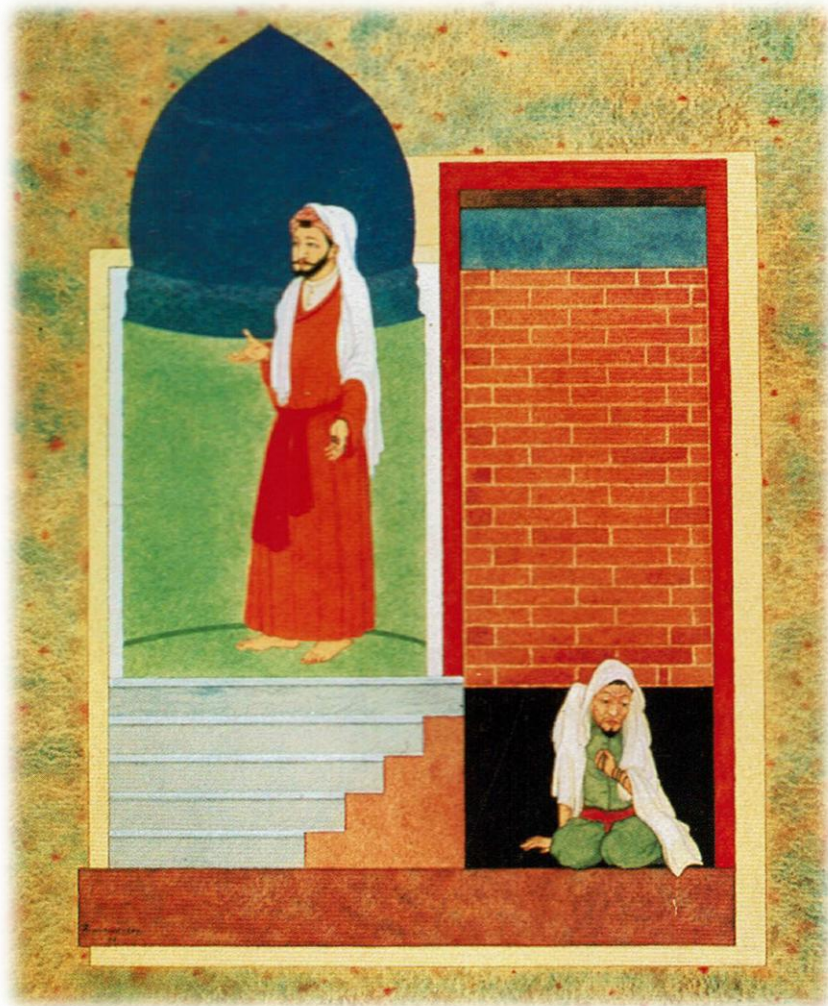




The Publican and the Pharisee. Artist: Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002.²

Service for the Lord's Day

October 26, 2025

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering Around the Word of Worship

Special Prelude

Fantasia on Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott

Michael Praetorius

Striking of the Hour

Welcome

We Rise in Spirit and in Body

Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 65

Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples. Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

May our voices join with all creation in the glory of your praise! Praise the Lord!

Call to Adoration and Confession**Prayer of Adoration and Confession** (unison)

We praise and adore you for you are the God who listens with mercy and justice. Yet, Holy God, your truth is so often sharp and unsettling. We confess the ways we skirt the hard edges of your Word, turn up the volume on lesser noises, and lean into the comfort of our own certainty rather than submit to the discomfort of your challenge. You send us messengers, and we sidestep them; you challenge us, and we defend ourselves. Again and again, Holy God, we resist what we do not want to hear. And yet you keep calling. Have mercy on us. Interrupt our evasions. Soften what pride has hardened in us. Forgive us and give us grateful hearts. Amen.

A Silence is observed for Personal Confession

Confessional Hymn 695*Change My Heart, O God*

CHANGE MY HEART

Refrain: *Change my heart, O God; make it ever true*

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the Potter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

to Refrain

Declaration of Good News (responsive)

from *The Book of Common Worship*

Hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

Passing of the Peace of Christ (responsive)

God's heart is full of mercy and grace. God's purposes are worked out in healing and reconciliation. The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

A Time with Young Christians (children welcomed to the front of the sanctuary)***Hearing the Word***

All Sit

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

God of Wisdom and Grace, you speak through your Word read and proclaimed. Prepare us, then, to listen well. Open our ears to your truth; open our minds to the unexpected. Humble us here, in your presence, so nothing stands in the way — not pride, not distraction, not despair. Let your Word reach us as we are right now. Amen.

