

### Opportunity Circle

Opportunity Circle will meet Wednesday, March 6 at our new time of 11:00. We are on Lesson 7: An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus.

### Men of the Church

The men of the church will gather at Creekside restaurant on Thursday March 7 between 5:30 and 5:45.  
Hope you can make it.

### Ladies' Luncheon

Ladies' luncheon will meet Wednesday, March 27 at 11:45 at Creekside.  
Hope you can join us.

### Showers of Blessing

During March - April 14, we will once again join with other Presbyterians to provide Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Hygiene Kits. Items needed are:  
Wash cloths  
Wide tooth combs  
Hand towel (16"x 28")  
Bars of soap individually wrapped  
Toothbrushes individually wrapped  
Adhesive bandages  
1 gallon zip - locked bags  
You can provide items for the kits or provide completed kits.

### Budget Information

Average Weekly Giving \$3,131.25  
Average Weekly Needs \$3,779.10

### Kingdom Kids

Hello! Can you believe it is almost Easter? I am excited because we get to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and it means Spring is coming. We will meet on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at the church. We will be talking about and celebrating Jesus' resurrection. Remember, friends are always welcome. In Children's Church we will continue to talk about Lent, and how great Jesus' love is for all of us. I hope to see you all soon.

I would also like to thank all of you for helping set up the Souper Bowl Luncheon. We collected \$1,250.00 for our local food pantry. You helped make that possible, thanks.

God Bless,

Michelle



REV. MURPHY CONTACT INFORMATION:  
(270) 403-7709, jimurphy5434@gmail.com

## Bethel Beacon



March 2024

### March Calendar

3/3	10:00 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship
3/4	6:00 Boy Scouts Troop 616 5:30
3/6	11:00 Opportunity Circle
3/7	5:30 Men of the Church (Creekside)
3/10	10:00 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship
3/11	6:00 Boy Scouts Troop 616
3/13	12:00 Worship & Music Planning 5:30 Session
3/17	10:00 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship
3/18	6:00 Boy Scouts Troop 616
3/20	5:00 Kingdom Kids
3/24	10:00 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship
3/25	6:00 Boy Scouts Troop 616
3/27	11:45 Ladies Lunch (Creekside)
3/28	7:00 Maunday Thursday: Tenebrae
3/31	10:00 Sunday School; Egg Hunt 11:00 Worship

### March Birthdays

7<sup>th</sup>: Scott Shipp  
8<sup>th</sup>: Katherine Wilcoxson  
9<sup>th</sup>: Carter Murphy  
13<sup>th</sup>: Rob Wells  
14<sup>th</sup>: Jennifer Mason Lee  
17<sup>th</sup>: Morgan Willis  
18<sup>th</sup>: Alex Hughes  
Samantha Shipp  
22<sup>nd</sup>: Ann DeSpain  
29<sup>th</sup>: Donna Wheatley

**Bethel First Presbyterian Church**  
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Pastor's cell (270) 403-7709

Trustees: John Waldrop (2024), Paul Johnson (2025),  
Jane Horn (2026)

Treasurers: John Waldrop, Betty Ewing

### The Session:

Class of 2024: Linda Caldwell, Terry Feather,  
David Payne  
Class of 2025: Jeanne Brown, Jayne Hogan,  
Linda Shipp  
Class of 2026: Jimmy Ewing, Charles Shaw,  
Bonnie Watkins

### Staff

Pastor: Rev. James C. Murphy  
Organist: Suellen Shaw  
Pianist: Ann DeSpain  
Choir Director: Joe DeSpain  
Bookkeeper: Karen Reynolds  
Youth/Child Director: Michelle Murphy

### From the Pastor's Pen...

*Consider this: Approximately 40 percent of the first three (synoptic) gospels focus on the last week of Jesus' life. That percentage increases to about 66 percent when we come to the gospel of John. If the gospels were simply biographies of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we would expect a more balanced treatment of the various seasons of his life. But that is not what we find. A vastly disproportionate focus is given over to the last week of Jesus' life, as if to say, "Whatever else you miss, please, don't miss this."*

Looking at the Cross," from *Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding*, by James D. Miller and Donald K. McKim (Congregational Ministries Publishing, PCUSA, 2012), 8-9.

Not only are we subject to miss this important focus, we are also subject to forget it. In today's hurry-up world, we are likely to already have Holy Week and Easter shrinking in the rear-view mirror soon as they pass and we rush on to ball games, proms, graduations, or other various family and community events. A busy schedule is not such a bad thing, but it can cause us to lose focus and confuse our priorities.

My hope is that, in the midst of the spring rush, we don't forget to be grounded spiritually in the Easter hope and promises of Christ, who gave his life that our lives may truly become abundant. It is possible to have full schedules, yet be unfulfilled in life.

So, live each day to its fullest, but don't miss or forget the week that the gospel writers found to be of such great importance. Indeed, the risen Christ is our Servant King! May each of our days be grounded in that hope and that reality.

Grace and Peace,

Jim

Grace & Peace,  
Jim

**Maundy Thursday:**  
**Tenebrae Service**  
**March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM**

TENEBRAE is the latin term for shadows. The Tenebrae service on Maundy Thursday (March 28<sup>th</sup>) is a service of scripture lessons accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights. Tenebrae is historically associated with the events of Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of Holy Week. The Scripture Readings commemorate The Last Supper (Communion is served), the betrayal and the arrest, Christ's passion, trial and death, Christ's burial and the disbursement of the disciples. We hope you can join us for this meaningful and reflective time of worship.

**Easter Egg Hunt**

We will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 10 A.M. Weather permitting we will have it outdoors, but if it's too cold or rainy it will be inside. Please have your child bring a basket to collect their eggs.

If anyone wants to donate filled eggs, please have them at the church no later than Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks,

Michelle

**Troop 616 Update**

Troop 616 has already begun filling the spring and summer calendar with a variety of activities. Three of our scouts are currently working on their Eagle Scout applications and projects. Of those, Caleb Feather has already completed his project with the building and placement of wooden benches at Clay Hill Memorial Forest.

Other goals for this year include camping and hiking. Scouts needing to complete the Eagle required Camping merit badge need to have a cumulative 20 nights of camping. We will plan multiple camping weekends this year to not only add to their total nights of camping, but to also work on skills and have fun. Scouts needing to complete the Eagle required Hiking merit badge must complete four 10-mile hikes and one 20-mile hike. We recently completed a 4-mile hike at the Lincoln Boyhood home at Knob Creek in Hodgenville, KY to begin conditioning and preparing for these longer hikes.

We have also begun planning for Summer Camp where the Scouts will work on a variety of merit badges, skills, and rank requirements. We will spend the week of June 23-28 at Camp Crooked Creek in Shepherdsville, KY again this year and the cost is \$425 for each scout and \$125 for each adult. If you would like to partner with us in sending our youth to camp, we have

area business discount cards available for \$10 each. Donations are also greatly appreciated. For either, please call or text Megan Watkins, 270-403-7669. Thank you to those who have already donated or purchased cards. Your generosity is such a blessing!

**Thank You**

Bethel friends,

In appreciation for visits, flowers, and calls to cheer me up after my fall during all the snow in February. Thank you.

Clara Metzmeier

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Thank you for your support.  
This year's Souper Bowl of Caring raised \$1250 for our local Food Pantry!

