

Pastor's Column

I have heard it all my life: *"To the victor go the spoils."* People also like to say, *"If you're not the lead dog, the scenery never changes."* The English language, French, German, and Italian all have their own versions of the aphorism: *"History is written by the winners."*

So why not just devote yourself to winning? Is there a better strategy?

The problem posed for winners is this: You might catch a corona virus variant. You might experience the destructive power of a tornado. You might slip on the ice. You might have to self-isolate, wear an N-95 mask, curtail your activities, or avoid crowds. In short, you might not always be the winner.

In one of the *Rocky* movies, the old, punched-out boxer tells his son, *"It ain't about how hard you hit. It's about how hard to can get hit and keep moving forward..."* That's a different angle on being a winner. We all have to adjust, take the hits, and respond. I've even heard that ethics should be written by the dispossessed and disadvantaged, because they know first-hand about the true causes of hurt and harm in society; so that out of their experience we can all be better people.

In Romans 8:28, the Apostle Paul writes that *We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to God's purpose.* There's nothing there about winning, punching, or taking punches. It's all about loving God, and discovering God's goodness.

Slave songs of the 18th century, such as *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*, and *Didn't the Lord Deliver Daniel (Then Why Not Every Man)*, are built on the idea that God rescues and delivers those who are suffering. I suspect that the slaves who created those songs were thinking of a heavenly deliverance, but the hope of better, more blessed days in this (earthly) life is not precluded.

*Swing low, sweet chariot/Coming for to carry me home
Swing low, sweet chariot/Coming for to carry he home*

All of us, and any of us can imagine being lifted up from our burdens and worries. All of us want to be met with God's blessings.

*Didn't the Lord deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel?
Didn't the Lord deliver Daniel, then why not everyone?*

When bad things happen to good people, it always leaves us scratching our heads and asking *"why."* When we see violence or hatred, we ask the question too. When a tornado tears up our town, or a covid outbreak interrupts our gathering, we cannot help but wonder.

Winners don't always win. The love of God wins. Hope wins. There is more to life than the kind of victories we usually imagine. There is the victory of being called into God's purpose.

Swing low, sweet chariot! Lord deliver me!

Matthew

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Christian Education



SUNDAY MORNINGS CONTINUE! We gather at 9:00am for classes for all ages.

Children have our Preschool Class (up to age 5/Pre-K) learning about God's great love for them. Those currently in Kindergarten-5th grade gather in our Godly Play room to hear and experience the Bible story, then spending time wondering about how God is teaching/leading them.

Youth meet with David in the Youth Suite upstairs, share fellowship and Bible stories and talk about how God is in their lives.

Adults have several options:

Ellis Class is using the Being Reformed study on The Apostle's Creed. Study books are available. Leadership is shared, and you are welcome to come dig deeper into this important confession of our faith.

Coffee & Conversation is concluding their read-through of the Bible. Begun more than three years ago, this group has been reading the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and discussing what they discover.

Christian Thought is watching/discussing the Great Course The Philosophy of Religion. Several weeks in January the group met by zoom to recap what was begun more than two years ago (those videos are on our website). Currently they are meeting again in person in the Conference Room, ably led by Dr. Glenn Kirkconnell.

All classes welcome new members at any time!

TRI-PRESBYTERY GATHERING IS FEBRUARY 25-26! We look forward to hosting this event, welcoming our Presbyterian siblings from across the state for a time of learning, worship and fellowship! The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow will lead a workshop and keynote presentation. Bruce is exceptionally good at helping churches understand how technology can enhance our ministry and outreach! He was Moderator of the 218th General Assembly, at the time he was the youngest ever elected. We look forward to his wisdom! Please sign up and join us!

<https://presbytery.wufoo.com/forms/knwdday0n1lrbz/>

Do note that masks will be required at all times unless eating. Our general schedule: On Friday: 9am registration, 10am workshops, 2-5 keynote, 5-6:30 dinner (box meal), 6:30 worship. On Saturday: 9am registration, 10-11:45 worship and presentations; lunch (box meal), then afternoon individual presbyteries meet.



BE A WELCOMING FACE FOR OUR PRESBYTERY MEETING (and you attend free). Help is needed on our big weekend - greeters, food/drink hospitality and more. Visit the Sign Up Genius to see what and when. We will need particular help early Friday morning to set up Fellowship Hall after DRITI - 6:30am. There is also a need for one or two who have big vehicles to pick up our box lunches on Saturday morning. Check it out:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aa9ab2ca7f49-tripresbytery>

Christian Education

GET IT ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW! Vacation Bible School will be Sunday June 5-Wednesday June 8 at Christ Episcopal Church. All children age 3 by July 31 through rising 5th grade. We will again be an intergenerational group - Sunday will be family night with food trucks, and Monday-Wednesday children must have an adult with them. Passport to Peace invites us to see every person as part of God's family, and every interaction as an opportunity to make peace. Mark the dates and plan to join us! Registration information coming in April!



THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY has designated how our Sunday School offerings will be used. Our children will decide where to send the offerings from January, February and March. Youth will choose for April, May and September. And adults will have October, November and December. Every bit of change and/or bills put in the offering baskets in your classes will go to help others! Last year our children sent \$515 (from several years' offerings) to buy a cow, a family of chickens and a piglet, all of which will help families have food and income. We are grateful for your generosity.

NURSERY CARE is available on Sunday mornings. From 9:00-10:15 birth-2, with 3-5 (PreK) during worship. We look forward to having a Crib room again in the near future, which will be a place for infants/crawlers as needed.



OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS CONTINUES!

This month the group will be finalizing their statements of faith in preparation for meeting with the Session at the end of March. Easter Sunday (April 17) will be the day they make their Public Statements of Faith. We hope to hold a reception for them in Fellowship Hall - or perhaps outside - with cake and punch. Please continue to pray for this group of wonderful young women - Claire Ellington (Susan Thomison); Laura Parkerson (Judy Whitson); Maddie Davenport (Mary Evans) and Cary Beth Bowen (Karol Ahmed).

SMALL GROUP/CLASS OPPORTUNITIES COMING!

Two new opportunities in February:

Curious about beekeeping? The Bible and Bees is a new small group set to launch Saturday February 5, 11am-1pm at the home of Rob Byrd. Matthew Covington will lead a devotional time and he and Ron Shrewsbury will share the why's/how's and more about beekeeping (which is critical to our food supply). Everyone welcome - please let us know you are coming as Rob is providing lunch! 1310 New Cut Road, Bowling Green.



Ashes and Dust, Celebrations and Sadness will be a four week group/class meeting Wednesday evenings February 2-23 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Joann Pearson Buck, an experienced Hospice nurse, will help us explore these questions and more: What is death? Does it bother you to talk about death? How do we prepare for our own deaths? How do we have those necessary conversations with our loved ones? What can I say to a grieving person? And more.

Check out the various small group options on our webpage:

<https://bgpres.org/grow/small-groups>

You can also stop by the table on the landing are check out the various sign up sheets. Have an idea for a small group? Contact Mary Evans and she can help you get started!

Missions



DAVID'S
Room in the Inn

DAVID'S ROOM IN THE INN has a few weeks left for this season.

Some items are always welcomed to have on hand, to make our guests' lives more comfortable. Individual-sized toiletries like shampoos, razors, tissues, hand sanitizers, tooth paste, and tooth brushes. Packs of socks are also appreciated. Please leave your gifts in the drawers under the stairs or in the office.

Also, individually packaged breakfast muffins, cakes, etc. and fruit cups will be appreciated, as they may be taken along in the morning as our guests head out for the day. Please label "DRITI." Thank you for always helping make this mission possible through your generous gifts.

GLOVES FOR LOVE We still putting out gloves, hats, scarves, and warm socks on our fence. The items have been going fast! Please place contributions for this ministry in the Blue tub in our front hall, and we will get it to the fence. Lots of cold weather still to come.

Thank you! - Missions Committee.



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING for this first quarter (January-March) will be sent to a mission that our children choose. Each quarter one group will decide where to send these funds. January-March is our children, April, May and September our youth decide, and October, November, December our adults. Thank you for your gifts to help others!

Youth Ministry

YOUTH GROUP will continue to meet in the Church from 5-7pm on Sunday nights. If you need a copy of our calendar speak to David Clarke.

SOUPERBOWL is February 13th. We are continuing our Souperbowl collection this year, on the 13th after church. (We are unable to have a meal this year.) Look out for more information from our youth during the service about what this year's collection will support!

We are in the process of planning our summer events, and a calendar is available through speaking to David Clarke.



Church and Community



THE LENTEN SEASON WILL BE HERE SOON -

We will begin with an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 2nd at 7:00pm in our Sanctuary. The service will also be livestreamed. Please join us, and keep watching for more information to come on other plans and resources for Lent.

PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER Registration begins in February for the next school year. We offer classes for 2, 3, and 4 year olds. Your child must be the age of the class by August 1st of that school year. The PLC has been a ministry of the church for more than 25 years. Tell your friends and neighbors! We are a quality program that adheres to a philosophy of growing God's children spiritually, socially, and academically, with an emphasis on Kindergarten Readiness. Packets will be available in the church office. You can email Kimberly Watkins or call for more information. plcdirector@bgpres.org



Preschool Learning Center

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the following members and friends of this church who have recently lost loved ones:

*To Sharon Hendrix in the death of her father William Stephens
To Tom Cooper in the death of his son William Cooper*



Finance Ministry



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting has been called for February 6, 2022. The Session has called this meeting to occur immediately after worship on February 6, for the purpose of receiving the budget and approving the annual terms of call for our Pastor.

February Birthdays

February 3

Sarah Glenn Grise

February 4

Jane Anderson

Janet Schwarzkopf

February 7

Ava Elliott

Todd Willian

February 8

Jayne Freeman

Terry Johnson

Beth Pope

February 10

Roy Beard

Ken Meredith II

February 12

Georgeanna Capito

Jim Harris

Larry Pack

February 13

Jim Croxton

February 14

Annette Parkerson

JoAnn Pearson

February 16

Ward Begley

Barbara English

February 19

Caroline Wedge

February 20

Mark Bigler

Jacob Ellington

Quinn Ellington

February 22

Bri Trickey

Stefan Trickey

February 23

Arnie Petrus

February 24

Eagan Webb

February 26

Craig Heller

February 27

Ruth Brown

Kelly Goad

February 28

Merrilyn Calhoun


Sally Calkins



Our church Elders: Karol Ahmed, Mark Bigler, Mike Kanan, Frederica Kernohan, Jean Harris, Wayne Hendrix, Tim Leigh, Nathan Love, Nancy Moore, Mike Morse, Pamela Napier, Bobby Rabold, Bud Schlinker, and Debbie Trickey, Larry Warden. Our church Deacons: Trudy Burkeen, Rob Byrd, Judy Clark, Kim Ferguson, Evan Goad, Cathey Green, Linda Leigh, Debbie Morse, David Muffett, Annette Parkerson, Teri Polen, Catherine Reber, Susan Thomison and Judy Whitson.

February Calendar

Please check our 60-Second email and bulletin announcements regularly. In our present circumstances, scheduled events often change. Take care and stay safe!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 7:00pm Deacons	2 7:00am B'fast Group 4:00pm Floor Yoga 5:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Ashes & Dust	3 7:00pm Neighborhood Group	4 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	5 Sat Meal Prep 11:00am Bible and Bees
6 8:30am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Children's Music 10:30am Worship 11:30am Congregational Mtg. 5:00pm Youth	7 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	8 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 7:00pm Sunny 16 Cam Club	9 7:00am B'fast Group 4:00pm Floor Yoga 5:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Ashes & Dust	10 6:00pm DRITI	11 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	12 Sat Meal prep
13 <i>Souper Bowl Sunday</i> 8:30am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Children's Music 10:30am Worship 3:30pm Conf. Class 5:00pm Youth	14 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 11:00am Finance Min. 1:00pm CUICHM 6:15 Chairs of Sess. 7:00pm Session	16 7:00am B'fast Group 9:30pm Circle 6 4:00pm Floor Yoga 5:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Ashes & Dust	17 6:00pm DRITI	18 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	19 Sat Meal prep
20 8:30am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Children's Music 10:30am Worship 1:00pm Chr. Ed (Zoom) 5:00pm Youth	21 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 6:00pm Community Ed.	22 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care	23 7:00am B'fast Group 4:00pm Floor Yoga 5:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Ashes & Dust	24 7:00am Men's Prayers 6:00pm DRITI	25 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group Tri-Presbytery	26 Tri-Presbytery
27 8:30am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Children's Music 10:30am Worship 3:30pm Conf. Class 5:00pm Youth	28 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 6:00pm Community Ed.	 F E B R U A R Y				

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



“Our reason for being is to manifest the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed so that disciples are made by means of inspiring and engaging worship, relevant and reliable education, compassionate and caring fellowship, meaningful and magnanimous outreach, to the glory of God.”

The full-color newsletter is online at www.bgpres.org.
February 15 is the deadline for the March 2022 newsletter. Please send your information to the church office at info@bgpres.org

The Presbyterian Church
Bowling Green, Kentucky
(270) 843-4707
www.bgpres.org

The Presbyterian Church Staff

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Leslee Kirkconnell	Director of Christian Education
Terry Johnson	Financial Administrator
Wayne Pope	Choir Director
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Cheryl Gregory	Secretary
Kimberly Watkins	Director, Preschool Learning Center
Lacy Magre	Director of Children's Music
Cedric Whitney	Custodian
Tim Leigh	Clerk of Session