

The Witness—Newsletter of Red Bank UMC

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Thank You for Six Wonderful Years!

As my time as Pastor of Red Bank United Methodist Church winds down and I look back over the last six years, there are not enough ways to say “*thank you*” to this congregation for making this appointment in my ministry so wonderful. Red Bank United Methodist Church will always hold a special place in my heart. I thank the Lord for all the new ministries we have begun, and all the new members we have welcomed. I want to thank the staff members, past and present, who have made these joyous memories possible.

The way you embraced God’s vision for the food pantry, ran with it and allowed the community to share in it is no less than miraculous. Over 800,000 pounds of food have been given away to our neighbors who suffer from food insecurity.

We made it through the pandemic—talk about a horrible, painful disruption that forced change upon us all! We lost members to the disease, family members, and friends. And although our worship attendance has not bounced back to pre-pandemic numbers, we emerged vital and our best days are ahead of us still.

Our present preschool was launched during the pandemic and it has been successful beyond any imagining. It has been nominated the Best of the Best for three years running and now has an enrollment of one hundred and eighteen children. Our Preschool Director Lindsey Walker and the rest of the staff are second to none.

We have had many great events and times together. I have especially fond memories of the two years we had “*Wednesdays in the Park*” as well as the Food Pantry “*Stock the Shelves*” Bluegrass and BBQ events which not only helped the pantry but brought together the Red Bank community. Eggstravaganza and our Hanging of the Greens Services and festivities have provided us with a great opportunity to mingle and worship with our pre-school families and our Trunk-Or-Treat events have brought over seven hundred community members into our building two years in a row.

As many of you know I do most of our promotions for church events and the food pantry on our many local public community Facebook pages. And I have seen people write over and over again things like: “*If I were to go to church I would go to Red Bank United Methodist Church,*” and “*Red Bank United Methodist Church is doing what churches are supposed to do,*” and they see you all, month after month, putting your faith into action. It is my opinion that within the minds of our unchurched neighbors, RBUMC has the best reputation and is the most respected church in town. With this foundation, I have no doubt you have an amazing future ahead as you prepare to welcome Reverend Elizabeth Hamilton and her wonderful family.

If you are as blessed as I am, you meet some amazing people along the way. The respect I have for you all, the things I’ve learned, the good times we have had, the life experiences, doing ministry side by side has been priceless. You people are amazing. It’s been a very good run. This is my favorite church yet. I’m sad, but I know God has great things in store for us all. I want you to know I love you. Thank you for being you!

In Christ, Pastor Ken

A Conversation with Pastor Liz



Reverend Elizabeth Hamilton and her family. From left to right: Matt, Isaac, Elizabeth, and Jordan.

Beginning July 1, you will have a new Pastor, Reverend Elizabeth Hamilton. I have known Liz and her family for many years and was praying that she would be the person God brings to Red Bank. I am excited for Liz and for the congregation of Red Bank UMC. This is going to be a wonderful time for this church. Liz is originally from Greenville, Tennessee, and her husband Matt grew up in Petersburg, Florida. They love to teach the Bible together and plan to do that on Wednesday nights. Liz says it's a lot of fun because they have different views on things and like to bounce their ideas off one another.

On Wednesday, May 15, I had the opportunity to sit down with Reverend Hamilton and ask her some low-key fun facts. The following is the short interview.

Where did you go to school?

Rev. Hamilton: I went to East Tennessee State for my undergraduate degree and then Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky where I received a Master's Degree in Divinity.

What other churches have you served?

Rev. Hamilton: I was the Associate Pastor at Abington United Methodist Church, and then I was the Senior Pastor of Addilynn Memorial United Methodist Church in Bristol. My last appointment was at Mountain View United Methodist Church in Kingsport.

Tell me about your family.

Rev. Hamilton: My husband Matt and I have been married for 14 years. We met at Asbury Seminary where Matt received a Master of Biblical Studies. Currently, Matt works remotely for Johnson City Toyota.

My oldest child Jordan is going to turn 13 this summer and he will be entering the 8th grade. He loves bowling and plays the tuba.

My other son Isaac will turn 7 this summer and he will be entering the 2nd grade. He likes dragons, monsters, Zelda, and Minecraft.

What is your favorite thing about being a Pastor?

