

**NEW BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

PHONE 423-538-8688

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023



*Mission Statement: To know Christ and make Christ known*

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

WELCOME IN CHRIST'S NAME

LITURGY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LARRY SMITH

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

**"O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom  
captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!

**Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God. Be alert! Keep awake!**

The time is drawing near:

**The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

\*LORD'S PRAYER (IN UNISON)

\*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.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Lighting of the Unity Candle

THE BARNES FAMILY

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

**God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead, we lash out—against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #22  
(Blue Hymnal)

**“ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”**

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye, who sang creation's story Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!
2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light:  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great desire of nations; Ye have seen His natal star:  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!
4. All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One:  
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!

**PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY

\*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 THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

**SERMON**

RANDY McREYNOLDS

PRAYER

**\*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 #38 "IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR"**  
(Blue Hymnal) (Verses 1,2 and 3)

1. It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heaven's all gracious King":  
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.
3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow,  
Look now! For glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing.

**\*GO IN GOD'S NAME**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**"O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"**

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!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore  
Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

\*Indicates that those who are able may stand. The Call to Worship and the Prayer of Confession are from Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion.

**WELCOME TO NEW BETHEL**  
**December 3, 2023—December 10, 2023**

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

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**SPECIAL PRAYER FOR:**

Willene Spence-----health, former minister's wife  
John Landers, II (John John)-----medical and mental health, son of Kevyn Torbett  
Matt Amick-----improvement of paralysis, but still a long way to go  
neighbor of Rodney Smith  
Harold Barnes-----continued improvement in health, church member  
Deborah Kinsler-----recovering from cancer  
Tommy Forrester-----brain cancer, friend of Mary Lynn Barnes  
Phyllis Painter-----pain in fractured pelvic bone due to fall in December  
Jerry Graham-----blockage that could cause a stroke, Katie's friend  
Jimmy Joe Amick-----previous bladder cancer has returned in several  
areas of his body, friend of Rodney Smith  
Bill Snapp-----out of the hospital and recuperating at home  
Billy Bagnall-----brain tumor; 20 years old, friend of Rodney Smith  
Janie Torbett-----recuperating at home after shoulder surgery  
Dean Torbett-----successful heart valve surgery, recovering at home  
Larry Smith-----recuperating at home after shoulder surgery  
Don King-----surgery on broken leg  
Carolyn Shaw-----mobility issues, wife of Dr. Shaw

**PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS**

Linda Smith December 5      Sarah Collins December 6      Daniel Collins December 7

**PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES**

Geoffrey and Lindsey Smith December 4

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

**PRAY FOR THE WORK OF CHRIST'S CHURCH:**

Holston Presbytery and their work for the larger church  
This week: St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Morristown, TN 37813  
The Session as they lead our church

## **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.

**UPCOMING CHURCH ACTIVITIES:** We will continue to have in person worship services on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. and live streaming broadcast online. You can find a link to the online broadcast and the church bulletin on the church website at [www.newbethelpres.org](http://www.newbethelpres.org).

**PASTOR SEARCH:** Continue to be in prayer for our Presbytery, the Committee on Ministry, our Session, and our Congregation as we continue our search for a part-time pastor.

**TODAY'S SERVICE:** We welcome Randy McReynolds to our pulpit today. Randy was here in September, and we are happy to have him back to speak once again. Next week Dr. Rebekah Cote will be here, followed by Roger Daugherty on December 17th and Albert Williams on December 24th. Roger and Albert are both provided through Bancroft Bible Ministries.

**CLERK OF SESSION NEEDED:** New Bethel is in need of a Clerk of Session. Please be in prayer as this most important position must be filled as soon as possible. The clerk must be an elder, but not necessarily an active one. If you or someone you know would like to take on this role, let any session member know.

**SESSION MEETING:** The December meeting of the session will be on **December 10th at 6:30 p.m.** in the church fellowship hall. Holston Presbytery Transitional Executive Presbyter, Karen Russell, will be at our meeting to help us in our search for a part-time pastor.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** Many of you participated last year as we brought back the New Bethel tradition of Christmas Caroling. We will be caroling again this season on **Sunday December 17th.** More information will be coming as we get closer to the date.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:** The Presbyterian Women's Christmas party is this **Wednesday, December 6, at 6:00** in the fellowship hall. Please RSVP to Mary Lynn Barnes by Sunday, Dec 3, with \$5.00 for the meal. We will again be collecting disposal baby diapers/wipes for a donation to The River. If you want to play Bingo, bring a \$20 limit wrapped gift.

**PINEY FLATS CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING:** The Piney Flats Christmas tree lighting is **this evening, Dec 3, starting @4:00.** It is a free event sponsored by the Piney Flats Ruritan Club and takes place in the historic village near Mary Hughes School. There will be free food and also caroling in addition to the lighting. If you would like to donate cookies for this event, give them to Mary Lynn, or Larry, or Linda Smith.

**JOY OFFERING:** Our Christmas Joy Special Offering will be received on **December 17th.** The Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. This offering provides critical financial assistances to support them through life's challenging circumstances. A generous offering is your faithful response to God's charge to love one another as Christ commanded.

**NEW BETHEL T-SHIRTS:** T-shirts featuring our new logo are still available for purchase. There is a sample hanging in the narthex and sizes small through 3X are available. They are \$20 and can be purchased from Byron Barnes. All proceeds go to New Bethel.

**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 United 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.

**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 2023 budget is shown below:

Weekly Budget Needs	\$ 1,165
November 26 <sup>th</sup> Offering	\$ 452
Difference	\$ -713
Other Giving	\$ 150
Year to Date	\$-1,009