



**NEW BETHEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
PHONE 423-538-8688
Rev. Tom Gomola
(724) 992-0447
tomgomola@yahoo.com
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025



Mission Statement: To know Christ and make Christ known

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME IN GOD'S NAME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. TOM GOMOLA

OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE 3rd ADVENT CANDLE

JIM AND KATIE WRIGHT, ADAM MCMILLAN

LITURGIST

SHERRY BRADEMEYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Worship is a special time where people seek to meet God and have their lives changed. To prepare your heart and life to be changed for God's glory, we invite you to a time of reflective prayer and reverent silence seeking the Holy Spirit in your personal time of worship.

PRELUDE

MUSIC BY MARCIA MCGRATH

*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS"

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock

Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well. We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace. We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us. We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Come! Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when all of creation lives in everlasting joy. Come! Let us rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in people and things that can't fulfill our every need.

We have searched for peace in shallow places.

We have mistaken joy for temporal pleasure and artificial exhilaration.

We have put limits on the ways we love,

excluding those who need our loving kindness the most.

Remind us that you have always loved us with an everlasting love,

so that we may share that love with others. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON (Liturgist)**

In this season of desolation and uncertainty, there is joy, it is good to know that

God's love for us is sure—that God's commitment to us is definite—that God is guiding us as the compassionate, joyful companions that we are called to be for each other.

Let us live into this gift. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

"GLORY BE TO THE FATHER"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #193**

"O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"

(Red Hymnal)

(All verses)

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
(Refrain)
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.
2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
(Refrain)
3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
(Refrain)

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SPECIAL MUSIC

"CHRIST IS BORN MEDLEY"

NEW BETHEL CHOIR

LIGHTING OF THE 4th ADVENT CANDLE

RICK AND SHERRY BRADEMEYER

SERMON SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35:1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus

2 it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. (cont.)

Luke 1:46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, (cont.)

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;
50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

SERMON “ADVENT JOY: MORE RELIABLE THAN YOUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS”
REV. TOM GOMOLA

“MARY DID YOU KNOW”
OFFERING

JON WHITE

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

Hebrews 13:16 “Do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

*DOXOLOGY Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below, praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*RESPONSIVE HYMN #47
(Blue hymnal)

“STILL, STILL, STILL”
(All Verses)

1. Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill! The Virgin’s tender arms enfolding, Warm and safe the Child are holding. Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill.
2. Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep While angel hosts from heaven come winging, Sweetest songs of joy are singing. Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep.

***GO IN GOD’S NAME**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

“GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN”

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

*Indicates those who are able may stand. **Individual prayers and liturgical text for worship are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*. Copyright 2015**

WELCOME TO NEW BETHEL
December 21, 2025 – December 28, 2025

9:45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR:

Melissa Alley----- receiving treatment for cervical cancer, friend of Sherry Brademeyer
Matt Amick-----some improvement of paralysis – still in serious condition, neighbor of Rodney Smith
Billy Bagnell-----brain tumor; friend of Rodney Smith
Ramona Fender-----38 year old undergoing treatment for colon cancer, granddaughter of a friend of Sandra's
Jerry Graham-----A-Fib issues, friend of Katie Wright
Ron Jones-----prostate cancer and long covid, friend of Jon White
Mike Martin-----recovering from wrist surgery, friend of Becky Wise
Joan Mathes-----serious eye problems and other health issues, aunt of Dickie Jones (lives in Israel)
Sally McPeak-----various health problems, church member
Phyllis Painter-----eyes, shoulder and leg issues, friend of New Bethel members,
Debbie Smith-----breast cancer treatment, friend of Becky Wise
Mary Nelle Smith-----recovering from broken hip, sister-in-law of Sandra Leonard
Tom Smith-----recovering from neck surgery on 11/17, friend of Mary Lynn
Dean Torbett-----at home recovering from foot surgery and pneumonia, church member
Jerry Vaughn-----recovering from open heart surgery and receiving further treatment for AFIB, Gary Vaughn's father

PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS (including last week)

Mickey Church December 19 Phillip Orr December 27

PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES (including last week)

Dwight and Pam King December 19 Mark and Jennifer Procopio December 27

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES

Lt. Matthew Musick A naval aviator was deployed in January to the middle east area.
His family will continue to live and go to school at his base in Florida while he serves in this new tour of duty.

