

The Moment

AT THE CORNER OF 10TH AND STATE



Inside: Meet Our "Churches United in Christ" Volunteers

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Volume 29

MARCH 2025

Issue 3



Finding Joy in Helping Ministry

"We laugh a lot." That is what ministry is like when you serve alongside people you love.

So say the faithful volunteers who serve our church each month as part of Churches United in Christ Helping Ministry (CUICHM). "We love working together. And we hope we can make somebody happy, that we can help them," says Sandy Franklin, who has served this ministry for over a decade.

The Presbyterian Church, State Street United Methodist Church, and Christ Episcopal Church are our "Churches United", continuing to work together to provide financial help to individuals and families in Warren County. People may apply for help once a year to meet basic needs.

This key ministry meets people in the midst of significant crises. Sandy shares that people "pretty much go paycheck to paycheck ("At the best," adds Faye Patton), and if anything goes wrong, it just throws them off." Medical problems, a death of a family member, job loss, or a provider being incarcerated are some of the common situations driving people into need. A recent recipient is a person whose spouse is in jail and who is responsible for providing for five children. The person makes \$2,000 month. Expenses far outstrip that (the poverty level in the state of Kentucky for a family of six is \$41,200).

"You know, it's a lot of sad stories. But it also includes a lot of people who are on a good track and just need some help," says Faye. And people appreciate the respect and dignity with which they are served; as Bud says they are glad when "You are being open and welcoming."

Thanks to Bud, Kyda, Sandy, and Faye, we are fulfilling our mission to share the love of Christ with people in need.



Matthew 25:35-40 - "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

See What's New in the Newsletter!

You may have noticed that our newsletter has a new look and title! We wanted to take the opportunity to give our newsletter a fresh look and a new emphasis on telling the stories of our congregation. The new title *The Moment* is intended to be temporary while Pastor Kyle is here. It suggests that in each newsletter we are sharing what is happening *in this moment* in our church. Also it is intended to suggest (drawn from the concept of "moment" in physics) the ways God is working ("force") to take us forward ("distance") into God's mission and purpose. Do you have a story you want to share about God's work in our midst. Please contact Robin or Pastor Kyle so we can share it!

Cover image: Faye Patton, Sandy Franklin, Bud Schlinker, and Kyda West

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

NATHANIEL BROWN: DYNAMIC SHARING OF SACRED MUSIC THROUGH ORGAN TRANSCRIPTION



Some of the very earliest written keyboard music was medieval organ transcriptions of preexisting sacred vocal music for two or more voices. By “transcription,” I mean taking music that was originally written for certain performing forces, such as a group of particular instruments and/or voices, and “transcribing” it to be playable by different performing forces—in this case, for organ solo.

Transcription can also involve writing down music which hitherto existed only as sound, such as a recording of an improvisation. This past Advent season, I played several movements of a transcription I made of a fantastic improvisation on the Lutheran hymn tune *Wachet Auf* by the living master Dutch organist and improviser Sietze de Vries.

Organ transcription has been a hobby of mine since I was in high school. I wanted to be able to play some of my favorite music which was not necessarily written for organ and share it with my congregation. Many churches do not have the resources to regularly have a cantata or oratorio performed, but with a transcription and a single performer, excellent and timeless pieces of these kinds can still be a part of a church’s musical diet. Since then, I have performed many of my transcriptions for many different churches and in recitals, and have published many of them in two collections titled *Paraclete Treasury of Transcriptions for Organ* (2020) and *Five Sacred Choral Transcriptions for Organ* (2023). I am honored to still get requests for some of them from organists from around the world.

If you would like to hear me perform more selections from my transcription library, you can find recordings on my YouTube channel (simply named “Nathaniel Brown,” though adding the word “organ” to the search will help you find me).

LET’S PLAY BRIDGE This small group is planned for people who would like to play bridge for fun. Charlotte Prow is a certified bridge teacher and is offering to teach beginners as well as those wanting to improve their game. Please let Mary Evans (270-791-7205) know if you would like to join this group.



