



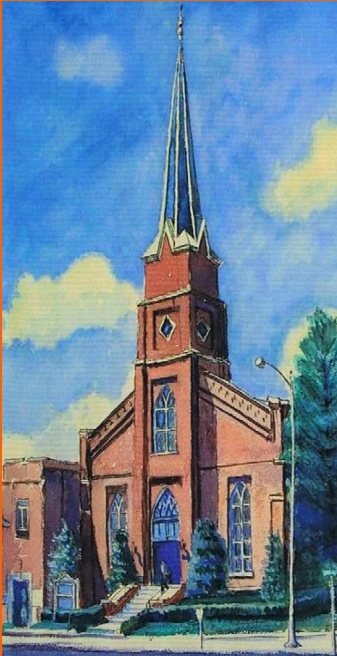
Presbyterian Courier

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Volume 28

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Issue 9



Pastor's Column

Pig Picken's and the Dinner Out Group, session meetings and a gathering of the deacons, youth group and conversations at Village Manor—I have loved the many opportunities to meet you and hear the stories of your lives over the last five weeks. You are a warm and welcoming congregation and you have helped LeAnn and me to feel very much at home. Thank you all.

But as I have been thinking over the many conversations, I have realized that we really haven't had a good opportunity for you to learn about the two of us. So let me take the opportunity to share a couple of "snapshots" of important chapters in my life.

I began ministry as a pastor in the Presbyterian Church, USA, in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1988 on the heels of graduating from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. Not long after that, in the spring of 1989, LeAnn and I were married. LeAnn and I met when I was serving as the Student Pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church in Richmond, her family's church, during my Student-in-Ministry year (her mother probably wonders now about inviting me to Sunday Supper so many times).

I did not grow up in Virginia like LeAnn. I grew up near the US government's Hanford Nuclear Project in Richland, Washington, one of the original "Atomic Cities" in the high desert of the Columbia valley. I grew up playing any sport or game I could and loving learning. I swam for the Atomic Dolphins, rode dirt-bikes, and loved going to movies with my friends. I grew up going to United Protestant Churches in Richland; we didn't have denominational churches in this government town. After an experience of faith in Jesus Christ at Camp Ghormley off of beautiful White Pass in the Cascade Mountains at the age of 14, I was baptized and worshipped at Central United Protestant Church. Here, my faith was encouraged by the preaching of Pastor Joe Harding, who instilled in me a love for the Bible and worship which has been a major thread throughout my life. Because of Pastor Joe, I once thought, "I could never be pastor." (I knew I could never be like Pastor Joe.) God may have laughed.

Before arriving in Richmond, Virginia, I studied at the University of Washington and Central Washington University. Near the end of my studies, while I worked as a waiter in a restaurant, I met my friend Paul Owen Lewis, who invited me to my first "small group". This small group, made up of singles and young married couples in their 20's was my "vocation incubator"; I think it was because of the prayer, the friendships, and the modeling of faithful discipleship in that group that I began seriously to consider what God may be calling me to in life, leading to the decision to go to seminary. It also led me to a second major thread in my ministry: the power of small group community for Christian discipleship. I can't imagine walking through life without wise and caring partners.

LeAnn and I have lived the last 25 years in Coralville, Iowa, adjacent to Iowa City and the University of Iowa. Here I served Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church, which gave me experience in transitional ministry: beginning in 2008, this congregation bought land, made a decision to re-locate, began a series of capital campaigns (now numbering 5 in succession), navigated the design and construction of a new campus while moving to a temporary location for 2 years, all while the church had several pastoral transitions. Interim and Transitional ministry training have sharpened my interest in the work of churches in transitions. While in Coralville, LeAnn and I raised two children: Madelin, our daughter, now married to Ciaran and living in Nashville, Tennessee; and Micah, our son, who lives with his wife J.D. in a small farming community in Alburnett, Iowa. We are now waiting for grandchildren!

Along with life in ministry, LeAnn and I love to take walks or day hikes, read, enjoy good food (I have loved cooking and restaurants since my mom first began to teach me to cook as a boy), and spend time sharing food and live music with friends. I still like a good DIY project, along with games and sports of all kinds. I enjoy playing tennis, slow-pitch softball, the occasional round of golf, and my most recent activity: pickle ball (is this a natural step in the aging process?!).

Oh, and I always love a good story. So maybe we can swap a story or two. Contact me soon and let's get together! I would love to hear more of your story.

Grace & peace to you,

Kyle Otterbein

Rev. Kyle Otterbein
Transitional Pastor

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Church and Community

WE WELCOME NATHANIEL BROWN TO OUR CHURCH STAFF Nathaniel was an Adjunct Professor of Music History at Western Kentucky University and now our church organist. 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 carillonneur 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, we are glad to have you back as our organist on Sundays.



