



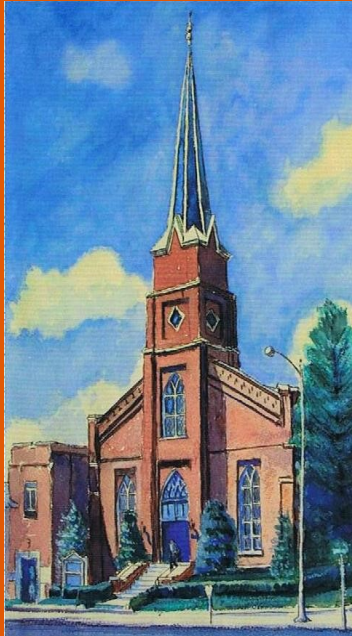
Presbyterian Courier

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Volume 27

October 2023

Issue 9



Pastor's Column

My retirement at the end of the calendar year is approaching. Preparing to retire isn't easy. It feels as if I am leaving things behind and unfinished. Particularly with regard to planning for the future ministry of the church, I'll have to leave that to others. I won't be around to see certain things flourish. I won't be around to follow through with some of the traditions of our congregation that have been especially important to me. I will miss the experience of "being there" for our people when they need care.

I've met and engaged people as they've presented themselves. Everyone matters. Everyone has a story. Everyone is "special" in their own way. Biblically, the phrase "the first shall be last and the last first" is mostly about everyone having a place. I've made it a point to reflect God's graciousness to the first and the last.

I've valued the gifts God has given each one. Our congregation is well-educated and intellectually vigorous. In my teaching and sermons, I have tried to keep up with the substantial abilities of the people of our church.

Elect for service as well as salvation. I have been especially close to our Missions efforts. Service to others is crucial to the life of faith. I have been glad to have a part in defining our ministry. We: 1. Feed people. 2. Advocate for children. 3. Support available housing. 4. Bring people clean water. 5. Pay attention to people's emergencies, and the needs that fall through the cracks.

I've been available. This doesn't take too much effort, but it is very important for people to know that they have full access to the pastor. My door is (almost) always open. Even when I can't fix things, I am here to listen and to pray.

Wisdom comes with serious, careful thought. Frequently, I have wished I had a more dynamic personality. But I am steady. I examine things thoughtfully. I have managed to steer us around some mistakes because I've stuck with it.

God has a sense of humor. So do I. What was God doing, when God made the giraffe, the rhinoceros, and the human being? Perhaps the traditionally Calvinistic approach to things is to muscle-up on seeing the twisting weight of sin, I have tended to accept the twists as amusing. If one learns to laugh, they are safer from the depressing, predatory grasp of evil. In earlier times, this was called "deriding the devil." It works!

Flexibility and Creativity make us lively. The annual Blessing of the Pets, the 5th Sunday Alternative Worship, the Columbarium for cremated remains, the Food Pantry, the Banners in the Sanctuary, the use of an image on the Order of Service each Sunday to match the message, Confetti Canons and a Pep Rally on Rally Day—we've tried a lot of new things and benefitted from being adaptable.

Leadership that works with people, not around them. My leadership style puts the encouragement of others high on the list of priorities. Our staff works happily and collaboratively. Good ideas are given room to grow. The Deacons and the Elders, and other congregational leaders, understand that what we do together we do better.

My retirement will bring some change. But one thing is constant: Know you are loved.

Matthew

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Church and Community



OCTOBER 29th AFTER WORSHIP

Join us in Fellowship Hall for the Chili Cook-off, and vote for your favorite recipe! Maybe you'd like to compete?

All are welcome. Watch for more information coming soon, and save the date! Plan to join us for lunch and fellowship at the big event!

WE WELCOME NATHANIEL BROWN TO OUR CHURCH STAFF Nathaniel is Adjunct Professor of Music History at Western Kentucky University. He holds a DM and MM in Organ Performance, an MA in Music, and a Certificate of Specialized Studies in Early Music from Florida State University, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Music from WKU. During his time as a student at WKU, he was the keyboardist for the Symphony, which toured in China in the summer of 2013, and was the student carillonner for WKU's Guthrie Bell Tower. He has previously held organist positions at major churches in Bowling Green and Madisonville, KY as well as Quincy, FL. He is also a baritone, having sung and performed with many choral societies. He holds memberships in Early Music America, the Society for Seventeenth-Century Music, the American Heinrich Schütz Society, and the American Guild of Organists (Nashville chapter). Nathaniel will be with us through the end of this calendar year as our organist on Sundays.