PRAY FOR THE WORK OF CHRIST'S CHURCH:

Holston Presbytery and their work for the larger church
This week: New Providence Presbyterian Church, Surgoinsville, TN 37873
The Session as they lead our church

Current Session Members

Tom Gomola	(724) 992-0447	Denise Torbett	(423) 341-4013
Dickie Torbett	(423) 967-5831	Mary Dobrovoltc	(315) 525-2454
Larry Smith	(423) 747-7282	Eddie Ramsey	(423) 306-1526
Mary Lynn Barnes	(423) 534-0060	Katie Wright	(423) 967-6534
Byron Barnes	(423)-794-6522	Gary Vaughn	(423) 956-6907

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are delighted that you are worshipping with us today and pray that your life will be enriched by the power of the Holy Spirit.

UPCOMING CHURCH ACTIVITIES: We will continue to have in person worship services on online broadcast and the church bulletin on the church website at www.newbethelpres.org.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. This offering will be taken today, **December 21**.

SESSION: The session will meet immediately after worship today in the fellowship hall.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Our annual congregational meeting will be next Sunday, **December 28**, immediately following the worship service. The budget for 2026 will be presented.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE: The Christmas Eve service will be at 4:00 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: The next PW meeting will be on Wednesday, January 19, 2026.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG: We are invited to come and sing Christmas carols at Piney Flats Presbyterian Church at **4:00 p.m. today**. Our own dulcimer group, Saving Grace, will be playing during this service.

POINSETTIAS: The beautiful poinsettias in the sanctuary are courtesy of Denise Torbett.

PINEY FLATS MEALS-ON-WHEELS: Piney Flats Meals-on-Wheels needs volunteers from local churches to deliver meals one morning each month.

CLASSES OF ELDERS: Class of 2026: Larry Smith, Byron Barnes, Denise Torbett
Class of 2027: Eddie Ramsey, Mary Lynn Barnes, Dickie Torbett
Class of 2028: Gary Vaughn, Katie Wright, Mary Dobrovols

CHURCH DIRECTORY: The church directory is now in a database that is easily updated. If you need to be added or make changes, please email Mary Lynn at mlbarnes0303@gmail.com. The information should include names, address, phone, email, birthdates, anniversary date. Copies of the current directory are in a folder in the narthex. As changes are made updated copies will be available there. **The latest church directory is now available in a folder in the narthex.** (cont.)

WIFI: bethel592

COMMUNION AND OFFERING: The Holy Communion and Offering sign-up sheets for 2026 are in the entry space of the sanctuary. You must be an ordained elder to serve Communion, but anyone can take up the offering. Offering collection is 4X per month. Holy Communion is served on the 1st Sunday of each month. Please help when you can!

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY: Your monetary donations to feed the hungry are appreciated! These donations go to support our local food pantry which is located at Edgefield Methodist Church. You are encouraged to continue to be a part of this important ministry by making your checks to **New Bethel Presbyterian Church** with “**Community Food Pantry Donation**“ on the memo line.

ONLINE GIVING: Please use this QR Code for giving online.



WEEKLY CHURCH FINANCIALS: Please give as you are able. Your gifts and offerings can also be mailed to the church at 592 New Bethel Road, Piney Flats, TN 37686. A summary of our current standing against the 2025 budget is shown below:

Weekly Budget Needs	\$1,443
December 7 Offering	\$ 917
Other Offerings	\$ 175
Year to Date	\$2,986