CHURCHWIDE GROUP TEXTING LIST Are you receiving the church group text? If not, and you would like to be added to the church group text list, contact the office at 270-843-4707 and request to be added or email Robin at officeasst24@bgpres.org / Cheryl at info@bgpres.org and type in the subject line 'Churchwide Group Texting List' and then provide us your number.



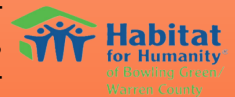
OCTOBER POTLUCK proposed by our Deacons and Fellowship Committee will be after worship on **October 20th**. We will have a Halloween theme for the month and there will be Halloween Grub, so bring in your favorite finger food for a "Halloween luncheon" in Fellowship Hall. Join us at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall. Plan to join us after worship. More information coming soon.

PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER (PLC) is having their Annual Trick-or-Treating for the preschoolers at the church on October 30th and 31st. We would love to have the church members to participate by setting up areas within the church for the preschoolers to pick up a treat or to do an activity (*Please note that some of our kids have peanut and garlic allergies*). We will also accept treat donations to help make this a fun and memorable day for our kids. Thank you in advance. -Kimberly Watkins, PLC Director.



CECELIA MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH is having their 177th Church Anniversary Service on Saturday, October 19, 2024 from 3:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m. at 716 College Street, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101. Pastor Tim Williams, CRE, CP. The church was established in 1847.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF BOWLING GREEN/WARREN COUNTY needs volunteers! Please consider volunteering to complete tasks such as caulking, drywall repair, touch up painting, and other items that would assist in renovating and finishing 4 homes. Volunteers should be 18 or older. Sign up to volunteer at: habitatbg.org



LAY READERS NEEDED FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER A signup page is online for upcoming lay readers in the coming weeks. If you are willing to serve on one Sunday, please scan the QR code to visit this link and sign up for a date. Lay reader information will be emailed on the Friday prior to the date. Thank you!



Church and Community



The Annual Blessing of the Pets

Doesn't Your Animal Need a Blessing?
On Sunday, October 13,
at 4:00PM in the Courtyard
Bring your pets for fun, fellowship, apple cider and fall treats!

CHANCEL CHOIR NEWS

The Chancel Choir has a new rehearsal time this fall. We are rehearsing from 5:15–6:15pm 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@bgpres.org (email)



*Our Heartfelt
Condolences
to you and
your whole
family.*

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

To Lynda Johnson and family in the death of her husband, Rev. Jim Johnson



Pastor Nominating Committee

Pastor Nominating Committee – September 8, 2024

Julia Link Roberts

I am happy to make the monthly report for the Pastor Nominating Committee.

The Pastor Nominating Committee was elected by the congregation and charged with discerning the next minister of The Presbyterian Church. The Pastor Nominating Committee has been and will continue to journey through the pastoral search process, seeking to hear the call of Christ and “to participate in God’s own choice” for our next pastor.

Members of the Pastor Nominating Committee are Rachel Crocker, Claire Ellington, J. B. Hines, Craig Long, Laura and Sarah Parkerson, Catherine Reber, Larry Warden, Caroline Wedge, and Mary Evans and Julia Roberts as co-chairs. The Pastor Nominating Committee has met 17 times since we began our work in January and that translates into two or three meetings each month.

We have followed up on recommendations from church members and former church members: Harvey Johnston, Jean Harris, Nancy Hulan, Julie Wedge, Ed Hurley, Allen McSween, Richard Hanna, Tim Leigh, and our young members who went to Montreat this summer. Pastors contacted are located in Alabama, California, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Taiwan. We followed up with each of them.

We have reviewed more than 75 Church Leadership Connections that have matched our PLC Update. For the most part, the matches didn’t seem to be ones with promise.

We have had follow-up conversations with pastors in Florida, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. We had interest in pastors in Kentucky and Missouri who had recently taken new positions since their information was made available to us. We have held one Face-to-Face Meet and Greet session with a pastor in Ohio and two Meet and Greet sessions via Zoom (one in state and one out of state). We have watched and listened to many sermons which is one “update” from the last time a Pastor Nominating Committee from our church searched for a new minister. Most ministers have sermons posted online.

One candidate has been invited to come to Bowling Green to learn about the current state of our church, and he and his wife came for a visit. We are following up with due diligence.

Thursday, Mary Evans and I had a zoom call with Ralph Young who is the individual in our Presbytery advising our search for a minister. I asked if I could quote him and he said yes. He closed our zoom call saying, “There are not a ton of pastors available.”

Please keep the Pastor Nominating Committee in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Julia Link Roberts

Finance Ministry

Our Church Finances: In Dollars.....

