



*River (partial image), 1987. Artist: Swanson, John August*

## ***Service for the Lord's Day***

**August 31, 2025**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

***Gathering Around the Word of Worship***

**Gathering Music**

Mike Kanan

**Striking of the Hour**

**Prelude**

*Fugue on the IXth tone*

Giovanni Gabrieli

**Welcome**

***We Rise in Spirit and in Body***

**Call to Worship (responsive)**

In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth. Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

**Highest of all creation, he lives among the least. He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.**

Come now, all who thirst, and drink the water of life. Come now, all who hunger, and be filled with good things. Come now, all who seek, and be warmed by the fire of love.

**We come, ready to be filled with the life-giving waters of the Spirit of God!**

**Opening Hymn 485**

*We Know that Christ Is Raised*

ENGELBERG

## Call to Adoration and Confession

### Prayer of Adoration and Confession (unison)

**O God, we praise you for you are the God of everlasting love. We worship in humble adoration as we consider that you have promised to be the faithful God of the covenant, making us your covenant people. Yet we confess that we have been unfaithful to the covenant with you and with one another. We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience. We have served our own self-interest instead of serving only you and your people. We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded, nor have we rightly loved ourselves. Forgive us, God of grace, and bring us back into the fullness of covenant life with you and one another. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*Silence is observed for Personal Confession*

### Confessional Anthem

KYRIE

*Lord, have mercy upon us,  
Christ, have mercy upon us,  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

### Declaration of Good News (responsive)

God's grace is given freely. God's love is steadfast. Let us announce together the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia!**

### Passing the Peace of Christ (responsive)

The mercy of the Lord never ends! The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**Young Christians are welcomed to the front to go to Children's Church**

## *Hearing the Word*

*All Sit*

### Prayer for Illumination (unison)

**Lord God, as your Word is read, help us to know your ways; teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading (responsive)

Ezekiel 36:25-28

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

**A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.**

I will put my Spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.

**You shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.**

**Anthem**

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

Dale Wood

*All Stand*

**New Testament Reading**

John 1:1-5, 12-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

... to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*All Sit*

**Sermon**

*The Light of All*

Rev. Kyle Otterbein

***Responding to the Word***

*All Stand*

**Response Hymn 482**

*Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Eleanora Beverly Fluit, daughter of Kevin and Michelle Fluit

**Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and  
buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he  
ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the  
forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*All Sit*

**Offering**

*Call to Offering*

**Offertory**

*Jesus, meine Zuversicht, BWV 728*

J. S. Bach

*All Stand*

**Doxology**

**DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him, all creatures here below  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)**

**O Mighty One, you have done great things for us, and holy is your name. Bless all  
we offer you—our selves, our time, and our possessions—that through us your  
grace and favor may be made known to all the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
our Redeemer. Amen.**

*All Sit*

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

*A Moment of Silence*

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.*

*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

***Bearing and Following the Word into the Created World***

*All Stand*

**Closing Hymn 826**

*Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFER

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Praeambulum in C*

Jacob Praetorius

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## Sermon Notes

**USHERS:** Polen and Thomison families

**COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE:** Blake Miller, Keelin Murrell, Mack Overfelt, Jeremiah Simpson and Johnna Smith

**LAY READER:** Judy Clark

**MEDIA PERSONNEL/SEXTON:** Laura Parkerson

**NURSERY:** Yamilet Bruno Sanchez

**LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7** Deuteronomy 30:15–20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1–21; Luke 14:25–33.

## **TODAY**

**DEACON OF THE WEEK** this week will be Trudy Burkeen. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE** to the baptism of Eleanora Beverly Fluit, the daughter of Kevin and Michelle Fluit. The baptism will take place after today's sermon.

**THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of their daughter. The flowers were provided by the Fluit family.

## **OTHER NEWS**

**NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY** we are updating our database to get ready for a new Church Directory. If you haven't recently updated your information, please scan the QR code to update your information.



**FALL GIVEAWAY** Cecelia Memorial 6th Annual Fall giveaway is September 20, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Cecelia Memorial Presbyterian Church, 716 College Street, Bowling Green, Kentucky! They are accepting donations for the Fall giveaway and are in need of school items and clothing for young men and women. Also, if you have gently used sports or music items that you would like to pass on, we will accept them as well. There is a great need this year for clothing and shoes. Please contact Lovelyn at [lovelynab@yahoo.com](mailto:lovelynab@yahoo.com); [ceceliamemorial1234@outlook.com](mailto:ceceliamemorial1234@outlook.com), text or call 619-368-2103 for drop off location. Thank you so much for whatever help you can give. Lovelyn.

**SATURDAY MEALS** The Presbyterian Church is scheduled for Saturday Meals sorting, cooking, and delivering on September 27. We are looking for volunteers for the following:

- 11 volunteers to cover delivery 8:30-9:30
- 8 volunteers to set up and sort donated foodstuffs 6:30 -8:00 am
- 5 Kitchen volunteers to assist with packaging the meal 8:15 - 9:00 am

If you have any questions, want to help, or know others that would like to assist, contact Susan Thomison, 270-791-6950.