Rev. Hamilton: My favorite thing is meeting new and different people and forming relationships with them.

What is your favorite Bible verse?

Rev. Hamilton: Joshua 1:6-8 so it's more than one verse.: *"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses*

gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." These verses stand out to me because Joshua had something so difficult in front of him. Moses had died, and these are the words God keeps before him and it gives him courage, hope, and strength.

What are some of your preaching plans?

Rev. Hamilton: I'm going to kick things off with a series from the Old Testament entitled *"Walking in the Footsteps of the Prophets."* I've been working on it for several months and have a lot of ideas written down. I like the prophets because they had a difficult job. They had to bring hard messages to the people and the people hated them for it.

What excites you most about Red Bank United Methodist Church?

Rev. Hamilton: The food pantry. It tells me so much about the congregation, their heart, and their willingness to serve.

What's your favorite kind of music?

Rev. Hamilton: I like all kinds of music. I've been on a Bluegrass kick lately, but I listen to all kinds of stuff, pop, rock, you name it.

What dreams do you have for Red Bank United Methodist Church?

Rev. Hamilton: I dream of growth—not just numerical but spiritual growth because when you grow spiritually in your walk with Jesus Christ people notice.

What is your favorite sport?

Rev. Hamilton: We are all Tennessee football fans.

Favorite food?

Rev. Hamilton: Pizza.

I hope this gives you a few fun facts about Pastor Liz and her family. She is very excited to meet you all. I know you will love her and she will love you.

In Christ, Ken Sauer

The Reading Together Summer Schedule:

Week 22; May 26-June 1

May 26 2 Chronicles 29-32
May 27 2 Chronicles 33,34
May 28 2 Chronicles 35,36
May 29 Ezra 1-3
May 30 Ezra 4-6
May 31 Ezra 7,8
June 1 Ezra 9,10

Week 23; June 2-8

June 2 Nehemiah 1-3
June 3 Nehemiah 4-6
June 4 Nehemiah 7,8
June 5 Nehemiah 9,10
June 6 Nehemiah 11-13
June 7 Esther 1-3
June 8 Esther 4-6

Week 24; June 9-15

June 9 Esther 7-10
June 10 Job 1-3
June 11 Job 4-6
June 12 Job 7-9
June 13 Job 10-12
June 14 Job 13-15
June 15 Job 16-18

Week 25; June 16-22

June 16 Job 19-21
June 17 Job 22-24
June 18 Job 25-28
June 19 Job 29-31
June 20 Job 32-34
June 21 Job 35-37
June 22 Job 38-41

Week 26; June 23-29

June 23 Job 42
June 24 Ecclesiastes 1-3
June 25 Ecclesiastes 4-6
June 26 Ecclesiastes 7-9
June 27 Ecclesiastes 10-12
June 28 Song of Songs 1-3
June 29 Song of Songs 4-6

Week 27; June 30-July 6

June 30 Song of Songs 7,8
July 1 Isaiah 1-3
July 2 Isaiah 4-6
July 3 Isaiah 7-9
July 4 Isaiah 10-12
July 5 Isaiah 13-16
July 6 Isaiah 17-19

Week 28; July 7-13

July 7 Isaiah 20-23
July 8 Isaiah 24-26
July 9 Isaiah 27-29
July 10 Isaiah 30-32
July 11 Isaiah 33-35
July 12 Isaiah 36,37
July 13 Isaiah 38,39

Week 29; July 14-20

July 14 Isaiah 40-42
July 15 Isaiah 43-45
July 16 Isaiah 46-49
July 17 Isaiah 50,51
July 18 Isaiah 52-54
July 19 Isaiah 55-57
July 20 Isaiah 58-60

Week 30; July 21-27

July 21 Isaiah 61-63
July 22 Isaiah 64-66
July 23 Jeremiah 1-3
July 24 Jeremiah 4-6
July 25 Jeremiah 7-9
July 26 Jeremiah 10-12
July 27 Jeremiah 13-15

Week 31; July 28-August 3

July 28 Jeremiah 16-18
July 29 Jeremiah 19-21
July 30 Jeremiah 22-24
July 31 Jeremiah 25-27
August 1 Jeremiah 28-30
August 2 Jeremiah 31-33
August 3 Jeremiah 34-36

