

The Moment

AT THE CORNER OF 10TH AND STATE



Holiness, Hospitality, and Fellowship: Life with the Risen Jesus



May is smack in the middle of the season of resurrection this year. We sang and celebrated the resurrection on Easter and, as he did for his early disciples, the Risen Christ has breathed on us the Holy Spirit to lead us into a holy, spirit-led life. So what do we do next? How do we live into this extraordinary resurrection-established, Spirit-inspired holiness?

There is perhaps nothing more ordinary that we do as Christians that is also the most holy than sharing a fellowship meal. That's right, a potluck. You may not love a green bean casserole or tea-time chicken salad sandwiches, but don't miss the life-working of God's Spirit that happens when we sit down at the table.

"Fellowship" is not just a nice extra in the Christian life. It is a sign/symbol or act that manifests the reality of new community. Just as we don't always choose the people who sit next to us at a fellowship meal (whether they be amiable or disgruntled in spirit, boring or captivating in conversation), we don't choose the people who share in the worship and mission of our congregation (whether they are progressive or conservative in politics, stubborn or collaborative in service). So what do we have in common? The gift of the Holy Spirit. "[Jesus] breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit' (John 20:22). Jesus had promised his followers that he would be present with them through the Spirit. "He replaced himself with himself," wrote Eugene Peterson.

Dorothy Day writes, "We cannot love God unless we love one another and to love we must know each other. We know Him in the breaking of bread, and we know each other in the breaking of bread, and we are not alone anymore. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship." Jesus established us in "communion" (literally, joined together!) when he gathered disciples, neighbors, enemies, and outcasts for meals around the table. Fellowship is the word we attach to sharing acts of hospitality and welcome that draw directly on the example and ways of Jesus.

We are "formed as new creatures in Christ by the Holy Spirit" in the crucible of community. This is no do-it-yourself, self-help project that we manage or control. As Eugene Peterson puts it in *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places*, "The more we practice resurrection the less we are on our own or by ourselves, for we find that this resurrection that is so intensely and relationally personal in Father, Son, and Spirit at the same time plunges us into relationships with brothers and sisters we never knew we had: we are in community whether we like it or not."

So, do you want to get in on a holy life, a resurrection life? You could do a lot worse than simply joining us for our church picnic on May 18. Holiness all around!

Pastor Kyle Otterbein

Want another way to experience growth in our resurrection life? Join Pastor Kyle in a special Bible Study on Wednesdays beginning May 28. *Living Water: Watershed Moments in the Scriptures* will explore key passages in the Bible that help shape our central Christian understanding and life in Christ. You may choose to come at either 10:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

In the Spotlight

This month we have two members sharing the spotlight. When you think of fellowship here at the Presbyterian Church, you cannot help but think of Kim Ferguson and Susan Thomison. We believe their commitment and accountability continues to shine through their work and daily walk, which is pleasing to the Lord. Most people who serve behind the scenes do not want public recognition, but we love to recognize, honor and uplift our fellow Christians that work so diligently to please the Lord.

“I just love fellowship and getting people together. We get to learn about people when we get to talk together.” That about sums up the spirit of life-time (and fifth generation!) member of The Presbyterian Church Kim Ferguson. Kim has served as both an elder and, for the last five years, as a deacon for the church. Kim helps bring creativity and a cheerful spirit to our Fellowship ministry. She comes by her fellowship spirit naturally: a cheerleader as a teen, Kim was also given a great example of service by her mother Skeebo and her grandmother



Ruth, who both loved helping people feel welcome and loved through the act of hospitality and fellowship (Many of you will remember that Ruth Rabold was the driving force in the renewal of Fountain Square and other community beautification projects.). Her grandmother Ruth introduced Kim to picking and arranging flowers from the garden to be shared with the church. Her grandparents were instrumental in raising Kim in the church. “We were at church any time the doors were open!” Kim has fond memories of boarding a bus to go out to Ches Johnson’ farm for children’s day camp filled with fun, hayrides, and cabin stew. We are grateful that Kim continues to bring her gift of beauty, creativity, and a life-cheering spirit to our many fellowship events.