**HELP FOR THE HELP MINISTRY** is needed. Our Churches United in Christ Help Ministry (CUICHM) helps families with utilities annually with money from our church budget and individual donations. Unfortunately, the bills that are usually presented are several hundreds of dollars and, due to our constricted funds, we are only able to help them with \$75-100 annually. Families receive a voucher for the amount of assistance made to the billing agency. This might prevent them from being disconnected for a time.

For January 2025 through July 2025, The Presbyterian Church assisted 107 families for a total \$11,783.80. If you are so inclined, donations can be made through the church office by indicating CUICHM on the memo line of your check. If you would like to volunteer your time with us, contact Sandy Franklin, Bud Schlinker, Faye Patton, or Kyda West.

**RESTOCK FOOD PANTRY** Our Food Pantry has seen a great many requests for food assistance recently. The office is always appreciative of food donations for restocking our shelves. Items may be brought to the church office. Thank you for any help with this ministry! It is also possible to volunteer as one of our Pantry Shoppers, who buy in bulk, using church pantry funds. Call the office if you have questions.

**FOOD DONATIONS THAT ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED:** Canned spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, canned fruit or vegetables, 1 pound bag of dried beans, 1 pound bag of rice, mac n' cheese, and cans of meats (tuna or chicken).

**OUR PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER** is requesting assistance with some small items for the children for the 2025-2026 school year. The following items will be greatly appreciated:

- Play-doh
- 3 oz bathroom cups
- jugs of water
- toys for outside

All items will be put to good use in the upcoming school year. And remember that the **PLC registration** is still open and the new school year began on August 18! Consider mentioning our PLC to any folks you know with children ages 2-4. Thank you!

**LAY READERS NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER** A signup page is online for lay readers in the coming weeks. If you are willing to serve 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!



**NEWSLETTER FOLDERS/SEALERS** A signup page is online for upcoming months for Newsletter folders/sealers. If you are willing to volunteer to help in the office with this task, scan the QR code to visit this link and sign up for a date, contact Robin by phone at 270-843-4707, or email at [info@bgpres.org](mailto:info@bgpres.org).



## WELCOME VISITORS!

*We invite you to pick up visitor's information on your way out, either in the narthex or on the table on the right in the downstairs entrance hall. Ushers will be standing by to help you find them. Always know that a cordial greeting is extended by the minister, officers, and congregation.*

**Clerk of Session:** Debbie Trickey    **Treasurer:** Steve Moore

**Elders:** Class of 2026- Pam Bratcher, Rachel Crocker, Claire Ellington, J.B. Hines, Susan Howard, Mike Kanan; Class of 2027-Sam Evans, Nathan Love, Susan Thomison, Debbie Trickey, Larry Warden; Class of 2028- Clark Carthrae, Buzz English, Julia Roberts, Julie Wedge; **Deacons:** Class of 2026- Phil Burkeen, Kim Ferguson, Kathy Higgins, Laura Parkerson, Brianna Trickey; Class of 2027-Trudy Burkeen, Georgeanna Capito, Sally Calkins, Nancy Carwell, Evan Goad, Frederica Kernohan; Class of 2028- Sharon Hendrix, Jan Morgan, and Margaret Stein.

### The Presbyterian Church Staff

*Transitional Pastor*  
*Director of Music/Chancel Choir Director*  
*Children's Music Director*  
*Organist*  
*Financial Administrator*  
*Treasurer*  
*Office Coordinator*  
*Director, Preschool Learning Center*  
*Custodian*  
*Clerk of Session*  
*Sound Attendant/Sunday Sexton*

*Rev. Kyle Otterbein*  
*Dr. Wayne Pope*  
*Mrs. Beth Pope*  
*Dr. Nathaniel Brown*  
*Mrs. Terry Johnson*  
*Mr. Steve Moore*  
*Mrs. Robin Watkins Tolbert*  
*Ms. Kimberly Watkins*  
*Mr. Cedric Whitney*  
*Mrs. Debbie Trickey*  
*Ms. Laura Parkerson*

Visit Our Church Website: <https://bgpres.org>



### Calendar

#### Sunday, August 31

8:30 a.m. Fellowship  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
9:15 a.m. Children's Music  
9:45 a.m. Godly Play  
10:30 a.m. Worship

#### Monday, September 1

##### Happy Labor Day/Office Closed

9:00 a.m. GOD/DOG is Love

#### Tuesday, September 2

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11:00 a.m. Special Care

#### Wednesday, September 3

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group  
5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

#### Thursday, September 4

7:00 p.m. Neighborhood Group

#### Friday, September 5

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group

**Donate Online:** The church website, <https://bgpres.org/give>, accepts online donations. Just go to our website, <https://bgpres.org/give>, and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You may also scan this QR code:



**The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101**

270-843-4707 • [www.bgpres.org](http://www.bgpres.org)

**Pastor Kyle Otterbein • [kyle.otterbein@bgpres.org](mailto:kyle.otterbein@bgpres.org) • 319-400-6546**