



Presbyterian Courier

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY



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Issue 1

Pastor's Column

A New Year Opening Up to God Alive

It's January and, for many people, it is the time for New Year's resolutions, ambitious plans, and dreaming of a new start. And the church often finds itself operating by the same spirit: setting new goals for what we can do, dreaming about new ministries we can we start, considering new ways we can better serve the Lord. What about you, Do you feel the pressure to dream bigger and do better?

We laugh together because we know the typical staying power of such dreams and new commitments: the new exercise bike becomes a clothing rack by February, the latest diet dies in a mound of take-out pizza, the ambitious reading plan gets derailed by the newest Netflix series. And our church plans often have similar fates: the new program lacks sufficient volunteers, the mounting commitments leave us tired and discouraged, and we fall back on old, tried-and-true patterns.

The biggest weakness of New Year's resolutions, for Christians at least, is that they are often too self centered; we get focused on our needs and desires.

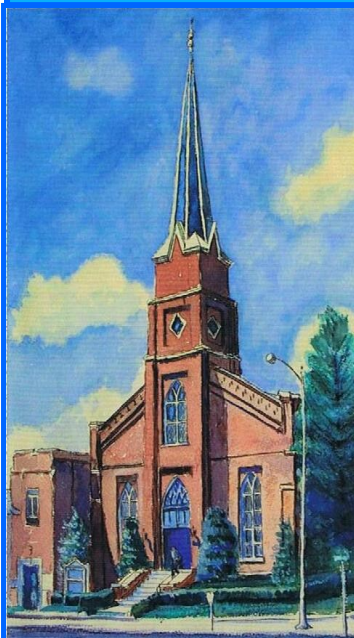
Praise God! Christians have been blessed by the season of Advent and Christmas. Our new year is already underway, inviting us to another way of living, a way marked by the God of Glory who has "moved into the neighborhood" (John 1.14, *The Message*). God generously gives us the opportunity to be free from the need of constant self-improvement and anxious striving for perfection. There is a short word for this way of life: worship.

Eugene Peterson, in his book *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places*, describes a life of prayer and worship that involves followers of Jesus in an attentive engagement with the aliveness and presence of God. Before we do anything, accomplish anything, there is God. God alive, God creating, God saving, God blessing. Our life is discovered in giving attention (praise and gratitude) to God's acts of grace and love. As Peterson puts it, "Most of the Christian life...involves paying attention to who God is and what he does; but not only the who and the what but the *how*, the *means* God employs to accomplish his ends. If we get too interested too soon in what we do and are, we go off the rails badly" (Peterson, *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places*, pg. 40).

What is the gift of Advent and Christmas? We have been ushered into a world that is being made new by generous acts of God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit. And we respond! "A world has been opened up to us by revelation in which we find ourselves walking on holy ground and living in sacred time" (Peterson, pg. 41). We become alive to God alive. Once we understand the our lives are being joined to God, we discover the wonder of "...a way of life in which human feelings and behavior are fused with God's being and revelation" (Peterson, pg.42).

How do we get in on this life?— regular practice of prayer and worship. So, if you want to make a commitment, make it a renewed commitment to come to worship every Sunday you are in town. I know you will be blessed.

Rev. Kyle Otterbein



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Christian Education

OUR SMALL GROUPS CONTINUE IN 2025

Stronger together, better together, and made to be together.

Neighborhood Small Group -

First Thursdays, 7:00 pm

Chair Yoga Small Group -

Tuesdays at 9:30am

God/Dog Is Love - Dog Walking - Mondays

at 9:00am at Covington Woods Park

Eating Out Small Group - resumes January 19th

Sundays After Church—Noon— Various Restaurants

Women's Circles -

Circle 9 - Second Monday at 12:00pm

Sunday Morning Circle - Second Sunday at 9:30am

Wednesday Morning Circle - Second Wednesdays at 9:30am

Tuesday Evening Circle - Second Tuesday at 7:00pm



Wednesday Breakfast Group -

Wednesdays at 7:00am at Teresa's Restaurant

Men's Breakfast Group -

Fridays at 7:30am at Lisa's 5th Street Diner

Joyful Noisemakers -

Meets periodically at various local care centers

The Flock - (Prayer Shawl Ministry and Gloves of Love) meets quarterly

Presbyterian Cooking Club -

During Advent and Lent in our Church Kitchen

Let's Play Bridge! -

Bridge games at members' homes
(Watch for upcoming events)

Church and Community



NOW IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL GALLERY – ArtWorks newest winter show is currently on exhibit in Fellowship Hall. Featuring many artists' varied works, this art-collective group returns to us for a gallery show through the holidays. Stop to see it if you haven't checked it out yet!

