

The Moment

AT THE CORNER OF 10TH AND STATE





I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

-Romans 12:1-3

In his introduction to his book *Tell It Slant*, Eugene Peterson shares lines from T. S. Elliot's work "Choruses from 'The Rock'" to shed light on our tendency to reduce living language to mere empty words:

Knowledge of speech, but not of silence;
Knowledge of words, and ignorance of the Word...
Where is the Life we have lost in living?
Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?

For all of the knowledge and information that is available at our fingertips, words often get reduced to mere sound bites and trivia.

An ongoing hunger in my life has been to know the living Word who can lead us into a true and fully human life. John tells us that Jesus Christ is the "Word made flesh" who came to "tabernacle" among us, or as in Peterson's wonderful translation, Jesus is the Word who 'moved into the neighborhood'. I pray and hope each day that I am discovering the Jesus who comes alongside as a Holy Companion by the Spirit, growing daily in a genuine knowledge and love of all of life and its intricate details. In John chapter 15, Jesus urges us to "abide" in his word and, by so doing, to abide in him.

Sometimes I think we miss this dynamic pursuit of the life of Jesus by framing our time with the Bible as just bible study, as if what we were looking for was just more facts about God, more information to use when we are confused or in a fix. But isn't it something more awesome and glorious that we seek? Don't we really want to draw near to the one who is the source of all life, hope, and love?

But "bible study" doesn't have to be simply a scholastic or academic pursuit. We can enter it as a holy conversation. Perhaps you have taken delight in sitting down with a close friend (or a new friend) and feeling more and more alive as you share stories, ideas, questions, dreams, and, yes, even facts about yourselves. Through holy conversation we experience more life, more love, more mystery. In holy conversation, as Paul puts it, we are "transformed by the renewal of our minds." I invite you to abide in God's living Word, Jesus. To daily come to the reading and listening to the bible, and to gathering with others to share it.

And let me invite you to join in a shared, holy conversation on Wednesdays, at either 10:30 a.m or 5:30 p.m. "*Living Water: Watershed Moments in the Scriptures.*" Conversations are even more exciting, enriching, and fun when others join in!

Pastor Kyle Otterbein

In the Spotlight

This month we turn the spotlight on a gentleman who has deep roots in Bowling Green and The Presbyterian Church, Joe McFarland. Joe, whose parents and grandparents called Bowling Green and the church home as well, remembers as a young teenager arriving early on Sunday mornings to shovel coal into the church's furnace in the boiler room. After that he would walk home to his family place at the corner of 11th Avenue and Covington to change into his church clothes for morning worship. Joe admits that the hard work may have led to him falling asleep occasionally in worship! Joe retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army after serving for 25 years in hospital administration for the U.S. Army. The army took Joe and his family many places over the years, including stops in Texas, two tours in Germany (in Mainz and Heidelberg), and a final stop in San Francisco. His final posting in San Francisco gave Joe the opportunity to engage in one of his passions, alpine skiing, taking regular trips to Lake Tahoe where he also served on the National Ski Patrol. Since his retirement from the army, Joe has volunteered in many ways here at The Presbyterian Church as an elder, helping on the Property Committee, and lending a hand where help was needed. One of his favorite projects he contributed to was helping get the Logos Program started here at the church as "Wednesday Night Live!" Joe, along with his daughter Jane, love coming to worship and fellowship gatherings of the church, and even now, at the age of 94, continues to serve on our Nominating Committee. Thank you, Joe, for your dedication and service to our community and our church.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP was presented to Nancy Sue Gwin Keyser on Sunday, May 26, 2025. Nancy was born in Chicago, Illinois and was the oldest of three children. Her sister, Jane, lives in Oregon, and her brother, Curt, lives in France.

Nancy met the love of her life, John (Jack) Keyser when she was just 17 years old. Jack was a contract lineman installing telephone cable above the streets of Chicago. One day, while he was up a pole, he spotted Nancy walking home from school. She looked like a very young Elizabeth Taylor. Jack spoke to her from "on high". In 1949, right after completing high school, 18-year old Nancy married Jack.

