



**NEW BETHEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
PHONE 423-538-8688
The Reverend Tom Gomola
(724) 992-0447
tomgomola@yahoo.com
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026



Mission Statement: To know Christ and to make Christ known

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME IN GOD'S NAME

GUEST SPEAKER

KATIE ARNOLD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARY LYNN BARNES

OPENING PRAYER

LITURGIST

MARY LYNN BARNES

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

"SANCTUARY"

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) **Psalm 138**

138:1 I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

138:2a I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,

138:2b for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

138:3 On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.

138:4 All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

138:5 They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, We confess that we often seek immediate satisfaction, even when it costs us our relationship with You and with others. Too often, we are self-centered—chasing quick fixes without considering the lasting impact of our choices. Forgive us, loving God. Lead us from selfishness and brokenness into lives marked by mercy, compassion, and love. Make us useful to You and to the world around us. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

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

If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; **Isaiah 58:13-14a**

*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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“KING OF KINGS”

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN BRISTOL STUDENT BAND

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

KATIE ARNOLD

SPECIAL MUSIC

“FIRM FOUNDATION”

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN BRISTOL STUDENT BAND

SERMON SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:6-13

55:6 Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

7 Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.

9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

12 You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.

This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever."

Matthew 13:1-9

13:1 That very day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the sea.

2 Large crowds gathered around him, so he got into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore.

3 He had much to say to them, and he said it all in parables.

“Listen!” he said. “Once there was a sower who went out to sow.

4 As he sowed, some seed fell beside the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

5 Some seed fell on rocky soil, where it didn't have much earth. It sprang up at once because it had no depth of soil.

6 But when the sun was high it got scorched, and it withered because it didn't have any root.

7 Other seed fell in among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it.

8 Other seed fell into good soil, and produced a crop, some a hundred times over, some sixty, and some thirty times over.

9 If you've got ears, then listen!"

SERMON

“SOW ANYWAY”

Katie (Gomola) Arnold - Director of Student Ministries, First Presbyterian, Bristol, TN

OFFERING

“REVELATION SONG”

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN BRISTOL STUDENT BAND

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“LIVING HOPE”

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN BRISTOL STUDENT BAND

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

“I WILL SERVE THEE”

I will serve Thee because I love Thee, You have given life to me;
I was nothing before you found me, You have given life to me.
Heartaches, broken pieces, Ruined lives are why You died on Calvary,
Your touch was what I longed for, You have given life to me.

*Indicates those who are able may stand.

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WELCOME TO NEW BETHEL
August 23, 2026 - August 30, 2026
9:45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR:

Matt Amick-----still in serious condition, neighbor of Rodney Smith
 Billy Bagnell-----brain tumor; friend of Rodney Smith
 Penny Bowery-----Surgery and chemo, ovarian cancer, stage 3, friend of Marion Reed
 Mary Cross-----health issues, mother of Denise Torbett
 Ramona Fender-----tumor is shrinking as she continues to undergo treatment for colon cancer, granddaughter of Sandra's friend.
 Miranda Heaton-----battling cancer, prayers for her, her husband, Matthew, and their children, daughter-in-law of Greg and Linda Heaton
 Ron Jones-----prostate cancer and long covid, friend of Jon White
 Ben Kelley-----tests run on swollen leg, in Air Force in Idaho, friend and neighbor of Julia Kegley
 Mike Martin-----recovering from wrist surgery, friend of Becky Wise
 Joan Mathes-----serious eye problems and other health issues, aunt of Dickie Jones
 Eric McPeak-----after battling a serious infection for over a year, is cleared to have heart valve surgery in the near future. Sally McPeak's younger son who grew up in our church
 Sally McPeak-----various health problems, New Bethel member
 Phyllis Painter-----eyes, shoulder and leg issues, a member of New Bethel
 Wendy Rayfield-----undergoing treatment for colon cancer after surgery, wife of a friend of Sandra's
 Debbie Smith-----breast cancer treatment, friend of Becky Wise
 Mary Nelle Smith-----at home hopefully awaiting more physical therapy, Sandra's sister-in-law
 Vanessa Smith-----recovery from heart valve repair, daughter-in-law of Larry and Linda Smith
 Dean Torbett-----injured his rotator cuff in a fall, will have MRI, New Bethel church member
 Kevyn Torbett-----fell, surgery on broken hip went well, also injured eye, Princeton Transitional Care
 Jack Tottle-----cancer surgery, friend of Becky Wise
 Jerry Vaughn-----open heart surgery and receiving further treatment for AFIB, Gary Vaughn's father
 Garrett Workman-----at home after colostomy surgery; doctors trying to decide on best treatment for tumor in his colon and treatment for serious liver issues due to cirrhosis, father of Sandra Leonard's great-grandson

PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Gary Dobrovolc August 23 Daniel Smith August 27 Byron Barnes August 29 Jay Mettetal August 29

PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES.

Dickie and Eva Jones August 27 Ron and Marion Reed August 27

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES

Lt. Matthew Musick A naval aviator who was deployed in January to the middle east area
 Will Markham Is now released from the military and back home
 Carson Reaves 82ND Airborne Division, 2nd Brigade mobile combat team, Ft. Bragg, NC, Ron Reed's great nephew

PRAY FOR THE WORK OF CHRIST'S CHURCH:

Holston Presbytery and their work for the larger church
 This week: Cold Spring Presbyterian Church, Bristol, TN 37663
 The Session as they lead our church

Class		Current Session Members		Class
Tom Gomola		(724) 992-0447	Eddie Ramsey	2027
Byron Barnes	2026	(423)-794-6522	Dickie Torbett	2027
Larry Smith	2026	(423) 747-7282	Mary Dobrovolc	2028
Denise Torbett	2026	(423) 341-4013	Gary Vaughn	2028
Mary Lynn Barnes	2027	(423) 534-0060	Katie McMillan	2028
				(423) 967-6534

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

GUEST SPEAKER: We give a warm welcome to Katie Arnold who is filling the pulpit this morning. Katie is the daughter of Tom Gomola and is the Director of Student Ministries at First Presbyterian Church in Bristol, TN. Thank you, Katie, for delivering the message today.

AUGUST 30TH WORSHIP SERVICE: Next Sunday we will receive the message from Marcia Torbett. Special music will be presented by Zeb and McKayla Dougherty.

FIVE CENTS A MEAL OFFERING: The Five Cents a Meal offering will be taken next Sunday, August 30.

NEW UPDATED DIRECTORY: An updated church Directory is available at the front entrance. One per family please! Also if you need to add/delete info or something is incorrect in it, please notify Mary Lynn.

CHANGE OF PHONE NUMBER: Please make this correction in your personal copy of the directory:
Mary Dobrovolc 315-520-6804

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: The PW met Wednesday, August 19. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 16 in the fellowship hall at 2:00 p.m. There were 10 ladies in attendance. Several projects that aid our community and our church are in the works. We would love to have every lady in our congregation join us at the September meeting. We could always use fresh ideas and helping hands. Please consider coming to our next meeting and share in the fun!

WIFI PASSWORD: bethel592

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 2026 budget is shown below:

Weekly Budget Needs	\$1,534
August 16 th Offering	\$3,445
Other Offerings	\$ 15
Year to Date	\$9,672