

The Moment

AT THE CORNER OF 10TH AND STATE



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Volume 29

October 2025

Issue 9



God's Doorkeepers!

"How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of Hosts!...I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the LORD than live in the tents of wickedness."

It is a great encouragement to me knowing that when someone climbs the twelve steps to the front door of our sanctuary on a Sunday morning that they will find an open door and a warm welcome from one of our ushers, our doorkeepers in the house of the LORD. Loneliness, depression, and despair all too often mark our society, but if someone is moved to enter our sanctuary, they will be met, greeted, and welcomed into a community where friends can be made, where hope can be reborn, and faith can be kindled. What a gift is our ministry of our ushers, greeters, and acolytes. Often overlooked, they provide an essential ministry which embodies the very heart of Jesus Christ: the love and welcome extended to the stranger along with friends and family. By such small moments is the family of God extended. It is a practical act of God's grace whereby we all experience connection, a place, a home with God's Spirit.

I invite you to take another look at the front cover of *The Moment*. Our folks in the photo represent a portion of our Usher ministry at the Presbyterian Church. You may notice that age or station in life are not barriers to this ministry. Lincoln as an usher and Everly as an acolyte are taking their place right alongside our more "experienced" ushers in this act of hospitality. Hospitality is a living witness to the presence of Jesus Christ in our midst (welcoming people into a place shining with the light of Christ). Another thing to notice is Roger Bivins, the WKU Hilltoppers' #1 Fan, who grew up in this congregation and who was welcomed back to worship recently along with his sisters. I think this photo captures the love and joy that comes when we know we belong in God's family.

Following Christ is not just being filled with God's truth; it involves us in actively practicing the "way" of Christ that leads to the life of Christ. Perhaps you have been wondering lately how you may take new steps to participate in and practice the way of Jesus Christ. Certainly being part of a small group or bible study is great, singing in the choir is a joy, and getting up the courage to try out a mission like David's Room in the Inn can be transformative. However, our dedicated team of ushers is seeking partners in the ministry of hospitality! They would love to add you to their team. Currently we have four pairs of ushers who volunteer to greet and usher for a month at a time (2 pairs for each month). Now, we encourage more than just married couples to this ministry! You can be a single or you can grab a friend to partner with you. Volunteer and give it a try. You would not serve alone (we never do!); we would connect you with our experienced team members who would love to meet, welcome, and include you (for that is what they do so well); they would be happy to "show you the ropes" (along with the bulletins, the offering plates, and the candles).

Would you like to give it a try? Just scan the QR code (or call the church office), and one of our "doorkeepers" will contact you and get you started on the way of hospitality, welcome, and belonging.



