

# *The Moment*

AT THE CORNER OF 10TH AND STATE



**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY**

Volume 29

December 2025

Issue 11



## Through the Lenses of Advent and Christmas

*“...they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!” -Isaiah 2:4-5*

*“Keep awake...” -Matthew 24:42*

The arrival of December sets us within the great dramatic framework of God’s great act of salvation: God drawing close to bring to fulfillment the ancient longings for healing, for deliverance, for forgiveness, for life.

That’s the way it is with the most important matters in life—experience, feelings, passionate longings and loves are given insight, meaning, and the power to transform when set within a framework, like a precious gemstone in an intricately crafted setting.

The stories, images, poems, and songs of Advent and Christmas act as an intricately crafted setting for us to be transformed by the coming of the Child of the Holy One, Jesus the Messiah. And we must insist upon the intricacy. It is not simple. One merely has to read the prophecies and poetry of the texts for the first Sunday of Advent to realize that Advent is not just angel choruses and an infant in a manger (though even those images draw us into depths of mystery that may startle and amaze us!). Swords being beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Light illuminating a path for people hurrying to the mountain of God. Men and women blithely eating and drinking until the doors of Noah’s ark are shut. A woman taken captive while grinding grain and a thief breaking into a home at night. The images grab and arrest our attention. Keep awake, indeed.

As we journey together through the days and weeks of Advent, anticipating the celebration of God’s singular act of love in sending the Son, I invite you to consider the lenses of Advent. The wonderful music we sing during our service of Lessons and Carols; the stories we hear from the gospels; and the decorations, artwork, and images we see all around us all act as lenses to help us draw meaning and gather insight into what it means to be God’s beloved people, created and re-created in God’s own image. It is a startling plunge into the mystery at the heart of the world: the loving grace of God which reaches down to the lowest and least, the forgotten and the lost, the disoriented and the despairing.

Take time to contemplate the intricate setting in which God’s precious stone, the living stone (cf. 1 Peter 2:4) is set, look intently through the holy lens of the Christmas story to behold the depth of God’s love, and let yourself be changed, transformed, and renewed. And may you know the joy of worship as you fall on your knees before the Christ Child this Christmas.

Walking with you in the light of Christmas,

*Pastor Kyle*

Note: Please join me in this year’s 3 Advent Wednesday event meals when I will share “Lenses of Advent” in brief devotions after our meals.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE MINISTRY

## Finance Ministry Thanks You for Your 2026 Pledges

The mysterious sages who arrived from the east soon after the birth of a new king in Israel are infamous for their special gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

As a Christian community we understand that we are at our best in giving when it is an act of both generosity and creativity. Sure, we can give out of a sense of duty or habit, but Christian giving comes alive when it becomes an expression of gratitude, praise, and hope.

The Finance Ministry wants to thank all of you for your pledges to our church's ministry that are beginning to come in. We pray that you will indeed experience pledging as a creative, generous act. If you have not yet made your pledge, please let us know if you have any questions or need any more information to complete your pledge. You may call Terry or Pastor Kyle at the church and they would be glad to help you.

### Creativity and Generosity at Year's End

Did you also know that there are other creative ways to provide financial support to the church that may come at no extra cost or that may be advantageous in your yearly taxes? Here are a few:



**Qualified Charitable Distributions** — You may consider using your retirement savings to make a difference: pretax money saved in an IRA can be given to a charity of your choice by taking a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). This can help those of you who need to satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD), and neither you or the charity have to pay income taxes. [Please note that there are a few specific steps that you need to take, so we advise you speak to your financial advisor if you would like to take this action.]



**Gifting Appreciated Stock within taxable accounts:** this allows you to potentially take advantage of the itemized tax deduction as well as removing appreciated assets within your account without paying taxes on the gains.

**Consider Direct Deposits for Church Giving:** Our Financial Administrator, Terry Johnson, can also help you set up your regular giving with automatic debit withdrawals from your checking accounts.

**POINSETTIAS** Poinsettias are available for purchase this Christmas, given either in memory of departed loved ones, or in honor of someone special. A bulletin announcement page with a listing of gifts will be included with the Christmas Eve bulletin. Forms for poinsettia orders will be available in the church office or in the Sunday bulletins. Both should be returned to the church office by Friday, **December 12**. Poinsettia orders are \$20.00 each. You may call or email the information to the church office, or print and mail an order form.



## CHRISTMAS PARADE MEET-UP



**CHRISTMAS PARADE MEET-UP** coming on December 6! Join Pastor Kyle on the morning of Saturday, December 6. Kyle will be at the church making pancakes for anyone who wants to enjoy breakfast together before the Jaycees Christmas Parade. The parade begins at 9:30 am, so Kyle plans to share breakfast between 8:30 and 9:30. If you are coming for breakfast, feel free to bring something to share.



