

The Witness

Red Bank United Methodist Church

June Edition

Moving Into a Post-Pandemic Time

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful...Let us not give-up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”
Hebrews 10:23; 25

First, I want to say thank you for continuing to be the church through the Covid-19 crisis. Much ministry has occurred throughout the pandemic. You have continued to love your neighbors in tangible ways through the Food Pantry (feeding 2,500 people a month), a brand-new booming Preschool program and the Community Kitchen Ministry to name a few.

With the management of the virus improving so much since the vaccine we have prayerfully decided to move back to one worship service in the sanctuary, 10:30 a.m., Sunday mornings. This means Sunday school/small groups begin at 9:30 a.m. We did this on Sunday and it was a great lift having everyone together again.

When I say everyone I’m am telling a fib. Attendance is down between 40-50% from our pre-Covid-19 numbers. Some of us might be out of the habit of worshipping in-person. While this is understandable, there is no good substitute for meeting together as a body and no Christian in the New Testament was not involved in the local church. We grow spiritually and numerically when we are together. All are blessed.

We were growing and moving in a good direction when the pandemic hit and although we have had set-backs I believe God will bring back the good fruit of growth. With that in mind, it is going to take all of us to make this happen. I want to challenge everyone to make Sunday church attendance a priority. It’s only an hour a week and it’s an hour which can change our lives. When we skip worship it is not only “us” who suffer the entire body suffers. So please, make a commitment to come to church. You might not always “feel like it.” But if you make it a priority pretty soon you will not want to miss it for anything.

This Covid-thing has been a long, challenging walk and we have all taken it together. Because we are brothers and sisters in Christ we care for one another and need one another. The fact that we have endured and overcome during this time of crisis evidences something. We are experiencing Kingdom fruit. Let’s keep cultivating it together 30, 60, 100 fold.

May God continue to bless and keep you.

See You Sunday—Pastor Ken



New Pianist

Dear Friends, we are blessed to have a new ministry team member —Heather Grace Wahlen. Grace is a student at Southern Advent University where she also works as a Music Theory Teacher's Assistant.

Grace has experience serving as a pianist in a number of different worship settings. Most recently she was the pianist at Ooltewah United Methodist Church. Sunday, June 6 was Grace's first "official" Sunday with us. I know we will all welcome her with Christ's love.

Brackett's Rackett,

"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2

As our world begins to recover from this pandemic and things begin to open back up it becomes more and more obvious that life is not the same as it was before 2020. Things are going to be different and change and difference can be scary for all of us.

During the process of dealing with changes and how we live out our lives and faith in these times it is very tempting to begin focusing on the world and situations around and in doing that we lose our hope and becomes replaced by fear, doubt, discouragement, and uncertainty.

However, there is reason to rejoice because our GOD NEVER CHANGES!!! He never has and He never will. What has changed is that we have taken our focus off Him. I encourage you and myself today and take some time and refocus. Do as the author of Hebrews says and "fix your eyes on Jesus" and let him be your vision:

Be Thou My Vision:

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one
Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art

Discipleship

Adults:

Small Groups and Classes are now meeting in person again. Sunday morning groups will be meeting at 9:30 a.m. beginning Sunday June 6 (make note of the time change going forward).

Youth (Grades 6-12):

Cornerstone Youth Class will begin meeting in person on Sunday morning May 23rd at 10:00 a.m. Teachers will be Debby Brackett, Jane Smith, Jeff Davis and Ware Hart!

Youth Foundation Bible Study – Sunday Nights at 5:30 p.m. – Meetings will be in varied locations with a wide variety of activities.

On Wednesday evenings our youth will be participating in “Wednesdays in the Park” at 6:00 p.m. and then will have a special activity afterward.

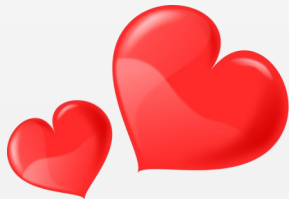
Children (2 year – 5th Grade):

Sunday School will resume for Children on Sunday May 23rd at 9:45 a.m. There will be three classes:

- Preschool – Led by Stella Campbell
- Kindergarten – 2nd Grade – Led by Roger Richie
- 3rd – 5th Grade – Led by Skipper Fairbanks

Sanctuary Cleaning Crews:

Beginning Sunday June 6, we will not be needing cleaning crews anymore. Thank you so much to everyone who has helped with this effort.



Young at Heart (for all Senior Adults)

“Summer Time/Fun Time” on Zoom – 10:30 a.m. June 24th

There will not be any activities in July but beginning in August we will resume Young At Heart Meetings in Person with “Hat Day” – August 26th at 10:30 a.m.



- 3 Lee Husted
- 8 Gil Carmona
- 10 Joe Esch
- 12 Drew Lowe

- 12 Pat Ingram
- 13 Skipper Fairbanks
Jane Smith
Jerry Moore
- 15 Jack Pitkin
Sheri Morris
- 16 Betty Pearson
- 21 Melanie Edwards
- 23 Tommye Nail
- 29 Luther Tilley
- 30 Teresa Elkins
John Nail

-
- 5 Bub & Linda Gilliland**
 - 14 Richard & Serie Bland**
 - 25 Rick & Gayle Rathbun**
 - 26 Mike & Suzanne Bourne**
 - 29 Steve & Sherri Barker**

**Wednesdays in the Park
Every Week
6 p.m.-7 p.m.**

Join the Fun!!!





*Awesome music
&
Awesome food!*