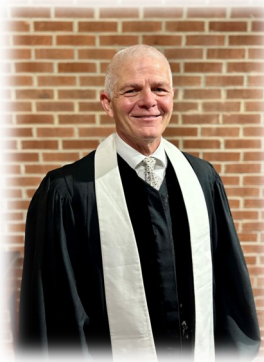
GENERAL CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Cleanliness in our church reflects respect and care for the congregation and is critical to health and safety. An effective cleaning strategy is the development of simple, repeatable procedures. Establishing clear and manageable steps will ensure every space within the church is cleaned efficiently and thoroughly. Our church custodian, Cedric Whitney, does a wonderful job in keeping our church clean. However, we can do our part by assuring that it remains clean after he completes his part.

We believe that clear communication fosters a culture of accountability and shared stewardship. Here are some basic guidelines to help keep our church clean:

- We suggest that you do not leave items lying around the church without informing church staff of what it is and what it is for. Often staff have come across items, and we were unsure on what to do with those items. Due to limited space within the church, we now ask that donated items be taken directly to the hosting site.
- In the kitchen area, please take the time to place items back into its original space where you found it. This helps other church members to be able to locate the item without having to taking additional time to search for it. If you choose to use the church appliances, we respectfully ask that you clean up after yourself.
- If you leave something for David’s Room in the Inn (DRITI), please leave a note on the item to inform the staff and other volunteers. For food items that are left for DRITI, we ask that the volunteers please follow the guidelines for those meals. We are expecting within the next year a detailed brochure will be available to provide a good explanation of volunteer requirements.

Colossians 3:23-24: *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

Singing on the Way to Easter



There may be no more universal language than song. Music is woven into the very creation itself and has been a central part of the Christian life since the beginning. I have always loved the idea that when we sing, we pray twice.

Maybe you, like me, have songs that are part of your very soul. Some of you may remember important dates or occasions with a special song: maybe a song you associate with meeting your spouse or the birth of a child. Many of you may even have a song or two that you want to be shared at your funeral. From birth to death music inspires, encourages, and comforts us.

This year, I want to invite you to a special observance of Lent. Lent is the traditional season of Christian devotion which helps the church prepare for the celebration of Easter, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Lent is a period of 40 days (not including Sundays) traditionally observed as an act of prayer, repentance, and discipleship mirroring the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by Satan or the 40 years the Israelites spent wandering in the desert before entering the promised land. Popularly, it is often seen as a time of denial or giving something up.

But have you ever thought of it as a time to sing?

This year our congregation will contemplate Lent through the lens of song. Songs can be a wonderful way to allow the scriptures, the great affirmations and insights of our faith, and the work of God's spirit to get into our very hearts and souls. Together we will use the Lenten devotion *Lift Up Your Voice: Singing through Lent and Easter* to guide our pilgrimage through this holy time. There are several ways you can join us: pick up the booklet at the church and use it individually or with your household or small group, or download a digital copy for your use (we will send an all-church email with the resource for you to download on your tablet, computer, or smart phone; please call the church if you don't get it!), and join us each Wednesday in Lent as we share a meal, sing the songs, and hear teaching that will help us to draw closer to Jesus Christ.



As the Psalmist sings, "Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise."

Singing together with you,

Pastor Kyle

YOUTH SOUPER BOWL



Souper Bowl Sunday was planned and implemented by the Youth Group, and they certainly did it well. All who participated enjoyed selecting among the many kinds of soup and visiting with friends. Fellowship Hall was decorated with colorful tablecloths for the Chiefs on one side and for the Philadelphia Eagles on the other side of the 50-yard line. Delicious desserts were available to purchase, and the proceeds of the day were dedicated to the Food Pantry. We would like to **CONGRATULATE** our **SOUPER BOWL SOUP WINNER, SUSAN THOMISON**. She won with her fantastic Zuppa Toscana Soup (Olive Garden Copycat). For those of you that are interested in making this soup, Susan has

graciously provided us with the winning recipe.