..... And Sense

Actual 2024		Budget 2024		Actual 2023		Budget 2023	
Thru Aug		Full Year		Thru Aug		Full Year	
Income	436,564	615,350		425,625	615,350		
Expenses	-347,445	-614,578		-458,870	-615,314		
Net Positive	89,119	772		-33,245	36		
Breakdown of Expenses Category							
Personnel	147,658	353,112		229,348	353,212		
Utilities	22,213	33,000		22,105	34,900		
Fellowship							
& Recreation	716	3,275		3,363	2,850		
Office Expense	24,925	38,163		27,535	37,150		
Promotion &							
Church Growth	5,640	7,143		5,847	6,532		
Worship	13,570	19,510		13,954	20,110		
Programs, Events							
& Meals	702	1,500		415	1,500		
Housekeeping	17,581	25,316		15,943	23,516		
Benevolence	26,660	35,700		29,225	35,700		
Maintenance	45,473	55,962		52,055	54,662		
Insurance	35,932	28,047		31,303	44,497		
Christian Ed	1,728	3,850		1,974	4,050		
Youth	4,646	10,000		7,784	10,600		

General Fund giving covers our operating costs and our loan payment to our Endowment Fund. Income is running ahead of expenses thru August by \$89,119. This is partially due to no pastor on staff since December of 2023. It should be more in line as year goes on.

Regarding our Liquidity: Its comforting to know that we have a bank account balance that, at month-end August, was \$132,689, or nearly three months of operating expenses. We also have a CD invested with a principle of 209,421.

Unpaid Loan Balance-as of:			
12/2017	348,000	12/2024	165,440
12/2018	324,938	12/2025	134,941
12/2019	300,937	12/2026	103,199
12/2020	275,957	12/2027	70,163
12/2021	249,961	12/2028	35,782
12/2022	222,904	12/2029	-0-
12/2023	194,746		
Regarding our Loan: Our loan rate is fixed at 4.0% for life of loan			

Comments: Income is steadily coming in; I expect for this to increase monthly until the end of the year. If anyone needs to know where they are on their pledge, please call Terry at 270-843-4707.

Youth Ministry



YOUTH GROUP has kicked off the new church year with a pool party at the home of Chris and Emily Davenport. Five youth from our church and three youth from Cecelia joined together to brainstorm ideas for the year and swim in the pool.

The youth would like to have a couple of "big" trips this year such as snow skiing, whitewater rafting, and Montreat. They would also like to take some trips out of Bowling Green with Top Golf in Nashville and Mega Caverns in

Louisville as their top choices. They also hope to volunteer for service projects such as Habitat for Humanity, our Christmas Angel Tree, our Food Pantry, and Room in the Inn.

Dr. Rob Byrd invited the youth to his farm for a Fall Festival in late October. They are currently planning this event.

Thank you to members of our congregation who have signed up to provide dinner for our youth. We currently have meals being provided through the end of December.



October Birthdays



October 3

Larry Gildersleeve

October 4

Robin Watkins-Tolbert

October 5

Sam Evans

Linda Leigh

Craig Long

Catherine Reber

October 7

Samuel Kernohan

Laura Kessel

October 9

Joseph Survant

October 10

Greg Johnson

October 11

Bev Nuerge

October 12

Michael Ballard

October 14

Diane Simmons

October 17

Sheila Reeves

October 18

Rider Allen

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

Happy Birthday



Calendar

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 5:00pm Deacons	2 7:00am B'fast Group 5:15pm Chancel Choir	3 7:00pm Neighborhood Grp.	4 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	5
6 World Communion 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 10:30am Worship 5:00pm Youth Group	7 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love <i>PLC break</i>	8 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 7:00pm Sunny 16 Camera Club	9 7:00am B'fast Group 5:15pm Chancel Choir	10	11 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	12
13 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Annual Blessing of Pets 5:00pm Youth Group	14 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 12:00pm Finance Min.	15 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 6:00pm Session	16 7:00am B'fast Group 5:15pm Chancel Choir	17	18 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	19
20 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 10:30am Worship 11:30am F'ship Potluck 5:00pm Youth Group	21 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	22 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 1:00pm CUICHM	23 7:00am B'fast Group 5:15pm Chancel Choir	24	25 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	26
27 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 10:30am Worship 5:00pm Youth Group	28 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	29 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care	30 7:00am B'fast Group 5:15pm Chancel Choir	31 		

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The full-color newsletter is online at www.bgpres.org.
October 15 is the deadline for the November 2024
newsletter. Please send your information to the
church office at info@bgpres.org



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

The Presbyterian Church
Bowling Green, Kentucky

The Presbyterian Church Staff

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Dr. Wayne Pope

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Cheryl Gregory
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Office Admin.
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Treasurer
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Director, Preschool Learning Center
Custodian
Clerk of Session
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