# Our Angel Tree



Angel Tree

**OUR ANGEL TREE** is up and we need your help providing for our family members on the tree. If you would like to take an angel to buy gifts please sign beside the number on our signup sheet so we know every kid has been taken care of. Please ensure the gifts are wrapped and returned to the office by **December 14** with the angel attached so we can have them organized for delivery on December 20. If you would like to help with our angel tree but aren't able to shop, donations are welcome and we can have people shop for you instead. Our youth will be glad to help wrap your gifts. Any questions regarding the Angel Tree can be directed to Terry Johnson at [administrator@bgpres.org](mailto:administrator@bgpres.org) or you can call the church office at 270-843-4707. Thank You.

## SOCKS FOR SENIORS

**SOCKS FOR SENIORS** Once again CECELIA MEMORIAL is participating in the “Socks for Seniors” drive with Christian Family Radio. This year the senior facilities have requested “gripper” socks to be donated. Cecelia Memorial will be collecting socks now through December 4 to be delivered to the radio station. CFR is also asking for volunteers to deliver the socks to the senior facilities. We do not have a specific date for deliveries at this point. If you can, please donate whatever socks you can. They must be new socks. You can put them in Lovelyn’s cubbie in the office, drop them off at Cecelia or contact Lovelyn for pickup at 619-368-2103. Thanks to everyone in advance for your participation.



## ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL** Join us in a time of inter-generational discovery as we gather in the fellowship hall for Sunday School on the Sundays of Advent: November 30 and December 7, 14, and 21. We will gather at 9:15 am each Sunday for breakfast treats and coffee. At 9:30 am Sunday School will begin with singing and the sharing of scripture, followed by a special reading and sharing of a special Christmas story led by one of our members. The experience will be capped off with a craft designed for children of all ages!



## WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN ADVENT

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN ADVENT**— It’s time once more to gather around the table for wonderful food and fellowship as we share Advent. Beginning at 6 pm on December 3, 10, and 17, we will enjoy delicious soups prepared by our own Presbyterian Cooking Club, followed by a brief reflection led by Pastor Kyle on the *Lenses of Advent*, featuring a special work of art to contemplate the wonders and mysteries of Christmas. Be sure to contact the church office each week to let us know you are coming!



Advent Schedule

## GLOVES WITH LOVE

**GLOVES WITH LOVE** Our 10th Street fence will be dressed in gloves, socks, hats, and scarves during the Winter season, starting in January. Your donations of items to hang on the fence will be greatly appreciated. All donations can be dropped off in the church office.



# Lessons and Carols

**LESSONS AND CAROLS** On December 14 at 10:30 a.m. during worship service, we will have Lessons and Carols. A service of Lessons and Carols was first done in the late 19th century but later made popular by King's College, Cambridge, who held their first service in 1918. Readings and music are paired as we recall God's historic willingness to bless, and the fulfillment of blessing in the coming of Jesus Christ the Lord. Along with congregational singing and Advent Wreath Lighting, the music in this year's Lessons and Carols will feature the Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, Collegiate Singers and Dr. Nathaniel Brown on organ in a variety of beautiful and uplifting Christmas anthems, traditional carols, Christmas solos and instrumentals. Please join us!

## SOUP & SANDWICHES POTLUCK



**SOUP/SANDWICH POTLUCK AND CHRISTMAS CAROLING** Prepare your favorite winter soup or sandwich and join us for our Fellowship potluck after worship on December 21 at 11:30 p.m. After enjoying our potluck meal, we will go caroling in small groups. This fellowship event will be fun and festive as we go caroling at some of the local care homes, and visit those who are unable to come to worship. If you are donating cookies or bringing in cookie tins for the event, please bring them in by Friday, December 19 (we will also take some cookies with us as gifts).

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

**CHRISTMAS EVE** falls on a Wednesday this year. We will gather for Christmas Eve worship at **5:00p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** that evening. This will be a service for all ages, and will include communion, music, and the lighting of candles at the end of worship. All are welcome! Bring family and friends and come celebrate the Christmas Joy!



## A MESSAGE FROM LILLY HUNTER-THE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES



It has been such a delight to meet so many of you! Thank you for welcoming me and my family into the congregation so warmly. Colton and I have been married since 2020, and we have Jay (18), Cora (2), and Willow (9 mo). We can't wait to join the vibrant life here at The Presbyterian Church! If you would like to contact me, feel free to email me at [Lilly.Hunter@bgpres.org](mailto:Lilly.Hunter@bgpres.org)

## PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER



**PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER (PLC)** has a goal to make sure that every child has a book. Twice a year, Christmas and the end of school year, we gift each child with a brand new book. If you are interested in sponsoring a child or a class for Christmas and purchasing them a book, please let Kimberly Watkins know. If you have any questions, would like to sponsor a class or like to purchase a book for a student, email [plcdirector@bgpres.org](mailto:plcdirector@bgpres.org). All books must be received by December 6th in order for us to purchase additional books, if necessary. Thank you for helping us at the Preschool Learning Center.

# PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE** In October, Rachel shared that we had received several self-referrals. We've been busy following up on each one. We've had the opportunity to hold *Meet and Greet* conversations with three of those candidates—two via Zoom and one in person (since that candidate lives close enough to visit). This week, we're moving forward with a longer interview with one of those candidates.

We also recently received our 7th set of matches from the Church Leadership Connection—19 new profiles to review and prayerfully consider. Additionally, we had a Zoom meeting with our presbytery advisor, **Rev. Lex Allum**, who continues to be a valuable source of encouragement and wisdom. She reminded us that *the person God has for us will not pass us by!*

That was such a comforting and hope-filled reminder, especially as we know there are other churches in the same search process and looking at the same candidates we are.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and encouragement. We truly feel your support, and we're confident that God is at work — preparing both our next pastor and our congregation for the moment when our paths meet.



**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will close at noon on December 24 and will be **CLOSED** on Thursday and Friday, December 25 and 26. The staff will be celebrating the Christmas holiday with their families.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1

Bobby Rabold  
Charlene Rabold

December 2

Mary Belle Ballance  
Stacy Kreuzer  
Wanda Rosdeutscher

December 3

Donna Meredith  
Sara Parkerson

December 7

Marty Jo Watson

December 10

Debbie Morse

December 11

Frederica Kernohan

December 13

Michael Spencer, Jr.

December 14

Alex Yusk

December 17

Susan Todd  
Claire Watson

December 18

Mary Hext

December 22

Mallory Hudson  
Grayson Trickey

December 23

William (Dillon) Miller

December 24

Wes Green  
Shaska Hines

December 28

Amelia Davenport

December 30

Tim Leigh





# DECEMBER CALENDAR

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

## DECEMBER 2025

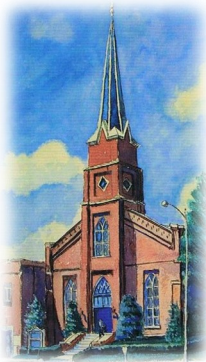
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 6:00pm Deacons Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:30am Inspirational Meditation 11:00am Special Care	<b>3</b> 7:00am Breakfast Group 9:30 Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>4</b> 7:00pm Neighborhood Group 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	<b>5</b> 7:30am Men's Break- fast Group	<b>6</b> Christmas Parade Meet-Up 8:30am Breakfast 9:30am Christmas Parade
<b>7</b> 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 11:45 WKU Topper Ministry Luncheon & Discussion 5:00pm Youth Group	<b>8</b> 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 12:00pm Circle 9 12:00pm Personnel Meeting 5:30pm Finance Ministry Meeting	<b>9</b> 9:30am Inspirational Meditation 11:00am Special Care 7:00pm Sunny 16 7:00pm Tuesday Evening Circle	<b>10</b> 7:00am Breakfast Group 9:30am Wednesday Morning Young Mothers & Others Circle 9:30 Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir 6:30pm Worship Committee Meeting	<b>11</b> 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	<b>12</b> 7:30am Men's Break- fast Group  	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday Morning Circle 9:45am Godly Play 10:30am Worship (Lessons & Carols) 11:30pm Lunch with Leaders 5:00pm Youth Group 5:30PM Circle 9 Christmas Party	<b>15</b> 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 5:00 Christian Education Meeting	<b>16</b> 9:30am Inspirational Meditation 11:00am Special Care 6:00pm Session	<b>17</b> 7:00am Breakfast Group 9:30am Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>18</b> 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	<b>19</b> 7:30am Men's Break- fast Group	<b>20</b> 9:00am Youth Group Angel Tree Delivery
<b>21</b> 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 11:30 Soup & Sandwiches (Caroling) 5:00pm Youth Group Christmas Party	<b>22</b> 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love  	<b>23</b> 9:30am No Inspirational Meditation (reconvene Jan. 6) 11:00am Special Care 1:00pm CUICHM	<b>24</b> 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service 10:00pm Christmas Eve Service <b>OFFICE CLOSSES AT            NOON</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	<b>26</b> <b>OFFICE            CLOSED</b> 7:30am Men's Break- fast Group	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship NO Youth Group	<b>29</b> 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	<b>30</b> 9:30am No Inspirational Medita- tion (reconvene Jan. 6) 11:00am Special Care	<b>31</b> 7:00am Breakfast Group 9:30 No Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm NoChancel Choir			

**The Presbyterian Church**  
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Hello  
**December**



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

The full-color newsletter is online at [www.bgpres.org](http://www.bgpres.org).  
December 15 is the deadline for the January 2026  
newsletter. Please send your information to the  
church office at [info@bgpres.org](mailto:info@bgpres.org)

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Bowling Green, Kentucky  
(270) 843-4707    [www.bgpres.org](http://www.bgpres.org)

**The Presbyterian Church Staff**

Rev. Kyle Otterbein	Transitional Pastor
Mrs. Lilly Hunter	Director of Student Ministries
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