ZUPPA TOSCANA (OLIVE GARDEN COPYCAT)

YIELD: 8 SERVINGS

Ingredients

- ▣ 1 pound ground Italian sausage
- ▣ 3 garlic cloves, minced
- ▣ 1 medium white onion, peeled and diced
- ▣ I add a few stalks of celery
- ▣ 1 package gnocchi
- ▣ 5 to 6 cups chicken stock
- ▣ 1-2 Tablespoons of your Italian herbs
- ▣ 2 to 3 cups chopped fresh kale
- ▣ 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- ▣ fine sea salt and freshly-ground black pepper
- ▣ 6 pieces bacon, cooked and crumbled

Instructions

1. Cook sausage in a large stockpot over medium-high heat until browned and cooked through, breaking the sausage into small pieces as it cooks. Use a slotted spoon to transfer the cooked sausage to a separate plate.
2. Brown the gnocchi in the sausage grease. The more of a crispy coat, the less soggy it will be once in the soup. Set gnocchi aside. Reserve 1 table-spoon grease in the stockpot for the next step and discard the excess grease.
3. Add onions to the stockpot (with the grease), and sauté for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add garlic, and sauté for 1 minute, stirring occasionally. Add the chicken stock and cooked sausage and continue cooking until the mixture reaches a simmer.
4. Add in Italian herbs. Reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer for 10 minutes. Stir in the kale and cream, and simmer for an additional 5 minutes.
5. Add browned gnocchi and season with salt and pepper to taste.
6. Serve warm, garnished with the bacon bits.

I also have placed veggies, meat and broth in crockpot all day and added the gnocchi, kale and cream 30 minutes before serving.



Our youth and the church congregation recognized **CHERYL GREGORY** for her 18 years of service at the church. We are appreciative of Cheryl's many years of hard work and dedication.

During the Souper Bowl, we honored and recognized Cheryl for being an integral part of our church staff. Her contribution to our church will always be valued and remembered. Many members spoke highly of Cheryl and honored her as an esteemed staff member and a great person. Congratulations Cheryl on your retirement, and may your future endeavors be everything that you want them to be.

YOUTH GROUP

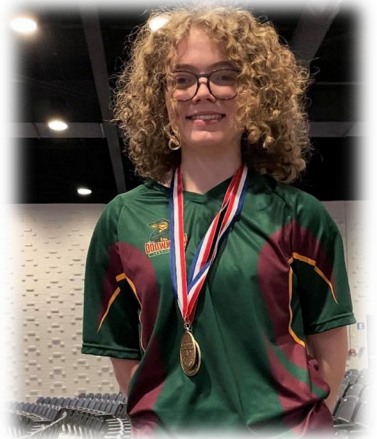


TRIVIA FUNDRAISER EVENT Come join the Youth for our Trivia Fundraiser . This event is the youth's fundraiser for Montreat. They want this to be a fun event for everyone that participates. So start getting your teams together and get ready to outwit your competitor. Let's see if your team is ready to be crowned the ultimate trivia champions. We will gather on Sunday, March 23, after church for food, fellowship and trivia.

What is Trivia? Information and data that is considered to be of little value. Often these facts are not well-known about people or events.



LAURA PARKERSON Active. Bright. Funny. Dedicated. Our student in the Spotlight is Laura Parkerson, a junior at Greenwood High School. You may know Laura best as our very helpful and competent audio-visual, live-streaming wiz for our worship services (Thank you, Laura!). Indeed, Laura's is dedicated to being at church every Sunday to help make sure our worship can be enjoyed both in the sanctuary and to our members and friends on our LiveStream. Also each Sunday, Laura acts as our sexton, unlocking and opening doors, making coffee in the fellowship hall, and making sure everything is in working order. Besides being a key student in our youth group and always ready to jump into our activities and service, Laura keeps up a full life at school: Laura plays for the tennis team and is an outstanding competitor on the Academic Team, recently earning her spot at State while helping her team win the Regional Championship. She also enjoys crocheting, reading, biking, and baking! (Do you ever sleep, Laura?) Laura says she enjoys being a part of people's lives at church. We are so thankful to be a part of yours, Laura!



PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER (PLC)

Proverbs 22:6 Start children off on the right path. And even when they are old, they will not turn away from it.



Hannah Sheldon-Dean, the former managing editor at the Child Mind Institute wrote, *Why It's important to Read to a Child (December 2, 2024)*. Hannah stated in her article that reading to young children is an important way to help them build language skills. It exposes them to new words and ways of using language. It also helps them learn general information about the world, which makes it easier for them to learn about new subjects once they get to school.

Books also help children build empathy and learn how to handle challenging feelings. Parents can use reading time as a chance to talk about emotions and how to cope with them. For example, you might say: "Have you ever felt as angry as the girl in this book? What would you do if you did?"

Even a few minutes of reading together gives you and your child a chance to slow down and connect with each other. And the sensory experience of sitting with you and hearing your voice also engages their brain in a way that makes learning easier.



PLC would like to thank Rev. Kyle Otterbein for sharing a story with the PLC children.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 12:00pm After Church Eating Out Group 5:00pm Youth Group	3 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 11:00am Personnel Meeting	4 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 5:00pm Deacons' Meeting	5 7:00am Breakfast Group 5:15pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Ash Wed. Worship Service	6 6:00pm DRITI 7:00pm Neighborhood Group	7 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	8
9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday Morn Cir. 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 12:00pm After Church Eating Out Group 5:00pm Youth Group	10 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 12:00pm Circle 9 5:30pm Finance Committee Meeting	11 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 7:00pm Sunny 16 Camera Club 7:00pm Tuesday Evening Circle	12 7:00am Breakfast Group 9:30am Wed. Morning Young Mothers and Others Cir. 5:15pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Lenten Dinner and program (Fellowship Hall) 7:00am Worship Comm. Meeting	13 6:00pm DRITI	14 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	15
16 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 10:30am Worship 11:30am After Church Eating Out Group 5:00pm Youth Group	17 ST. PATRICKS DAY 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 5:30am Christian Ed. Ministry Meeting	18 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 6:00pm Session Meeting	19 7:00am Breakfast Group 5:15pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Lenten Dinner And program (Fellowship Hall)	20	21 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	22
23 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 10:30am Worship 11:30am Youth Group- Trivia Fundraiser	24 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	25 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 1:00pm CUICHM	26 7:00am Breakfast Group 5:15pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Lenten Dinner and program (Fellowship Hall)	27	28 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	29
30 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 11:30am After Church Eating Out Group	31 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	<div style="font-size: 2em; color: red; text-decoration: underline wavy;">Happy Birthday!</div> 				
		March 1 Betty Jo Beard Anna Sue Heller March 7 Patty Greninger March 8 Peggy Carthrae March 10 Laura Parkerson	March 12 Jeffrey Johnson March 14 Kate Grise March 15 Karol Ahmed March 18 Beth Tyrie Rogers March 22 Leigh Ballard	March 23 Earlene Chelf Nina Njoku March 24 Barbara Solberg-Hale March 25 Bud Schlinker March 27 Henry Heller	March 28 Clark Carthrae March 29 Mike Kanan March 30 Phillip Burkeen March 31 David Clarke	

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March



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

The full-color newsletter is online at www.bgpres.org.
March 15 is the deadline for the April 2025
newsletter. Please send your information to the
church office at info@bgpres.org

The Presbyterian Church
Bowling Green, Kentucky
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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	Office Coordinator
Mrs. Kimberly Watkins	Director, Preschool Learning Center
Mr. Cedric Whitney	Custodian
Mrs. Debbie Trickey	Clerk of Session
Ms. Sara Parkerson	Sound Attendant/ Sunday Sexton