

Newsletter
Bethel First Presbyterian Church
502 East Main St.
Campbellsville, KY 42718

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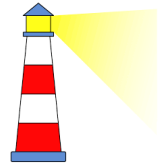


Church Office Hours 9 a.m.-1 p.m.;
Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday
Rev. Murphy may be seen at other
times by appointment. Please feel free
to call when in need of pastoral
services. Cell (270)-403-7709.



September 2020

Bethel Beacon



Living as Christ Lived. Loving as Christ Loved. Serving as Christ Served.

Bethel First Presbyterian Church
502 East Main Street
Campbellsville, KY 42718
270-465-7091
E-mail bfpc@hotmail.com
Pastor's cell (270) 403-7709

Trustees Mr. Paul Johnson (2020)
Mr. John Waldrop (2021)
Mr. Allen Burress (2022)

Treasurers Mr. John Waldrop
Mrs. Betty Ewing

The Session

Class of 2020 Mrs. Linda Caldwell
Dr. Eugene Shively
Mr. Mike Thomas
Class of 2021 Mr. Terry Feather
Dr. Robert Shipp
Mrs. Carole Whitley
Class of 2022 Mrs. Cara Angel
Mrs. Lennie Hall
Mrs. Betty Ewing

The Staff

Pastor Rev. James C. Murphy
Organist Mrs. Suellen Shaw
Pianist Mrs. Ann DeSpain
Choir Director Mr. Joe DeSpain
Newsletter Editor Mrs. Julie Davis
Bookkeeper Mrs. Karen Reynolds
Youth/Child Dir. Mrs. Michelle Murphy

From the Pastor's Pen...

I wish I had the answers. I really do.

Certainty in the midst of unsettling times
would be quite comforting.

Yet, I am not ashamed to admit that I
have the same questions you have, and
maybe even more.

But as we continue along the road in this
less-than-desirable year that 2020 has
become, I am thankful for insights and
wisdom that we can glean from those
who have gone through trying times
before our current state of life.
What sort of faith is an unexamined
faith? This is not a new question. In fact,
many of the great thinkers of the church
wrestled with doubts and uncertainty, and
yet grew through the difficulty and
challenge they faced. I believe their
words speak to us in powerful and
meaningful ways:

Mother Teresa: "Darkness is such that I
really do not see — neither with my mind
nor with my reason — the place of God
in my soul is blank — There is no God in

me — when the pain of longing is so great — I just long and long for God ... The torture and pain I can't explain."

Martin Luther, whose willingness to reexamine what he had believed for most of his life led to the Protestant Reformation, once wrote about a crisis of faith: "For more than a week I was close to the gates of death and hell. I trembled in all my members. Christ was wholly lost. I was shaken by desperation and blasphemy of God."

Charles Spurgeon, in his sermon "Desire of the Soul in Spiritual Darkness," bluntly claimed: "I think, when a man says, 'I never doubt,' it is quite time for us to doubt him, it is quite time for us to begin to say, 'Ah, poor soul, I am afraid you are not on the road at all' ..."

Pope Francis: "If one has the answers to all the questions — that is the proof that God is not with him. It means that he is a false prophet using religion for himself. The great leaders of the people of God, like Moses, have always left room for doubt. You must leave room for the Lord, not for our certainties; we must be humble." (source: homileticonline.com, retrieved 8/24/2020)

For us, may these words of wisdom ground us as we journey through uncertain times. May we find comfort and consolation by the presence of God's Holy Spirit as we wrestle with our concerns and fears. May that same Spirit help us find strength and energy to navigate the days, weeks, and months ahead. And may we rest firm in the knowledge that Mother Theresa, Martin Luther, Charles Spurgeon, and Pope Francis have, in their own ways, been down this road too. We are not alone on this journey.

May God bless us and guide us in our journey (individually and as a congregation) through these uncertain times.

Proverbs 8:17 "I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me." (NIV)

In Christ,
Rev. Jim Murphy

Additional Resources Available at church (as we continue digital worship)

For Adults: Sunday School curriculum is available.

For Children: Children's Bulletins are available.

Please contact the church office at 270-465-7091 to request your copies and arrange for pick-up or delivery.



