

SHOWERS OF BLESSING

During December we have been asked to provide Welcome Bags for new international students at Campbellsville University.

There will be about 50 new students.

Please bring snack foods, highlighters, pencils and index cards.

We appreciate your support during this busy season of giving.

OPPORTUNITY CIRCLE

Opportunity Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 3 at 11:00.

We will discuss Lesson 4-The Prodigal Child, the Eldest Child and the Devoted Parent.

Hope you can come.

LADIES' LUNCHEON

Ladies Luncheon will not meet this month.

Budget Information

Average Weekly Needs: \$3,895.31

Average Weekly Giving: \$3,782.77

Thank You

I want to express my thanks for the beautiful meal provided for my family after Ron's funeral. Your kindness during such a difficult time meant more to us than words can say. Your support and prayers remind us that we are surrounded by a caring church family.

With love & gratitude,
Sue Wise



Kingdom Kids

Merry Christmas!!! We will be having our annual Birthday party for Jesus on Wednesday, December 17th. We will eat, play games, decorate cookies and more. As always, friends are welcome. We will be learning about advent during Children's Church. Enjoy this joyous season, and never forget Jesus is the reason for the season!

God Bless,
Michelle



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

Bethel Beacon

December 2025

December Calendar

12/1	6:00 Boy Scouts Troop 616
12/3	11:00 Opportunity Circle 5:00 E-connect team meeting
12/7	10:00 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship -Tree Decoration 12:00 After Action Meeting - Thanksgiving Meal
12/8	6:00 Boy Scouts Troop 616
12/10	5:30 Session
12/14	10:00 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship 12:00 Annual Meeting
12/15	6:00 Boy Scouts Troop 616
12/17	10:30 Sweetwater Book Club For more info, contact Cliff or Mary Jane Chafee (270-995-1699). 6:00 Kingdom Kids
12/21	10:00 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship "Lessons and Carols"
12/24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
12/28	10:00 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship
1/4	10:00 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship 12:00 Celebration Lunch Details TBA

BFPC PURPOSE STATEMENT

***CARING, SHARING, SERVING,
AND GROWING TOGETHER
AS CHRIST'S CHURCH
IN THE WORLD.***

**Bethel First Presbyterian Church
502 East Main Street
Campbellsville, KY 42718
Office (270)-465-7091
E-mail bfpc502@gmail.com
Pastor's cell (270) 403-7709**

Trustees: Paul Johnson (2025), Jane Horn (2026) John Waldrop (2027)

Treasurer: John Waldrop

The Session:

Class of 2025: Jeanne Brown, Jayne Hogan, Linda Shipp

Class of 2026: Linda Caldwell, Jimmy Ewing, Bonnie Watkins

Class of 2027: Terry Feather, John Powell

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...

*“Come dearest Child into our hearts
And leave Your crib behind You
Let this be where the new life starts
For all who seek and find You
To You be honor thanks and praise
For all Your gifts this time of grace
Come conquer and deliver
This world and us forever.”*

These are the lyrics to the third verse of the song Come Dearest Child by Fred Pratt Green. The choir has been practicing this and other pieces in preparation for our Service of Lessons and Carols on December 21st during morning worship.

This particular verse of the song has become my go-to prayer in preparation for the Advent/Christmas season. It serves as a reminder that our faith is a transformative faith. Ours is a faith of new beginnings that happen as a result of our encounter with the living Christ in our midst. Ours is an incarnational faith that proclaims the great truth that God is with us! *Emmanuel!*

I hope you will join me in incorporating this prayer into your conversation time with God in the days and weeks ahead of us. And I also hope that you will make plans to attend this year’s *service of Lessons and Carols*.

Grace & Peace,

Jim

December Birthdays

- 4th: Linda Shofner
- 5th: Elijah Myers
- 7th: Micah Falloway
Amy Wells Hyde
Ries Ewing
- 9th: Lucas Graham
- 13th: Rosalyn Shively
- 14th: Todd Caldwell
Cooper Hall
- 24th: Dr. Jim E. Ewing
- 26th: Seth Wheatley
Charles Meyers
- 27th: Ruth Myers



Annual Meeting
Notice of Annual Meeting of
Bethel First Presbyterian Church
(Congregation)
Bethel First Presbyterian Church , Inc.
(Corporation)
and Bethel First Presbyterian Church
Cemetery Association, Inc. (Corporation)
Sunday, December 14th, 2025, 12:00 Noon

Mid-Kentucky Presbytery

What is a Presbytery?
by Megan Buckner
Louisville Seminary Intern

It used to be that when I heard the word *presbytery*, it sounded like something far away — an office, a committee, or maybe just another meeting. Before this field education placement of mine started, I knew of it vaguely and understood that it included lots of folks, but it was something without a name or a face to it. But this placement has shown me how really, the presbytery is *us*. It’s a gathering of churches, pastors, and elders working together so that none of us does ministry alone.

In the past few months, I’ve had the privilege of working closely with our interim presbyter, Marian, and stated clerk, Jerry. I’ve attended staff meetings, and listened in on various meetings, attending worship services and events, and practiced learning all of my “Presbyterian alphabet soup” acronyms. I’ve traveled to a lot of churches and met so many people. But what will stay with me long after this semester’s work ends, is the love of God that I’ve witnessed from churches large and small. I’ve seen firsthand how this body lives out connectional ministry — how it encourages pastors, supports congregations in transition, nurtures new ministries, and helps churches imagine what’s next. And I’ve watched teaching and ruling elders from across our region remind each other that the Holy Spirit is still at work in every corner of our presbytery.

The connection to the presbytery is one of the ways we embody being the *body of Christ* — many parts, yet one whole. When we send commissioners, share mission dollars, or participate in presbytery events, we’re not just doing paperwork or paying dues. We’re joining in a larger story — God’s story of connection, care, and collaboration across congregations. Through our presbytery, we stand with those who are feeding the hungry, welcoming refugees, nurturing new worshiping communities, and training future leaders.

Please keep our presbytery in your prayers — its leaders, its congregations, and its ongoing work of helping us discern how to be the Church together, especially during this time of transition that’s upcoming with the arrival of a new General Presbyter and new Stated Clerk. And mostly, thank you, all of you, for allowing me to observe so many of your meetings and worship services and for allowing me to serve the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery as an intern this semester.

**THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER
SUCCESSFUL THANKSGIVING !**

The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner continues to be a blessing to our congregation and our community.

There will be an After-Action meeting on Sunday, December 7th noon to review this past year’s meal and begin planning for the next.