AN EXHIBIT COMMEMORATING MYRA DWYER is hanging in our fellowship hall until October 12. Reflecting a keen sensitivity to texture, color and patterns, Myra's paintings radiate with courage and energy. This memorable exhibit, made possible by Myra's daughters, will hang until October 12. A reception for this show will be held on the evening of Thursday, October 11. All are welcome to attend.



LET'S PLAY BRIDGE! Join this small group to learn how to play bridge. The first session will be Tuesday, October 17 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the church. Charlotte Prow will be our teacher. Please let Mary Evans (270-791-7205) know you plan to attend so we can have supplies ready.

SUMMER HAS ENDED AND FALL IS UPON US. The church would like to offer a special thanks to David Thomison and David Sears for their contribution to the success of our summer Pig Pickin' in August. They generously provided the pig for our picnic, which was enjoyed by all on that day! Their work and generosity are greatly appreciated.

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

***To Robin Sumner and her family in the death of her father Bob Hunt
To Joyce Ann Spiceland in the death of her brother***



Church and Community



THE ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE PETS

Doesn't Your Dog Need
a Blessing?

On Sunday, October 15,
at 4:00PM in the Courtyard

Bring your pets for fun and fellowship!



CHANCEL CHOIR NEWS – The Chancel Choir has a new rehearsal time this fall. We are rehearsing from 5:45–6:45pm on Wednesdays.

--What does it take to sing in the Chancel Choir? Just attend a one-hour rehearsal on Wednesday evenings and a 25-minute prep time (10:00–10:25) on Sunday mornings.

--Do I always have to be there? We are realistic and know that people have lives and can't always be at everything. There is therefore no condemnation for missing rehearsal or a service.

--What about my singing? If you enjoy singing, can match pitch and enjoy being in a group you are an excellent candidate for Chancel Choir!

--I don't really read music and I'm not sure if my skills are strong enough. No problem. We have some excellent readers and skilled musicians in Chancel Choir. Most people can follow them without a problem. We're delighted to run over parts and help each other out.

--What ages are allowed in the choir? Junior high and beyond!

--There are many studies these days that show singing in a group is a great health benefit (mental, physical, emotional, spiritual). We are a loving, fun group who has a tight bond and a happily support each other.

--Who do I talk to? Talk to Wayne or any choir member or just call, text or email, Wayne. Or you could drive by his house and honk the horn. Or take him to lunch or on your next vacation. (Beth is included!) 270-991-8761 (cell) or wayne.pope@wku.edu (email)

4th ANNUAL FALL GIVEAWAY at Cecelia Memorial Presbyterian Church

Cecelia Memorial's 4th Annual Fall Giveaway is **Saturday, October 7** from 9am-1pm, at their location of 716 College Street. There is still time to drop off household items for the big day!

Please contact Lovelyn Williams at Cecelia church for more information: 270/935-5110 or ceceliamemorial1234@outlook.com. You may leave a message, or you may call her cell phone, 619-368-2103.

Christian Education

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS -- Writing Your Memoir

October 15, 22, 28 and November 5, at 9:15-10:15 in the Church Conference Room
Led by Erika Solberg

Have you ever wanted to tell a part of your life story but weren't sure how to start? As opposed to an autobiography which tells your whole life story, a memoir focuses on just a piece of a person's life. In this four-session course we will discuss how to gather your memories, choose your audience, structure your story, and use such tools as dialogue and description to write a memoir that is readable and evocative. There will be a special emphasis on how to write about faith and Christian identity. We will do a lot of writing exercises, share ideas and drafts with each other, and talk about examples of good memoirs. No previous writing experience necessary.

Erika Solberg is a book coach, ghostwriter, and editor. With a BA in English from Yale University and an MFA in creative writing from Louisiana State University, she has worked in the world of writing for more than twenty-five years. She has taught students of every age--from elementary school to senior citizen--and has helped hundreds of writers develop their unique ideas, perspectives, and stories. For more information, visit erikasolberg.com



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY NEWS

JULIA ROBERTS is the new chair of the Christian Education Ministry. Current ministry members are: Mary Evans, Michelle Fluit, Wayne Hendricks, Susan Howard, Mike Kanan, Nathan Love, Catherine Reber, Diane Simmons, and Judy Whitson. The mission of the Christian Education Ministry is to teach God's Word, build relationships, and guide Christian faith formation so children, youth, and adults are prepared to share God's love and serve others. We welcome your ideas and suggestions for how to make this ministry more vibrant, engaging, and meaningful for you on your faith journey.