Book Study

We hope you will consider joining us for this opportunity co-lead by Dr. Eugene Shively, Linda Caldwell, and Rev. Jim Murphy. The meeting times will be on **Tuesday** nights (see dates below) at **6:00 p.m.** **Dates: July 7, July 21, August 4, August 18, and September 1.**

We plan to meet with hybrid format including both in person (socially distanced in fellowship hall) and ZOOM participants. (This is subject to change if COVID-19 cases in Taylor County are on the rise.) We hope you will join us for this meaningful and timely study and discussion.



Books can be purchased through Amazon at the following link.
https://www.amazon.com/Trouble-Ive-Seen-Changing-Church/dp/1513800000/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=drew+hart+trouble+ive+seen&qid=1592588148&sr=8-1



Dr. Daniell Turk and Elizabeth Turk—*Madagascar*

Serving in partnership with the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM), Dan and Elizabeth work to improve the lives of the Malagasy people. Elizabeth trains village health workers, helps communities develop safe drinking water sources, and educates church leaders and youth about AIDS prevention. Dan has helped the FJKM develop an extensive fruit tree program that greatly improves food security and nutrition in a country where poverty indexes are plummeting. He also works in environmental education, helping people live in harmony with God's creation.

Leisa Wagstaff—*South Sudan*

After nearly 30 years as a mission co-worker, Leisa has accepted an assignment in her fifth African country, South Sudan. While in college, she visited what is now South Sudan, where she experienced a call to global mission and fell in love with Africa. Leisa helps the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS) strengthen its educational ministry by strengthening the education department of PCOSS, developing in-service teacher training programs, and nurturing community participation in

education. She invites everyone to share in this ministry.

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Weber—*Ethiopia*

Carolyn teaches at Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary. "God has called me to equip, nurture, challenge, and inspire these seminary students to be even more compassionate and effective church servants, growing daily into the likeness of Christ," she says. Carolyn and the seminary seek to mold leaders with tools to reduce poverty, preach and teach the Word accurately and effectively, encourage women and girls to develop their full potential, and promote wholeness and reconciliation for all.

Rev. Michael Weller and Rachel Weller—*Ethiopia*

Rachel facilitates community health evangelism (CHE) projects and trainings in the Gambella region of Ethiopia and supports the work of health clinics. CHE programs seek to transform individuals and communities by integrating community based development, evangelism, and discipleship. Michael serves as the PC(USA)'s regional liaison for the Horn of Africa, where he works with partners in South Sudan, Sudan, and Ethiopia, supports the work of other mission personnel, and nurtures presbytery and congregational partnerships.

BFPC Worship Participation Covenant

(Stage 1, Beginning May 24, 2020, for those under 65 or attending without young children)

-Participants will observe social distancing while entering, participating, and leaving. (Pews will be marked to direct appropriate intervals.)

-Masks are to be worn by all participants. We encourage individuals to bring their own. However, the church will keep a supply to provide a mask to anyone who shows up without one.

-Hand sanitizer will be provided on site.

-The sanctuary and restrooms will be sanitized between each meeting.

-Individuals who are not feeling well should stay home. (A thermometer will be available to take temperatures.)

-During stage one (and possibly beyond) there will be no congregational singing.

(This Covenant will be posted in the Sanctuary and the Church Office)



Hello! I hope you all have a good start to your virtual school year. I miss seeing all of your smiling faces, and pray that we can all be together soon. If you would like to have some children's bulletins to complete while your parents listen to church ask your parents, or another adult, to call the church office so you can get the bulletins.

While we are apart I hope you are practicing some of the things we have learned in Sunday School and Children's Church. Such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, and self-control—the fruits of the spirit. Thanks to those of you who have sent me texts, videos, or called me. I love hearing from all of you, and pray for you every day.

God Bless,

Michelle



September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:00 p.m. <i>Trouble I've Seen</i> Book Study	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 5:30 p.m. Session Meeting	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

September Birthday's

1st: Truman Hall
Steve Powell
3rd: Christina Shively
4th: Nolan Robinson
5th: Kathy Wells
7th: Dr. Frank Metzmeier
11th: Michael Hall, Jr.
Shelby Wilds
14th: Jeanne Brown
Jenny Wells Hughes
20th: Jackson Harris
24th: Shelby Ewing
25th: Anne Carey Johnson
26th: Griffin Hall
27th: John Hughes
James Watkins
29th: Steve Robinson

Budget Information

Average Weekly Giving
\$3,122.47
Average Weekly Needs
\$3,263.40
(as of 8/30/2020)

Rev. Murphy
CONTACT INFORMATION:
(270) 403-7709
jimurphy71@hotmail.com