

CHANNELS OF BLESSING

Our Showers of Blessing for August will be helping our teachers with supplies that they usually have to provide for their class.

We need:
tissues
paper towels
hand sanitizer
Clorox type wipes

The teachers have been very appreciative of this help and support for them.
Thank you!

OPPORTUNITY CIRCLE

Opportunity Circle will not meet during August.

SWEETWATER BOOK CLUB

The Sweetwater book club will meet on Wednesday, August 19th in the library at 10:30 a.m.. This month's discussion will be about the book Wuthering Heights.

LADIES' LUNCHEON

Ladies luncheon will meet Wednesday, August 26th at 11:45 at Creek Side. This is open to all ladies of the church. Hope you can come.

Budget Information

Average Weekly Needs: \$3,993.63
Average Weekly Giving: \$3,666.78

Kingdom Kids

I cannot believe summer break is about over and another school year is ready to begin. We will have a back to school party Tuesday, August 18th at 6:15. As always, friends are welcome. I hope to see everyone at Kingdom Kids and children's church this month.

God Bless,
Michelle



REV. MURPHY CONTACT INFORMATION:
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Bethel Beacon August 2026

August Calendar and Upcoming Events

8/2	10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship
8/3	6:00 Boy Scouts Troop 616
8/9	10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship
8/10	6:00 Boy Scouts Troop 616
8/11	6:00 Bible & Theology Class w/ Dr. Early
8/12	5:30 Session
8/16	10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship
8/17	6:00 Boy Scouts Troop 616
8/18	6:00 Kingdom Kids 7:00 Taylor County Historical Society
8/19	10:30 Sweetwater Book Club
8/23	10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship
8/24	6:00 Boy Scouts Troop 616
8/25	6:00 Bible & Theology Class w/ Dr. Early
8/26	11:45 Ladies' Luncheon at Creeside
8/30	10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship
8/31	6:00 Boy Scouts Troop 616

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

Trustees: Jane Horn (2026) John Waldrop (2027),
Vacant (2028)

Treasurer: John Waldrop

The Session:

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

Class of 2027: Pat Abell, Terry Feather,
John Powell

Class of 2028: Mitzi Coyle, Jayne Hogan,
Eugene Shively

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...

"Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings to greet the dawn while it is still dark."—James S. Hewett.

In the midst of daily life, we often lose sight of the bigger picture that is provided for us is the promises of our faith. As we lose sight of these eternal truths, we become consumed by the anxiety and troubles that bombard us on a daily basis. We get to places where, as the old saying goes, "We can't see the forest for the trees." Yet we have a faith that calls us,

again and again, to not be troubled by such things. We have a faith that reminds us that is in the midst of such challenges, we are children of God, loved by God with a love that will not let us go.

One of the most comforting and affirming chapters in all of Scripture is found in the eighth chapter of Romans. In it, Paul writes that “neither death, nor life ... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” And William Sloane Coffin goes on to say, “If death, then, is no threat to our relationship with God it should be no threat to anything. If we don’t know what is beyond the grave, we do know who is beyond the grave. And Christ resurrected links the two worlds, telling us that we really live only in one.”

May we live in that one kingdom. May we live with this reality ever before us. And may we find peace and confidence in our faith, even in the most challenging of circumstances.

Grace and Peace,
Jim



August Birthdays

- 1st: James Baskin
- 4th: Emily Johnson Baskin
Lily Ann Osborne
- 7th: Mary Ann Sapp
- 11th: Sara Wyatt
- 12th: Gabriel Chambers
- 13th: Maurice Dix
Christi Thomas McGuire
- 14th: Caroline Johnson
- 15th: Megan Cox
John Waldrop
- 18th: Carson Meyers
Linda Caldwell
- 17th: Sue Whitley Hilton
- 22nd: Julie Caldwell
- 23rd: Mary Lynn Benz
Barb Willis
- 24th: Pat Abell
- 28th: Judy Robinson

Help us remember the Class of 2026

Please let us know if one of your family members graduated this year. (Better late than never.) Please provide name, grade, school, and degree (if pertinent) by August 25th. The Graduate list will be published in September.

Mid-Kentucky @ Beliefs

From "The Confession of 1967"

Inclusive Language Text

In recognition of special gifts of the Spirit and for the ordering of its life as a community, the church calls, trains, and authorizes certain members for leadership and oversight. The persons qualified for these duties in accordance with the polity of the church are set apart by ordination or other appropriate act and thus made responsible for their special ministries.

The church thus orders its life as an institution with a constitution, government, officers, finances, and administrative rules. These are instruments of mission, not ends in themselves. Different orders have served the gospel, and none can claim exclusive validity.

A presbyterian polity recognizes the responsibility of all members for ministry and maintains the organic relation of all congregations in the church. It seeks to protect the church from exploitation by ecclesiastical or secular power and ambition. Every church order must be open to such reformation as may be required to make it a more effective instrument of the mission of reconciliation.

A SMALL CHURCH WITH A BIG HEART

There’s a scene in the film *Hoosiers*, in which the basketball team from tiny, rural Hickory High scopes out the huge and intimidating basketball arena in which they’ll play the state championship game. Coach Dale extends a measuring tape from the free throw line to the backboard, and again from the floor to the rim. He tells the team: “I think you’ll find it’s the exact same measurements as our gym back at Hickory.”

Facing the greatest challenges of our lives, we often imagine we’re out of our league. Yet, more often than not, we find that the size of the new challenge contains within it the dimensions of something we’ve already experienced.

There’s strength within us, God-given strength. Too often, we don’t trust the strength given by God, only the native strength we can summon up on our own.

We already have the foundation of what we need. God will supply the rest. By the numbers we may be a small church in a similar way that the Hickory Huskers may have been viewed as just a team from a small school. Yet as we continue to be a faithful congregation, may we do so with confidence in our God given gifts and talents. May we continue living faithfully into our mission of ***Caring, sharing, serving, and growing together as Christ’s church in the world.***