Week 32; August 4-10

August 4 Jeremiah 37-39
August 5 Jeremiah 40-43
August 6 Jeremiah 44,45
August 7 Jeremiah 46-49
August 8 Jeremiah 50-52
August 9 Lamentations 1,2
August 10 Lamentations 3-5

Week 33; August 11-17

August 11 Ezekiel 1-3
August 12 Ezekiel 4-6
August 13 Ezekiel 7-10
August 14 Ezekiel 11-13
August 15 Ezekiel 14-16
August 16 Ezekiel 17-19
August 17 Ezekiel 20-22

Week 34; August 18-24

August 18 Ezekiel 23-25
August 19 Ezekiel 26-28
August 20 Ezekiel 29-32
August 21 Ezekiel 33-34
August 22 Ezekiel 35-37
August 23 Ezekiel 38,39
August 24 Ezekiel 40-42

Week 35; August 25-31

August 25 Ezekiel 43-45
August 26 Ezekiel 46-48
August 27 Daniel 1-3
August 28 Daniel 4-6
August 29 Daniel 7-9
August 30 Daniel 10-12
August 31 Hosea 1-3

Week 36; September 1-7

September 1 Hosea 4-6
September 2 Hosea 7-9
September 3 Hosea 10-12
September 4 Hosea 13,14
September 5 Hosea Joel 1-3
September 6 Amos 1-3
September 7 Amos 4-7



Our 55 and older group is active and fun. We hope you will join us!

Tuesday, June 11: Meet at the church at 10:30 am, and then go out to eat at Portofino's Restaurant

Thursday, June 27: Meet at the church at 10:30 am, eat lunch, and then play bingo. The proceeds will go to Wreaths across Chattanooga

Tuesday, July 9: Meet at the church at 10:30 am and then visit the Cast Iron Skillet Lodge Museum and eat at the Big Bad Breakfast Restaurant.

Thursday, August 13: Meet at the church at 10:30 am and go out to eat at the Local Goat Restaurant.

Thursday, August 22: Meet at the church at 10:30 am, eat lunch, and listen to a presentation by a case manager from Hospice.

Tuesday, September 9: Meet at the church at 10:30 am and go out to eat at El Matate Restaurant.

RED BANK UMC
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

EXPLORERS CLUB EXTREME

July 15- 18
9am-11am

Join us as we
explore God's
story through art,
games, snacks,
and more!

Email
[trinityrbumc@
gmail.com](mailto:trinityrbumc@gmail.com) for
registration

Ages 4-11





What we have been learning

We have just finished a series on Jesus' parables in youth group on Sunday nights, and on Wednesday nights we have completely gone through the book of James and Ephesians and are now starting on 1st John. On Sunday nights we have been eating, fellowshiping, diving deep into parables, and playing games (usually spike-ball or pickle-ball). Parables are one of the most common ways Jesus taught so it is so crucial to understand how to read and interpret these parables in their historical and literary context. We have been meeting at Firehouse Subs across the street on Wednesday nights for our read throughs of some of the books of the bible. These meetings consist of us eating together then reading a chapter of a book and discussing it. We talk about how this book or chapter still applies to us as Christians 2000 years later, and how we can still glean information from it.

What we're looking forward to

We are all so excited for summer! We are starting a new series on Sundays titled "Questions of the Faith." This series is going to be made up of the youth's questions and my attempts to provide bible verses, logic, and reason to provide information to answer these questions. It will not be me preaching for 45 minutes but presenting evidence to the youth for us to find answers together. This will be a good way to teach the youth how to find answers to their deep theological or general questions about Christianity, faith, the church, and the world. We are also looking forward to volunteering with VBS in July and enjoying our summer together!



Our Easter Sunrise Service was a highlight of the Spring.

The food pantry was well-represented at this year's Red Bank Jubilee.



The Young at Heart enjoyed an outing to the Cookie Jar Restaurant.



We are excited to welcome Mike Carleton into the membership of Red Bank UMC. Mike joined on April 21.



Pentecost was extra special this year. April and Lee Hashe along with Thomas Sutton joined the church on May 19. Thomas joined by baptism and profession of faith.



Sunday, June 30

5TH SUNDAY

Breakfast

Featuring

**Our Preschool Director
Lindsey Walker**

9:30 am

**In the Fellowship
Hall**

Don't Miss It!!!