It’s clear in our spotlight this month that the gift of fellowship is a family affair—no big surprise since the church is God’s family. Susan Thomison received the gift of service and hospitality from her mom. “My mom ran the kitchen at our church. She was the caterer for every wedding. I think it’s ingrained in me from my mom to serve, and to serve in church. It was something I loved helping her do.” Susan remembers that when she joined Holy Spirit Church in college, she asked, “Where’s the kitchen?” When she and her husband David joined The Presbyterian Church she fit right in. “Mission is my calling and David was Fellowship chair. I remember thinking, ‘I like this. Mission and fellowship, that’s my thing. I felt at home, like Mom was telling me, “This is where you should be.”” Susan loves to bring the gift of cooking to our fellowship events, potlucks, and youth group. Susan and others have been sharing how to cook some of their favorite dishes with the youth. And it never fails to bring a smile. As Susan says, “I just try to keep a smile on. A smile is international, it speaks any language. If you keep a smile on, you will get a smile back.”



FELLOWSHIP

“And let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds. Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25

In our Christian walk, it is important for us to always stay connected and try to keep believers united. Fellowship allows burden-sharing, promotes accountability, and is a crucial element to help Christians to thrive in faith. When we have the opportunity to come together to share our stories, the unity of the spirit enables us to open up and share our needs, prayers, words of comfort and encouragement to support one another. In Proverbs 27:17, it states, *“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”* Through fellowship, Christians can challenge and enrich one another by contributing to the spiritual growth and understanding of God’s word.



Fellowship can influence our lives by bestowing a sense of belonging and individuality within the body of Christ. When we feel that connection and feel that our contributions are valued, it often enhances one’s overall well-being, leading to increased happiness and even longevity. We all know that life can throw a curve ball at us, and seldom do we have enough time to prepare for a defense. We can utilize our time during fellowship to remind one other to lean onto the Lord and rejoice, because we have a Savior who knows our trials, has healing powers and gives us hope for tomorrow.



Each of us has a purpose here on earth and we must continue to show God’s grace to those that are around us. When we fellowship, let us put the glory of God on display by reminding others to: trust God, live a life that adorns God’s attributes, learn to forgive (because God forgives us), give thanks for his blessings and pray according to God’s will. Regardless of where we are in our faith, being around other believers can provide spiritual sustenance for our souls. We encourage our church members to participate and invite a friend to our worship service, fundraiser event, potluck, church picnic and group outing. What better way to get a new person to attend our church, then through a personal invitation. People tend to feel more comfortable attending a new church or event when they already know someone there.



We look forward to gathering together to worship and fellowship with you. Let us continue enjoying each others conversation, practicing gratitude, and providing each other with the necessary spiritual nutrients to nourish our spirits and sense of well being.

THE YOUTH GROUP

Art With Diane



and a Surprise Visit from David

HOW GREAT THOU ART !

Psalms 86:10-17: "For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone."

In the month of April, our youth had the pleasure to work with our very own, Artist, Diane Simmons. She was able to incorporate art and creativity into our youth ministry by encouraging our youth to use their creative side to share the gospel. Each piece of art was unique but carried the same message of embracing God.

During our time together, both Diane and David helped our youth to thrive and embrace their

collective talent. We were able to come together, unite and carry out God's purpose through their unique expressions. We want to continue introducing our youth to positive role models that will bring out their artistic talents while encouraging them to serve and spread God's message.

YOUTH OUTDOOR ACTIVITES

Youth group activities play an important role in helping our young people grow in their faith. We try to find meaningful activities to inspire our youth to work together, talk, and build relationships, not only with each other but with God. We want to choose activities that will encourage them to express love, kindness, and compassion towards each other. Last month we played miniature golf and they really loved it. It was an afternoon of fun and friendly competition. Our very own Drew Ellington was able to get a hole-in-one. Congratulations, Drew!

Youth and Miniature Golf



Enjoying Our Christian Life

COMMUNITY

it's time for a
GIVEAWAY

SIXTH ANNUAL GIVEAWAY Cecelia Memorial will be taking donations for the upcoming 6th Annual Giveaway!! They will be accepting anything from clothing to household items to toys. The date for the event will be May 10. Thank you for your help in advance.