John and Nancy traveled a lot due to his contract work and career in the U.S. Army. During that time, they were blessed with three amazing sons John, David, and Matthew Keyser. Everywhere the family lived, Nancy volunteered – in hospitals, churches, and schools. She was a full time Mom to her boys, and she modeled and taught them the love of family and love from above. The Keyser family moved to Bowling Green in 1968. They joined the Presbyterian Church and Nancy immediately became involved in this congregation. She helped with Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, and she was a key participant in the puppet ministry in the church and in the community.

Nancy was also involved with Marty Deputy and the early refugee communities in Bowling Green, as well as the Delafield population. Nancy was a dedicated member of Circle 3. She served on the PW Search Committee in 2006-2007 and again in 2010-2012. She could often be found at the registration table at Presbyterian Women gatherings.

On top of all of that she has done, Nancy has blessed so many people with her artistic talents and her warm friendship. We were honored to present Nancy with an Honorary Lifetime Membership in Presbyterian Women!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPRING GATHERING will be June 5 at 12:00 p.m. at the Lost River Cave, in the meeting room, here in Bowling Green. The guest speaker will be Joanna Whelan from Mayfield, Kentucky. Joanna is the Moderator of PW Western Kentucky Presbytery in The Synod of Living Waters. Please plan to join us!

For lunch, boxed lunches from Heavenly Ham will be available for purchase for \$11 each. You will have a choice of a ham or turkey box. Bottled water and tea will be served during lunch. If you plan to attend, please contact Donna Meredith at 270-791-9888 / donnawmeredith53@gmail.com or Robin in the church office at 270-843-4707 or officeasst24@bgpres.org. We kindly ask you to respond by June 3.



For over 100 years women in the Presbyterian Church have sponsored an offering in the Spring entitled the Birthday Offering. These grants have sponsored more than 200 major projects that continue to provide medical care, education, shelter, food, and support for people most in need at home and abroad. Organizations have to apply for these grants with detailed explanations as to why they should be chosen.

We commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

THE YOUTH GROUP



TRAINING THE YOUTH while young in church involves having our Youth participate in worship service, prayer groups, retreats, and other church activities. It is important not to isolate our youth but to have them unified into the church as a whole.

It can be a challenge to keep the youth engaged into their faith, but it is our job as Christians to keep them connected to God in a meaningful way. We want to have our young people participate in activities that will help in the navigation of spiritual growth, while keeping it fun for our Youth at the same time. Life itself can be a challenge, but helping our Youth find a balance can be more challenging. Informing them of planned activities and

collecting their feedback allows the leaders to gain information, while allowing our Youth to collaborate with the planning.



A YOUTH-LED WORSHIP SERVICE is a rewarding experience and a great way to empower our Youth and keep them involved in church. Giving each person a role, whether that be lighting a candle, being a Lay Reader, singing a song, encouraging our youth musicians to perform, or leading prayer often creates an excited group of youth to lead worship service. Encouraging their participation can enhance their leadership and can bring a fresh perspective to the congregation.

Psalms 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.



COMMUNITY

CECELIA MEMORIAL SIXTH ANNUAL GIVEAWAY was a great success this year. Pastor Tim and First Lady Lovelyn Williams and the members of Cecelia Memoria would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for all the donations and time put forth to make this a successful giveaway. This annual event has attracted a lot of attention from the Warren County community. It also gave the volunteers an opportunity to have meaningful conversations and interactions with attendees.

Your dedication to our sister church, Cecelia Memorial and our community was very inspiring. The many donations helped several families within our community. We would like to thank Cecelia Memorial and its members

for inviting us to participate in this wonderful event. You are such an inspiration of hope and a shining example of how Christians are suppose to work together and interact with each other for the better good. Working together and having a common mission is a great way to initiate a positive change within the church and the community. When we effectively collaborate and work in unity, the body of Christ functions as

God intended and together we can successfully complete any project for the glory of God. As we continue to partnership with our sister church, we must remember that God did not bless us to just sit around and relax. We need to continue utilizing our resources to help and bless others by spreading the gospel and encouraging spiritual growth. It is our hope that we can use these events to bridge gaps, build relationships, and open our doors to anyone who seeks to get closer to God, needs prayer or just seeks guidance.