Old Testament Reading (responsive)

Psalm 84:1-7

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

Anthem*O God of Mercy*

Gerre Hancock/arr. Paul Boumann

*All Stand***Gospel Reading**

Luke 18:9-14

[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

*All Sit***Sermon***A Flipped Script*

Kyle Otterbein

Responding to the Word*All Stand***Response Hymn 402***How Lovely, Lord*

MERLE'S TUNE

Affirmation of Faith (unison)

Philippians 2: 6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

Minute for Mission

David's Room in the Inn

*All Sit***Offering***Call to Offering***Offertory***Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, a 3*Michael Praetorius
transcr. Nathaniel Brown

*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)

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion, a single slice, of the abundance you've handed to us. Still, we press them into your care, set them down where they might become more. We hand over these gifts, grateful, but also in awe at how you shape small things into good news. Let these gifts find their way into the broken places, finding the ones carrying heavy burdens. 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 735

I Need Thee Every Hour

NEED

Congregational Meeting

Benediction

Amen from Blessing and Benediction

Ruth Elain Schram

Postlude *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* Anonymous (*Die Lüneburger Orgeltabulatur*)

¹Some portions of today's liturgy are adapted from liturgy written by the Teri McDowell Ott.

²Wesley was born in Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh into a fifth generation Christian family of Hindu and Muslim descent. He belongs to the Lucknow school of painting. His paintings reflect this influence and that of the Chughtai school of painting that flourished in India at the turn of the century. Wesley made art based on both biblical and secular themes. He used water colours, oil paintings, miniatures and wooden carvings.

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, providing a guide for handwriting or typing. The background is a clean, solid white color.

Announcements

USHERS: Hines and Kernohan families

COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE Sammy Del Rey, Blake Miller, Keelin Murrell, Mack Overfelt, and Johnna Smith

LAY READER: Kelly Goad

MEDIA PERSONNEL: Laura Parkerson

NURSERY: Yamilet Bruno Sanchez and Margaret Stein

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2: Isaiah 1:10–18; Psalm 32:1–7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1–4, 11–12; Luke 19:1–10

TODAY

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

SPECIAL PRELUDE today we enjoy a special piece of music prepared by our organist Nathaniel Brown as our prelude. The Prelude this Reformation Sunday is one of three Chorale Fantasias by early German Baroque composer Michael Praetorius (1571-1621). Although Praetorius was an organist himself, he left us with surprisingly few organ compositions, likely because of the strong tradition of improvisation at that time. What organ music he did compose was primarily for the sake of providing examples of the current state of the art of organ playing and composition and to recommend his own styles rather than to expand the organ repertoire. But what little we have is a treasure of organ literature, and the Chorale Fantasias are the most substantial and ambitious of these. This Sunday's Prelude is M. Praetorius' Fantasia on the Lutheran Chorale *Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott* (A Mighty Fortress Is Our God), published in one of his many volumes of *Musae Sioniae* (Music of Zion). A Fantasia (AKA Fantasy or Fancy, lit. "from the head") is an imitative polyphonic piece in which a single melodic subject is played with and passed around all of the voices until a new one is introduced and the process begins again. In chorale fantasias, each short phrase of the chorale melody is treated as the subject of each section.

BUCK IN A BASKET for today will go to support Angel Tree Meals. Buck in a Basket Offering is a twice a month opportunity to consider contributing during the offering for a particular mission not included in our regular budget.

CONGRATULATIONS to Collegiate Ensemble Members Johnna Smith and Keelin Murrell. On October 18th and 19th, the WKU Department of Music/Voice Area hosted the Kentucky Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Annual Student Auditions and Competition. Nearly 200 entrants attended. After the initial audition/preliminary round, Johnna qualified in the Junior Treble Voice Category to proceed to the Semi-Final Round. Keelin also proceeded to the Semi-Final round then, through competitive process, proceeded to the Final Round where she placed 2nd in the Senior Treble Voice Category. Congratulations to them on this significant accomplishment.

CONGREGATION MEETING today, immediately following the close of worship, we will conduct a brief congregational meeting for the purposes of electing Mrs. Nancy English to the office of deacon.

