Cantrell
Gary and Dianne Griffith

In memory of Bill Evans from
Gary and Dianne Griffith



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.

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· Saturday, October 24:
Presbyterian Women - Retreat
@John Knox

· Saturday, October 24:
Love Kitchen at Rockwood
Presbyterian

· Saturday, November 21:
Last Kingston Lakeside Market
for the season

	How to Contact Bethel
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	Clerk of Session Cathy McDowell sessionclerk@bethelpcusa.org

Bethel Presbyterian Church
203 South Kentucky Street
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