GODLY PLAY Children in kindergarten through Grade 5 experience Godly Play in Sunday School at our church. Godly Play is an approach to children's spiritual formation where the stories of our faith are presented, children wonder about them together and the children are given open ended opportunities, usually with art supplies, to engage with the story on their own terms.

The stories are told very simply --with simple props -- a box of sand to represent the desert, a piece of blue yarn to represent a river, a big rock to represent a mountain, wooden figures are the people. Many of the pieces have been lovingly made -- cut out of wood and painted by members of our congregation. Our church has also purchased beautiful pieces such as Noah's ark and his family and the animals that the children can interact with.

After the story is presented, the children and the storyteller wonder together about aspects of the story. For instance, with the story of The Flood and The Ark, the wondering might be about how Noah and his family felt as they walked on to the ark, what it would be like to have rain for so long, or what part of the story is most important.

After the wondering time, the children choose the art supplies they would like to use, and they spend time creating a response to the story. They might draw a picture of some part of the story, make cutouts with paper, crayons, scissors, and glue, or act out the story.

Children growing up in this church will be full of these stories because they will have heard them over and over, have engaged in wondering about them, responded to them, and listened to the thoughts of others about them. And one day all these stories will surround them, and they will understand how these stories fit together to be a guide of how to live and to be a lens through which to see God's presence in their lives.