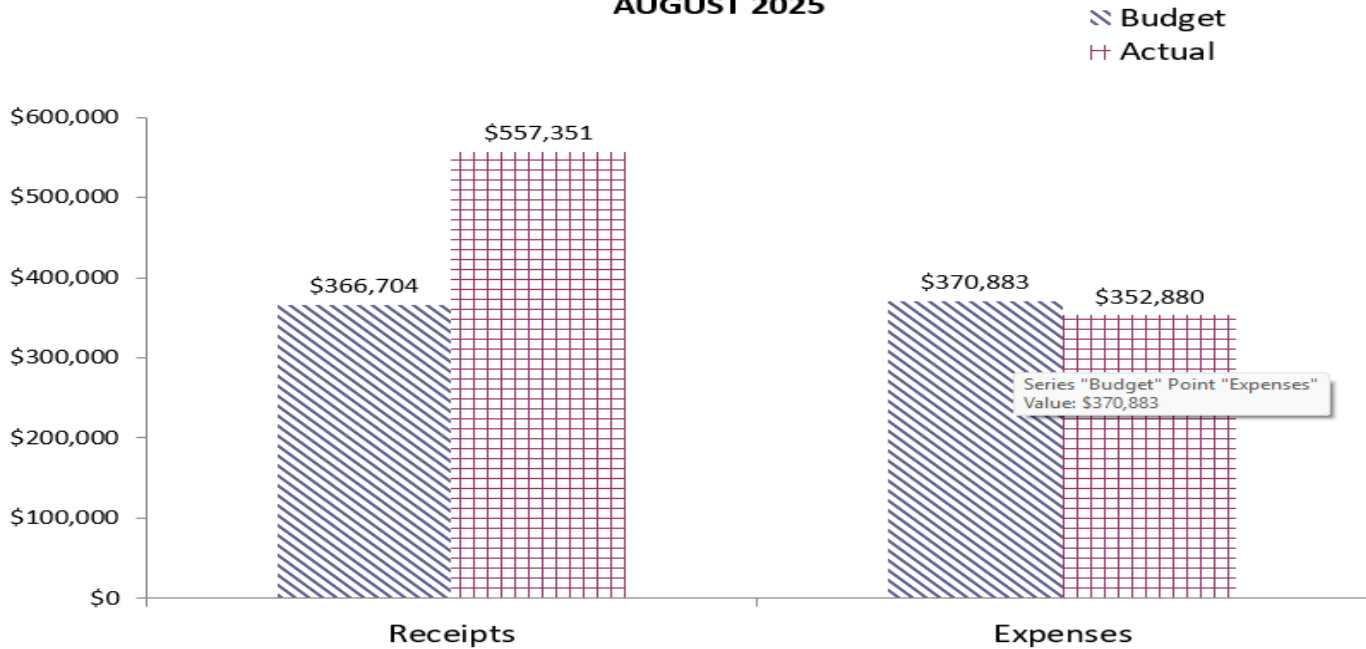
Your interim doorkeeper,

Pastor Kyle

*Front cover photo description: Roger Bivins with our Usher ministry—Everly & Lincoln Compton, Frederica Kernohan, David & Susan Thomison, and JB & Shaska Hines (not pictured: John Kernohan and Mike & Teri Polen).

Financial Summary

AUGUST 2025



FINANCE

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.

FALL FESTIVAL



FALL FESTIVAL AT ROB BYRD'S FARM will take place on Sunday, October 19. Rob Byrd is inviting our congregation to have a Fall Festival at his farm from 3:30-6:30 p.m. This is a family event, and all church members, family, and friends are welcome. Activities being planned include a hayride, fishing in the pond, volleyball, games, painting pumpkins and gourds, s'mores around a bonfire, and more. We are asking attendees to bring a side dish to eat with hamburgers!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On October 21 and 22, Robin and Terry will be in ACS training in Nashville, TN. We are seeking volunteers to answer phones while they are in training on Tuesday and Wednesday. If you are interested, call the office or email Robin (officeasst24@bgpres.org) or Terry (administrator@bgpres.org). Thank you in advance.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DEADLINE INFORMATION One of our primary goals is to deliver church news to our members in a timely manner. To ensure that our 60-Second Email and newsletter reach our members on time, we must meet our monthly deadline in submitting our articles to the office staff. This is a gentle reminder that if you have a submission for the 60-Second Email and newsletter, please have your 60-Second submission in by Wednesday and newsletter submission in by the 15th of the month. If you send us images, they should be high resolution and relevant to the content. We reserve the right to correct and edit the text for clarity, quality, higher performance, and visibility. We would also like to remind you that the newsletter will be uploaded on our church website every month.



YOUTH GROUP walked in the Walk4Water at Preston Miller Park on Saturday, September 20. The youth experienced the weight of walking with gallons of water. The weather threatened to send more water on our young people, but they braved the elements and the 4 mile walk with great attitudes. Around 275 participants took



part in the walk. Our students really stood out in their new Presbyterian Church t-shirts. Joining in the walk were Laura Parkerson, Millie Davenport, Drew, Jake, and Quinn Ellington (along with their mom, Erin), Grayson and Layla Trickey, the Crocker family (Matthew, Rachel, Kenny, and Charlotte), Heidi

Mielke, Mary Evans, and Pastor Kyle. Millie, Jake, and Quinn set the pace and, as you can see, a few took their stab at carrying several gallons of water. This gave them a little idea of what it is like for children and families in many parts of the world who do not have readily available clean water and who often have to walk miles to collect water for their families. The students raised \$555 for Healing Hands! Thank you for your generosity.