2025 STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE Our church has been invited to participate and receive donations for our food pantry, from the Postal Service food drive. We need 5 (or more) volunteers on May 10th at 2pm at the US Post Office on Scottsville Rd. to help sort, and transport donations to the church that afternoon. Please call Frederica Kernohan 270-991-7904 or the church office, if you have some time to assist on May 10th at 2 pm.



COMMUNITY

YOUTH SUNDAY/MOTHER'S DAY Our Youth will be leading service on Sunday, May 11. They will be honoring all mothers with a special token of love. Plan to join the Youth in honoring these special women of our church.



FELLOWSHIP PICNIC Plan to join us on Sunday, May 18 for our Fellowship Picnic. There will be plenty of food, fun, and fellowship. More information will be available at a later date. Join us at the picnic shelter at Covington Woods Park at 2:00 p.m.

2025 ANNUAL CPR/DEFIBRILLATOR COURSE sponsored by the Christian Education Committee, and taught by the Friends and Family Outreach Department of the College of Health and Human Services at WKU. The course will be held on Wednesday, May 21 in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be served at 8:15 a.m. and the course will begin at 9:00 a.m. It will last approximately 2 hours. No experience necessary and repeat students welcome. Last year's course received rave reviews from attendees. Sign-up sheets will be placed on the landing table so we can make appropriate plans. This is an important skill for our church members to have, from teens to seniors.



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!

MAY BIRTHDAYS



May 2
Mark Patton
Sarah Beth Shepherd

May 4
Delores Iverson
Bob Love

May 5
Emma Elliott
Vera Gramling
Barbara Howell

May 6
June Rose Garrott
Fred Trickey

May 7
David Sears

May 8
Gilbert Calhoun

May 9
Kenneth Crocker
Drew Ellington

May 11
Lynda Johnson

May 13
Caroline Hudson

May 14
Steve Moore
Jim Spiceland

May 18
John Kernohan

May 19
Mandane Ennis

May 20
Robert Byrd
Alicia Carmichael

May 24
Eric Bigler

May 26
Kathleen Gildersleeve
Pamela Napier

May 28
Matthew Byrd
Willie Byrd

May 30
Karen Watson



MAY CALENDAR

Please check our 60-Second email and bulletin announcements regularly.
Sometimes scheduled events may change. Take care and stay safe!

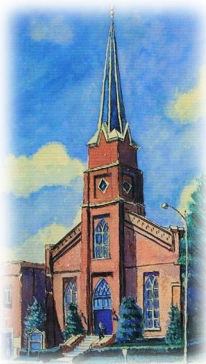
May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00pm Neighbor- hood Group	2 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	3
4 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 12:00pm After Church Eating Out Group 5:00pm Youth Group	5 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 11:00am Personnel Meeting	6 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 5:00pm Deacons Meeting	7 7:00am Breakfast Group 5:00pm Chancel Choir	8	9 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	10 8:00am Cecelia Community Giveaway 2:00pm Stamp Out Hunger
11 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday Morn Circle 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship	12 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 12:00pm Circle 9 (Fellowship Hall) 5:30pm Finance Committee Meeting	13 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 7:00pm Sunny 16 Camera Club 7:00pm Tuesday Evening Circle	14 7:00am Breakfast Group 9:30am Wed. Morning Young Mothers and Oth- ers Circle 5:00pm Chancel Choir 6:30pm Worship Commit- tee Meeting	15	16 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	17
18 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 2:00 pm AI Church Picnic- Scavenger Hunt 2:00pm Preschool Learning Center-Closing Celebration	19 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 5:30pm Christian Ed. Ministry Meeting	20 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 6:00pm Session Meeting	21 7:00am Breakfast Group 8:15am Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:00am 2025 Annual CPR/Defibrillator Class (Fellowship Hall) 5:00pm Chancel Choir	22	23 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	24
25 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	26 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	27 9:30am Chair Yoga 11:00am Special Care 1:00pm CUICHM	28 7:00am Breakfast Group 5:00pm Chancel Choir 10:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Bible Study	29	30 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	31

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

The full-color newsletter is online at www.bgpres.org.
May 15 is the deadline for the June 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

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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
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