The New Testament contains many exhortations about unity among believers. Jesus prayed that his followers would be one just as he and the Father are one (John 17:20-23). This unity is made possible by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who unites believers to Christ and to one another (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

It is good to see Christians come together for a shared purpose. When churches combine resources and talents, we can address the many needs of our community more effectively. Working together with other churches can strengthen relationships, promote unity within the Christian community, and build spiritual growth among members and leaders alike. We want to continue encouraging our members to step outside of their comfort zone and participate in these type of joint events to serve our local community. Working side-by-side with other fellow believers can be a learning experience and fun. We want to be able to reflect the teachings of Christ by serving others and impacting the world through love and service- what we call, Faith in action.



COMMUNITY

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be June 8-11 from 5-7:30 p.m. The theme is Wild Wonder. Children will be invited to delight in God as creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all living things by immersing them in the wonders of the created world. A registration form is now available online for participants. Please scan the QR code to visit link:



If you are interested in volunteering for the 2025 Vacation Bible School, please scan the QR code to visit the link to sign up:



VBS 2025

"When you send out Your breath, life is created, and the Earth is made beautiful and is renewed."

Psalm 104:30

Dinner 5:00pm-5:25
Activities 5:30-7:30

June 8: Soil and Water
June 9: Plants
June 10: Insects
June 11: Birds & Mammals

Guest speakers, fun activities and the VBS Band is back together again!

ART EXHIBIT We are pleased to announce a new exhibit of watercolors by seven local artists: Misha Ambrosia, Betsy Patel, Delare Rowe, Chandra Carter, Margaret Ann King, Sylvi Alexander, and Belinda Settlemoir. Soft or bold, always vibrant, watercolor produces stunning artworks with an ethereal quality. The church exhibit space in the fellowship hall is greatly appreciated by artists and our privilege to enjoy. The art will be on display in the Fellowship Hall from May 23-Jul 17. Everyone is welcomed to come and enjoy this Exhibit.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 3
Connie DeVries

June 6
Marcheta White

June 7
Martha Sue Williams

June 10
Julie Barrick

June 12
Rett English
Beulah Hunt

June 15
Mike Brown

June 16
JAK Njoku

June 18
Lucy English

June 20
Melissa Johnson

June 22
Nancy Carwell
John Duncan Trickey

June 25
Connor Moore

June 26
Adam Watson

June 27
Jim Skaggs

June 29
Henry Hulan

Nate Stein




JUNE CALENDAR

Please check our 60-Second email and bulletin announcements regularly.

Sometimes scheduled events may change. Take care and stay safe!

REMINDER-there will not be a July Newsletter.

JUNE 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship	2 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 11:00am Personnel Meeting	3 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 5:00pm Deacons	4 7:00am Breakfast Group 10:30am Living Waters Class 5:15pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm Living Waters Class	5 7:00pm Neighborhood Group	6 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	7
8 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 11:30am New Member Reception	9 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 5:30pm Finance Com- mittee Meeting	10 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 7:00pm Sunny 16 Camera Club	11 7:00am Breakfast Group 10:30am Living Waters Class 5:15pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm Living Waters Class 6:30pm Worship Committee Meeting	12	13 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	14
15 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship	16 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 5:30pm Christian Ed. Ministry Meeting	17 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 6:00pm Session Meeting	18 7:00am Breakfast Group 10:30am Living Waters Class 5:15pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm Living Waters Class	19	20 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	21
22 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship	23 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	24 9:30am Chair Yoga-Cancelled 11:00am Special Care 1:00pm CUICHM	25 7:00am Breakfast Group 5:15pm Chancel Choir	26	27 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	28
29 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship	30 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love					

The Presbyterian Church
1003 State Street
Bowling Green, KY 42101
(270) 843-4707

Non-Profit Organization
Permit No. 202
U.S. Postage Paid
Bowling Green, KY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

The full-color newsletter is online at www.bgpres.org.
July 15 is the deadline for the August 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	Office Coordinator
Mrs. Kimberly Watkins	Director, Preschool Learning Center
Mr. Cedric Whitney	Custodian
Mrs. Debbie Trickey	Clerk of Session
Ms. Laura Parkerson	Sound Attendant/ Sunday Sexton