YOUTH GROUP

2025 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOK

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOK FOR 2025 Please scan the QR code, review the available scriptures, and consider signing up for a scripture verse. After you sign-up for a verse, you will share a personal message or what this verse means to you in writing and send your draft to Erika at solberg770@gmail.com by Sunday, October 19th. Drafts can be in the body of the email, in a Google Document, or in a Word Document.



If you have any questions please contact Erika Solberg or Michelle Fluit (fluitmichelle@gmail.com). With your permission, and after finalization, we would like to share your message in the 2025 Advent Devotional Book.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

Pastor Search Committee Update



Update from Your Pastor Nominating Committee

Your Pastor Nominating Committee has been diligently working for the past 21 months to find the right pastor to lead our congregation. We have reviewed more than 150 Pastor Discernment Profiles and listened to many sermons. We have revised our Ministry Discernment Profile which included raising our minimum salary from \$53,000 to \$80,000 to better reflect the value we place on the leadership of our future pastor.

Since January 2025, we have hosted Meet and Greet sessions via Zoom with eight pastors and conducted formal interviews with two of them. Some of these were self-referred and some were matched through the Church Leadership Connection.

Initially, we sought a pastor with at least 3-5 years of solo pastoral experience. After careful consideration and advice from experts, we have expanded our search to include associate pastors, chaplains, and youth pastors who have not yet served as solo pastors but may possess valuable leadership experience. We've been encouraged to consider candidates who have worked closely with a strong head of staff, as this experience is believed to be just as valuable as solo pastoral experience.

We are also actively reaching out to directors of alumni and church relations at seminaries. While we've posted our position on their job boards, we now have direct contacts at Columbia Seminary and Union Seminary. Through these connections, we are gaining access to more targeted support. The director at Columbia Seminary shared that they have an Alumni Referral Network which meets quarterly, and we will be added to the long list of churches seeking a pastor.

We continue to welcome referrals and deeply appreciate the prayers and support of our congregation as we continue this important search.

Submitted by Mary Evans and Julia Roberts, Co-Chairs of Pastor Nominating Committee

CECELIA MEMORIAL CHURCH 178TH ANNIVERSARY

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE – Cecelia Memorial Presbyterian Church is celebrating its 178th anniversary October 18, 2025, from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., and Cecelia Memorial invites all to join in the celebration.

The Gospel Troop and Levis and the Levites will be bringing some old-time gospel music. There will be personal testimonies and speakers testifying to the "Joyful Noise" experienced when they surrendered to the Lord. So mark your calendars: Saturday, October 18, 2025, 3-4:30 p.m. at 716 College Street, Bowling Green, Kentucky. If you would like more information, please contact Lovelyn Williams at 619-368-2103 (leave a text or message if there is no answer), lovelynab@yahoo.com, or Ceceliamemorial1234@outlook.com. We look forward to seeing you there. God bless you and keep you.



THE SPOTLIGHT

This month's spotlight is on our children and youth. Our K–5 children have been participating in the Children in Worship program, a thoughtful curriculum developed by Donna Wolbe. Through this program, our young ones have been learning what it means to fully engage in worship—not just as observers, but as active participants.

They explored how to use the church bulletin to locate hymns, prayers, and scripture readings, identifying the moments in the service when we speak to God and when God speaks to us. The children learned about the lectionary and how it guides the structure and message of our worship services. They studied The Lord's Prayer and even wrote heartfelt prayers of their own.



The children also got a behind-the-scenes look at how worship comes together. They met with Mike Polen to learn about the important role of the ushers. Beth Pope shared how hymns are chosen for worship, and the children were fascinated by their time with Laura Parkerson in the sound booth—especially looking down at their families worshiping below! They also explored key spaces in our church, including the narthex, music room, and chapel.