RESOLUTION RE-FUEL POTLUCK Join on January 12, 2025 for the Resolution Re-Fuel Potluck. The meal will take place after worship service. Please bring your favorite salad (ex: chicken salad, egg salad, fruit salad, leafy salads, bean salad)



JOINT MEET/RETREAT for the Elders and Deacons on Saturday, January 25, from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING Pastor Kyle will be providing training for everyone who has responsibility in the ministry/teaching of children and youth. It will be offered on January 19 and January 26 at 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. An individual can choose either one and only needs to come once.



PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER (PLC) is seeking substitute teachers 2025 school year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the PLC Director, Kimberly Watkins, plcdirector@bgpres.org or contact Robin by e-mail at info@bgpres.org or by calling 270-843-4707.

PLC would like to thank you all for donating items that were on our wish list in the Fall. Your contributions were greatly appreciated. If you wish to donate items to the PLC for our spring semester, here are a few items that we are in need of:

- Gallon of Water
- Goldfish
- Pretzels
- Cookies
- Baby Wipes
- Disinfectant Spray/Wipes
- Tissue
- Small Bathroom Cups and
- Napkins



SATURDAY MEALS The next Saturday Meals delivery for our church is March 15th. Preparations will take place at First Baptist Church. We will need volunteers to deliver meals, set up and sort donated food, and assist with packaging meals. Please contact the church office if you are interested in serving in any capacity (270-843-4707 or info@bgpres.org).



Missions

DAVID'S ROOM IN THE INN) continues! We are in special need for volunteers on Thursdays: a crucial need is an Innkeeper who is able to stay overnight; we also need volunteers to be greeters, prepare a side dish, help with serving dinner, and dinner clean-up. Sign up today on the chapel landing! This overnight shelter assistance for our local homeless population is a community-wide effort. We will host each Thursday night through the winter. DRITI is not just a shelter; it's a place of hope and gives volunteers an opportunity to have a meaningful impact in an individual's life who is facing homelessness.



LIVING WATERS FOR THE WORLD Waters for the World empowers communities to take control of their health and their future with the gift of clean water. In 2009 a prayer was answered for Walter and Carmen Villatoro. Their church, located in Guatemala, partnered with a Living Waters for the World team from Kentucky to install a water purification system for their community. Before that time, children were getting sick with diarrhea, stomachaches, and sometimes Hepatitis. Soon after the clean water system was installed, the Villatoros, their children, and their grandchildren have never gone a single day without clean water to drink. They have hope for a brighter future. You can help to support clean water for a family like the Villatoros for just \$5 a month. Your tax-deductible donation to Living Waters for the World empowers communities to



take control of their health and their future with the gift of clean water. Become a Cupbearer: <https://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/ways-to-give>

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FOOD PANTRY Our food pantry continues to assist the community with non-perishable food goods and toiletries on a daily basis. In December we had given food bags to 45 individuals or families by the Christmas holiday. Thank you to all who have helped or contributed to this community ministry! Would you like to be an occasional shopper for the pantry? Let the office know. We are often in need of a restock for our shelves!



GLOVES FOR LOVE will continue through the winter season. Would you like to help bundle and hang items on our fence once a week? Call the church office if you are interested in assisting.



Finance Ministry

The Presbyterian Church			
2024 TOTALS			
Accounts		Annual Budget 2024	Actual 2024
Revenue			
RECEIPTS		615,350.00	582,421.00
Total Receipts		615,350.00	582,421.00
Expenses			
BUDGETARY EXPENSES			
PERSONNEL		353,112.00	261,776.00
UTILITIES		33,000.00	32,112.00
FELLOWSHIP & RECREATION		3,275.00	3,730.00
OFFICE EXPENSE		38,663.00	37,813.00
PROMOTION & CHURCH GROWTH		7,143.00	6,549.00
WORSHIP		19,510.00	21,673.00
HOUSEKEEPING		25,316.00	24,755.00
PROGRAMS, EVENTS & MEALS		1,500.00	734.00
BENEVOLENCE		35,700.00	33,732.00
MAINTENANCE		55,962.00	70,758.00
INSURANCE		28,047.00	35,932.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION		3,850.00	2,572.00
YOUTH MINISTRY		9,500.00	7,576.00
		614,578.00	539,712.00
Receipts over Expenses		772.00	42,709.00