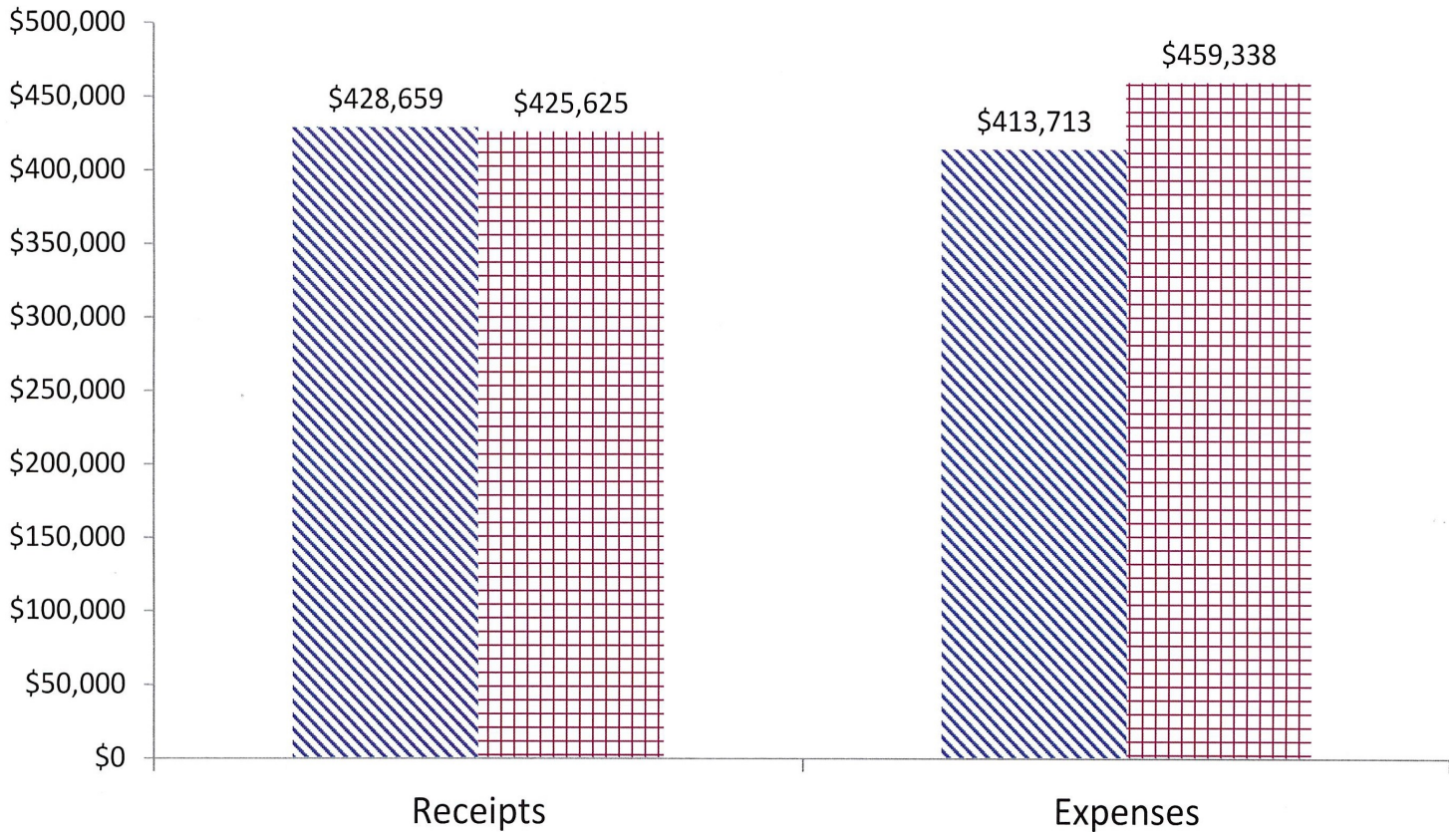


Finance Ministry

Financial Summary

AUGUST 2023

▨ Budget
▩ Actual



Elders: Class of 2024- Frederica Kernohan, Tim Leigh, Bobby Rabold, Debbie Trick-ey, Larry Warden; Class of 2025- Karol Kirby Ahmed, Buzz English, Pamela Napier, Julia Roberts, Julie Wedge Class of 2026- Pam Bratcher, Rachel Crocker, J.B. Hines, Susan Howard, Mike Kanan

Deacons: Class of 2024-Trudy Burkeen, Evan Goad, Linda Leigh, Catherine Reber, Susan Thomison; Class of 2025-Barbara Brindle, Craig Long, Teri Polen, Ernie Small, Dan Stelling, Fred Trickey, Class of 2026- Phil Burkeen, Kim Ferguson, Kathy Hig-gins, Brianna Trickey



Youth Group

YOUTH GROUP Youth Group has resumed meeting on Sundays from 5-7pm. If you have any middle or high school aged youth who would like to attend we would love to have them join us. If you would like more information speak to David Clarke.

Our **Chili Cook-off** will happen on October 29th after our church service. We will need your help making this happen. If you would like to help or donate you can speak to [David Clarke](#) or sign up on our website.



October Birthdays






October 3
Larry Gildersleeve
October 4
Rory Small
October 5
Sam Evans
Timothy Evans
Linda Leigh
Craig Long
Catherine Reber

October 7
Samuel Kernohan
October 9
Joseph Survant
October 10
Greg Johnson
October 11
Bev Nuerge
Chhar Sy
October 12
Michael Ballard
Cammie Wilson
October 14
Diane Simmons
October 17
Sheila Reeves
October 18
Rider Allen
October 19
Todd Hudson

October 20
Karen Kreuzer
October 21
Kim Ferguson
October 24
Nancy Hulan
Charlotte Prow
October 26
Emma Ahmed
October 29
Saint Carmichael
Ernie Small
October 30
Emily Davenport
Lisa Rabold



October Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Eating Out Gp.	2 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	3 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 2:00pm Staff Meeting 5:00pm Deacons	4 7:00am B'fast Group 5:45pm Chancel Choir	5 7:00pm Neighborhood Group	6 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	7 Cecelia Giveaway Bigler wedding
8 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Eating Out Gp. 5:00pm Youth Group	9 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	10 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 2:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Sunny 16 Camera Club	11 7:00am B'fast Group 5:45pm Chancel Choir	12 Art Closing Reception	13 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	14 
15 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Eating Out Gp. 5:00pm Youth Group	16 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	17 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 12:00pm Finance 1:00pm CUICHM 2:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Session	18 7:00am B'fast Group 5:45pm Chancel Choir	19	20 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	21
22 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Eating Out Gp. 5:00pm Youth Group	23 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	24 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 1:00pm CUICHM 2:00pm Staff Meeting	25 7:00am B'fast Group 5:45pm Chancel Choir	26	27 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	28
29 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30pm Chili Cookoff 12:00pm Eating Out Gp. 5:00pm Youth Group	30 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	31 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 2:00pm Staff Meeting 				

The Presbyterian Church
1003 State Street
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(270) 843-4707

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October



We share
the vitality of Christ:
loving, serving, and
welcoming all.

The full-color newsletter is online at www.bgpres.org.
October 15 is the deadline for the November 2023
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

Dr. Matthew W. Covington	Pastor
Thomas N. Moody	Pastoral Assistant
Nathaniel Brown	Organist
Terry Johnson	Financial Administrator
Wayne Pope	Choir Director
David Clarke	Youth Ministries
Steve Moore	Treasurer
Cheryl Gregory	Secretary
Kimberly Watkins	Director, Preschool Learning Center
Cedric Whitney	Custodian
Tim Leigh	Clerk of Session
Sara Parkerson	Sunday Sexton
Lillian Hargesheimer	Sound Attendant