The children learned about the sacraments of baptism and communion. They witnessed baby Nora's baptism and carefully practiced pouring grape juice into tiny communion cups using the special dispenser.

The program culminated in a very special event on September 21 where the children planned and led a worship service for their families in the chapel. It was a moving celebration of everything they had learned:

Millie played the gathering and closing music, including "Lord, Prepare Me."; **Lincoln and Layla** served as ushers; **Everly** rang the bell to mark the hour; **Quinn** was the acolyte and read scripture; **Jake** offered the welcome and delivered the sermon; **Drew** led the Call to Worship; **Grayson** led the Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon; **Kenny** shared a beautiful Affirmation of Faith that he wrote himself; **Charlotte and Lincoln** passed the offering baskets; **Grayson** gave a Prayer of Thanksgiving; **Layla** led The Lord's Prayer; **Drew** offered the Prayers of the People; and **Jake** concluded the service with the benediction.

This program has been a meaningful and formative experience for our children. We are so proud of their growth and their growing love for worship and leadership in the life of the church.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 3

Larry Gildersleeve

October 4

Robin Watkins-Tolbert

October 5

Sam Evans

Tim Evans

Linda Leigh

Catherine Reber

October 7

Samuel Kernohan

Laura Kessel

October 9

Joseph Survant

October 10

Greg Johnson

October 11

Bev Nuerge

October 12

Michael Ballard

October 14

Diane Simmons

October 17

Sheila Reeves

October 20

Karen Kreuzer

October 21

Kim Ferguson

October 24

Nancy Hulan

Charlotte Prow

October 26

Emma Ahmed

October 29

Saint Carmichael

Ernie Small

October 30

Emily Davenport

Lisa Rabold



OCTOBER CALENDAR

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

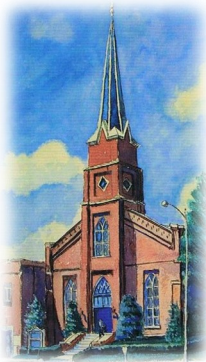
October 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | | | 1 7:00am Breakfast Group 10:30am No Crisis and New Creation Class (Return next week) 5:00pm Chancel Choir | 2 7:00pm Neighborhood Group | 3 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group | 4 |
| | | | 5 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 11:45 Topper Ministry Luncheon 12:00am Eating Out Small. Group 5:00pm Youth Group | 6 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love | 7 9:30am No Inspirational Meditation (Return next week) 11:00am Special Care | 8 7:00am Breakfast Group 9:30am Wednesday Morning Young Mothers & Others Circle 10:30 Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Worship Committee Ministry Ministry |
| 12 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday Morning Circle 9:45am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 11:45 Topper Ministry Luncheon 12:00am Eating Out Small Group 5:00pm Youth Group | 13 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 11:00am Personnel Meeting 12:00pm Circle 9 5:30pm Finance Ministry Meeting 6:00pm Deacons Meeting | 14 9:30am Inspirational Meditation 11:00am Special Care 7:00pm Sunny 16 Camera Club 7:00pm Tuesday Evening Circle | 15 7:00am Breakfast Group 10:30 Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir | 16 | 17 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group | 18 |
| 19 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 11:45 Topper Ministry Luncheon 12:00am Eating Out Small Group 3:30-6:30pm Fall Festival | 20 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 5:00 Christian Education Meeting | 21 9:30am Inspirational Meditation 11:00am Special Care 6:00pm Session | 22 7:00am Breakfast Group 10:30 Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir | 23 | 24 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group | 25 |
| 26 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 11:45 Topper Ministry Luncheon 12:00am Eating Out Small. Group 5:00pm Youth Group. | 27 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love | 28 9:30am Inspirational Meditation 11:00am Special Care 1:00pm CUICHM | 29 7:00am Breakfast Group 10:30am No Crisis and New Creation Class (Return next week) 5:00pm Chancel Choir | 30 | 31 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group HAPPY HALLOWEEN  | |

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.
October 15 is the deadline for the November 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 |