



**NEW BETHEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
PHONE 423-538-8688
The Rev. Tom Gomola
(724) 992-0447
tomgomola@yahoo.com
First Sunday of Christmas
December 28, 2025



Mission Statement: To know Christ and make Christ known

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME IN GOD'S NAME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE REV. TOM GOMOLA

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

"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). **Psalm 148:1-5,13**

148:1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

148:2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

148:3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

148:4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION.**

Almighty and Glorious God, You will come in power, mercy, and grace to bring all creation under Your rule. Yet we confess we have not been expecting You. We are not looking for Your Kingdom to come. We instead follow our own ways. We trust in our own solutions. We obey our own promptings. We live casual lives that ignore Your presence. Forgive us, O Lord, for our lack of trust and obedience. Restore us to be Your people who follow You alone, and may You receive the glory and honor. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

In Christ, the Light, the Word, the Glory of God's love shines in our hearts, and we are forgiven and given strength to go forward into a new future. Let us give thanks that in Jesus, Emmanuel, God is truly with us.

***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 #40**

(Blue Hymnal)

“JOY TO THE WORLD”

(All verses)

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SPECIAL MUSIC

SAVING GRACE

SERMON SCRIPTURE *Matthew 2:13-23*

2:13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

2:14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt (cont.)

2:15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

2:16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi.

2:17 Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

2:18" A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

2:19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,

2:20 "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."

2:21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.

2:23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

SERMON

"TYRANTS AND TODDLERS"

THE REV. TOM GOMOLA

OFFERING

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 #56**

(Blue hymnal)

"THE FIRST NOWELL"

(Verses 1, 2, and 3)

1. The first Nowell the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay akeeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
(Refrain)

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.
(Refrain) (cont.)

3. And by the light of that same star, Three wise men
came from country far; To seek for a king was their in-
tent, And to follow the star wherever it went.
(Refrain)

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 28, 2025 – January 4, 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

PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

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: Newport Presbyterian Church, Newport, TN 37821
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 Dobrovolc	(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 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 online broadcast and the church bulletin on the church website at www.newbethelpres.org.

SESSION: The next session meeting will be immediately after worship on **January 11** in the fellowship hall.

HOLY COMMUNION: The next communion will be served on **January 4**.

UNDECORATING: If you are able to help remove the decorations from the sanctuary next Sunday, **January 4**, after worship, your help will be greatly appreciated.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL: Our next fellowship meal, "Souper Bowl", will be **January 25**, following worship. (We know the Super Bowl is not until Feb. 8, 2026!)

RETIREMENT: We congratulate these church members on their recent retirement:

Ed Ramsey – Sullivan County Department of Education

Pam King – Ballad Health

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Our annual congregational meeting will be **today** immediately following the worship service. The budget for 2026 will be presented.

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

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 Dobrovolc

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 21 Offering	\$2,549
Other Offerings	\$ 599
Year to Date	\$2,799