TOPPER CAMPUS MINISTRY is hosting a luncheon for college students in the Fellowship Hall. We invite all college students to attend luncheon, featuring a delicious home-cooked meal provided by Debbie Trickey. Know a college student? Please let them know they are welcome. (Note, this is not an all-church meal, but intended for our college students and Campus Ministry leaders.) At the luncheon, the college students and our interested Campus Ministry volunteers will meet and discuss ideas for our Topper Ministry in the coming weeks and months. Interested in helping out? Let Margaret Stein or Donna Wolbe know. You can email Margaret or Donna at topper@bgpres.org. We will need future volunteers willing to prepare home-cooked meals, to transport students, or help in other ways as we grow to know and care for college students. We would love for you to get to know these special young people and welcome them to make us their church family away from home.

THE AFTER CHURCH EATING OUT GROUP will meet today at 12:00 p.m. at Simply Ramen BG, 801 Campbell Lane. This is a newly opened restaurant, and we invite you to join us! This group is for people who like to go out to eat after church and enjoy visiting with others.

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 pick up a communication card outside the office doors, at the entrance of the sanctuary or simply scan the QR code to update your information. You can return your card to the office Monday-Friday during office hours or hand it to an usher after worship.

Directory Form



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, 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 25th. Drafts can be in the body of the email, in a Google Document, or in a Word Document. 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.



OUR PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER (PLC) is having their Annual Trick-or-Treating for the preschoolers at the church on October 29 and 30. We would love to have the church members to participate by setting up areas within the church for the preschoolers to pick up a treat or to do an activity (*Please note that some of our kids have peanut and garlic allergies*). We will also accept treat donations to help make this a fun and memorable day for our kids. If you are interested in volunteering or donating, please contact Robin or Terry at 270-843-4707 to be added to the signup sheet. Thank you in advance. -Kimberly Watkins, PLC Director.

FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK Join us after worship for a fellowship potluck on November 9, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. Our theme for the month is Tailgating Grub, so bring in your favorite finger food for a "tailgating lunch." Wear your favorite team jersey if you have one! Join us in Fellowship Hall.

MEMORIAL CONCERT for Charles Allan will be November 16, 4:00-5:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. Charles was the youngest son of Michael and Ruth Brown. The concert is a joyful celebration with Nathaniel Brown on the organ; Wayne and Beth Pope singing; Sylvia Kersenbaum playing the piano; and Dr. and Mrs. Herman and Deanna Catlett playing a piece Ruth wrote dedicated to Charles. Closing the program will be spirituals by Wayne, Ernie Small, and David Muffett.

HELP WITH TOPPER CAMPUS MINISTRY Interested in providing lunch or giving students a ride? Let Margaret Stein (270-779-2579) or Donna Wolbe (270-303-2587) know. You can also Email us at topper@bgpres.org. If you'd like to help support these outstanding young people, see the Sign-Up Sheet outside the Chapel and choose a date to provide a home-cooked meal for 10-12 people, or scan the QR code to sign up online. We meet weekly on Sunday Mornings at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall following Worship for lunch and discussion. We'd love your help!



There will be more opportunities to serve this ministry in the near future. We would love for you to get to know these special young people and help make our congregation their church family away from home.

INSPIRATIONAL MEDITATION The Tuesday morning yoga class has a new name. It is now Inspirational Meditation. Class meets here at the church on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. If you would like the opportunity to learn how integrate your mind, body, and spirit to align with God's Spirit, please come join this class. Instructor: Trudy Burkeen.

LAY READERS NEEDED FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 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!



We express sympathy to the English family in the death of long-time church member Barbara English who died on Monday, October 20, 2025 and David English, who died on Tuesday, October 21, 2025.

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, Dan Stelling, 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*

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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:



Calendar

Sunday, October 26

9:15 a.m. Sunday School Gathering
9:15 a.m. Children's Music
9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts
9:45 a.m. Godly Play
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:45 a.m. Topper Ministry Luncheon and Discussion
12:00 p.m. After Church Eating Out Group
1:00 p.m. Cecelia Memorial 178th Church Anniversary
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

Monday, October 27

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

Tuesday, October 28

9:30 a.m. Inspirational Meditation
11:00 a.m. Special Care
1:00 p.m. CUICHM

Wednesday, October 29

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group
9:30 a.m. Crisis and New Creation Class
10:00 a.m. PLC Trick or Treat
5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 30

10:00 a.m. PLC Trick or Treat

Friday, October 31

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

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

270-843-4707 • www.bgpres.org

Pastor Kyle Otterbein • kyle.otterbein@bgpres.org • 319-400-6546