**This is total collected receipts. This does not show carryover from previous years.
Thanks to all that pledged and nonpledgers that made this possible.**

Clerk of Session: Debbie Trickey **Treasurer:** Steve Moore
Elders: 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; Class of 2027-Sam Evans, Nathan Love, Susan Thomison, Debbie Trickey, Larry Warden
Deacons: Class of 2025- Barbara Brindle, Craig Long, Teri Polen, Ernie Small, Dan Stelling, Fred Trickey; Class of 2026- Phil Burkeen, Kim Ferguson, Kathy Higgins, Brianna Trickey; Class of 2027-Trudy Burkeen, Georgeanna Capito, Sally Calkins, Nancy Carwell, Evan Goad, Frederica Kernohan

Youth Group



YOUTH GROUP will resume meeting in January as normal from 5-7pm. For any questions ask Mary Evans or Brianna Trickey!

ANGEL TREE We had a successful angel tree delivery on Saturday, December 21. We delivered 31 gifts to four different families. Thanks Claire, Drew, Laura and Millie. Also thanks to our drivers Mrs. Mary Evans, Mrs. Terry Johnson, Ms. Emily Davenport and Mrs. Cathey Green.

Our Souperbowl/Super-Cheryl Celebration will happen on Sunday, February 9th following worship. Please help us support our Youth. This fundraiser helps our youth to attend Montreat. Please sign up to bring food to this event, or just join us on that Sunday in the Fellowship Hall after church for food and fellowship.



January Birthdays

January 4

Robert Dickey, Jr.

Harvey Johnston

January 5

Christine Burkeen

January 6

Matt Hunt

Brittney Maslowski

January 7

Eddie Solberg-Hale

Debbie Trickey

January 8

Margaret Stein

January 11

Ann Humphrey

January 12

Jim Stites

January 13

Julia Roberts

January 14

Benjamin Crocker

January 15

Paul Clark

January 16

Duffy Hayes

January 17

Madalene Chandler

Chris Davenport

January 19

David Rabold

January 20

Rick Larson

William Moore

January 21

Joyce Ann Spiceland

January 23

Rawley Evans

January 28

Benjamin Davenport

January 30

Evan Goad

Joe McFarland








January 31

Nick Johnson



January Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn 7:00pm Neigh- borhood Group	3 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	
5 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Mu- sic 10:30am Worship 5:00pm Youth Group	6 9:00am GOD/ DOG Is Love PLC Classes re- sume	7 9:30am Chair Yo- ga 11:00am Special Care	8 7:00am B'fast Group 9:30am Wednes- day Morning Young Mothers & Others Circle 5:00pm Chancel Choir	9 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	10 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	
12 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Mu- sic 9:30am Sunday Morn- ing Cir. 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Resolution Re- Fuel Potluck	13 9:00am GOD/ DOG Is Love 12:00 Circle 9 at Kathy Higgins home	14 9:30am Chair Yo- ga 11:00am Special Care 7:00pm Sunny 16 Camera Club 7:00pm Tuesday Evening Circle	15 7:00am B'fast Group 5:00pm Chancel Choir	16 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	17 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	
19 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Mu- sic 10:30am Worship 12:00am Eating Out Sm. Gp. 2:00pm Safe Sanctuary Training	20 Inauguration Day MLK- Office Closed 9:00am GOD/ DOG Is Love	21 9:30am Chair Yo- ga 11:00am Special Care	22 7:00am B'fast Group 5:00pm Chancel Choir	23 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	24 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	25 8:30am El- ders and Deacons Joint Meet/ Retreat
26 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Mu- sic 10:30am Worship 11:30am Eating Out Sm. Gp. 2:00pm Safe Sanctuary Training	27 9:00am GOD/ DOG Is Love	28 9:30am Chair Yo- ga 11:00am Special Care 1:00pm CUICHM	29 7:00am B'fast Group 5:00pm Chancel Choir	30 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	31 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



January



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

The full-color newsletter is online at www.bgpres.org.
January 15 is the deadline for the February 2025
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

Rev. Kyle Otterbein	Transitional Pastor
Dr. Wayne Pope	Choir Director
Mrs. Terry Johnson	Financial Administrator
Mrs. Beth Pope	Children's Music Director
Mr. Steve Moore	Treasurer
Mrs. Robin Watkins-Tolbert	Secretary
Mrs. Kimberly Watkins	Director, Preschool Learning Center
Mr. Cedric Whitney	Custodian
Mrs. Debbie Trickey	Clerk of Session
Ms. Sara Parkerson	Sound Attendant/ Sunday Sexton