

The Moment

AT THE CORNER OF 10TH AND STATE,



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Volume 30

February 2026

Issue 2



Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. [Christ] always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out...

Hebrews 10:23-24 (*The Message*)

Due to the winter storm we weren't able to gather together on Sunday, January 25. It was just one more reminder that recent days have been marked by cold and stormy weather. It seemed to be a fitting manifestation of the upheaval, violence, dissent, and brutal displays of power in communities throughout our country. It is a challenging time to live, as the hymn we would have sung on Sunday puts it, "to walk as a child of the light".

Christians around our country are rightfully concerned, even alarmed, at both the actions taken by federal officers and some of the reactionary protests these actions have provoked. The problems are deep, complex, and costly for our nation. There are no easy answers. We need to oppose unlawful, excessive force by government agents and unwise, irresponsible acts which obstruct commissioned officers from their duty. In volatile times, Christians are called to speak out for just practices, for restraint, and for calm, non-violent protest. But I hope for more. I pray that we would be able to live up to the challenge posed by the writer to the Hebrews, to see how "inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out." In times of social upheaval, Christians have been known for seeking creative ways to bring attention to the dignity, worth, and honor of all human beings, standing alongside the vulnerable and the victims, and praying for those in authority as well as the people they are called to serve. We can only do this, the writer continues, by being determined to continue to gather together, ready to worship and serve. As Paul encourages in Romans 12: "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all....Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." This is a high and difficult calling. We will only be able to find courage to live this way if we pray for and encourage one another.

May we pray for the storms to pass. May we together join in seeking peace for our communities and all peoples on the earth. And may we never stop meeting together, praying for and encouraging one another as we do.

In Christ,

Pastor Kyle

Help needed! If you think about it, anytime we meet together we experience "communion" (literally, "joining together"). And to be effective in meeting together, we have to "commun"-icate! I need your help so we can effectively communicate with you. We are using a new texting and email tool to communicate with you called Text in Church. If you are receiving church texts from us, please look for texts coming from the phone number **270-787-1817**. That is our texting number! Here is a suggestion: **save this number** in your "Contacts" and name it "Presbyterian Church", so that you will always be able to see right away the text is from us.

Cover Photo: members of the Presbyterian Church helping prepare food for Saturday Meals Ministry.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE MINISTRY

The Presbyterian Church			
Fund: GENERAL FUND			
BUDGET			
2026			
Revenues			
RECEIPTS			\$613,560
Expenses			
BUDGETARY EXPENSES			
PERSONNEL			\$345,497.00
UTILITIES			\$33,550.00
FELLOWSHIP & RECREATION			\$6,300.00
OFFICE EXPENSE			\$29,650.00
PROMOTION & CHURCH GROWTH			\$3,400.00
WORSHIP			\$19,550.00
HOUSEKEEPING			\$25,950.00
BENEVOLENCE			\$16,800.00
PER CAPITA AND UNIFIED GIVING			\$11,512.00
MAINTENANCE			\$58,047.00
INSURANCE			\$48,225.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			\$3,600.00
YOUTH MINISTRY			\$9,000.00
Total Expenses			\$611,081.00
Net Total			
			\$2,479.00

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- Nancy English, Sharon Hendrix, Jan Morgan, and Margaret Stein.

DO YOU SHOP AT KROGERS? If so, and you have a Kroger Plus account, you can designate that your Community Rewards dollars go to The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, Kentucky.

On a computer browser, go to **Kroger.com** and sign in to your Kroger Plus account. Click "My Account" and scroll down to "Community Rewards." THEN, click "Change Organization" and find The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green (Organization IF 229).

On a cell phone in your Kroger Plus App, click on the three little lines in the top right corner of your screen, then click "Rewards" and then click "Community Rewards." THEN, click "Change Organization" and find The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green (Organization IF 229). It is harder on the Kroger Plus App because the search function is not as good.

Spotlight



I first learned of the Collegiate Ensemble during my interview for the position of Voice and Opera Theatre at Western Kentucky University in the spring of 1999. Voice professor, Elizabeth Volkmann, was very excited to have her students participating. “He (David Gibson) is giving our students opportunities!” I was feeling good about this place.

The Collegiate Ensemble got its auspicious beginning as college students who sang in the Chancel Choir for Virgil Hale. (Director 1965-1994) Legend has it that Dr. Hale “strongly encouraged” (could be read as required) his students to participate. Their remuneration was breakfast at Jerry’s Restaurant between services. David Gibson (Director 1996-2011) and the church established funding to scholarship the ensemble. In a full-time position as Director of Music, David gave the students many opportunities beyond Sunday service. They were often involved in concerts, opera, solo features, and

musical productions.

The Collegiate Ensemble has long been an integral part of the music ministry at TPC. It has served as a wonderful infusion of youthful vigor and spirit and has complimented the richness of the Chancel Choir and our worship. During COVID the ensemble sustained worship as we live streamed a service each Sunday. The ensemble gathered early, learned an anthem for that day, delivered it during the service, led us in hymns, and favored us with beautiful solos. Fortunately, the alto and tenor were dating, so we were able to make good use of space and microphones.

Numerous, nearly countless, students have participated over the past many decades. Our symbiotic relationship has become indispensable. Our hope is to bless them with a great place to worship and grow in their musicianship and faith as we support their matriculation. Together we are moved to greater heights in worship, fellowship, love and appreciation for each other and our saving, loving God.

Current Collegiate Ensemble Members are:

Sammy DelRay, bass, is a sophomore Music Education major and member of the select WKU Chorale and the popular acapella group The Redshirts.

Blake Miller, tenor, is a sophomore Music Education major and member of the select WKU Chorale. He performed the lead role of Aneas in WKU Opera’s production of Dido and Aneas and is a member of the popular acapella group The Redshirts.

Keelin Murrell, soprano, is a senior Music Education who is currently doing her pre-professional, student teaching semester. Keelin is a member of the select WKU Chorale, has been awarded Female Performer of the Semester and sung the lead role of Dido in WKU Opera’s production of Dido and Aneas. In the summer of 2024, she studied and performed opera in Lucca, Italy.

Mack Overfelt (missing from photo), alto, is a senior Voice Performance major at WKU. She performed the role of Spirit in WKU Opera’s production of Dido and Aeneas and is a member of the select WKU Chorale. In the summer of 2025, she studied and performed opera in Lucca, Italy. She is currently singing in the ensemble for the upcoming opera Trial By Jury, understudying the role of Barbara in the WKU Theatre production of Perfect Arrangement and preparing her senior recital.

Johnna Smith, soprano, is a junior Music Education major at WKU. She has been awarded academic merit and music scholarships. She is a member of the select WKU Chorale and the University Singers. She performed the role of Second Lady in the WKU production of Dido and Aeneas.

All our Collegiate Ensemble members will travel to Spain with the WKU Chorale in March. Please keep them in prayer for successful concerts and travel.

To God be the glory!

Dr. Wayne Pope

TRIVIA FUNDRAISER EVENT

RESERVE THE DATE Get ready for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition! Invite your friends, family, and your best Bible and general knowledge — there will be plenty of food and laughter! On March 29 we will be having our Trivia Fundraiser Event for Montreat. Start getting your team together in order to outwit your competitor. Are you ready to be crowned the smartest Trivia Team? *The cost per person will be \$25 (1-6 people per team). Our goal for this year is to raise \$1500.* Let's make memories, share laughs, and grow together in faith and friendship. If you have questions or want to sign your team up, contact Lilly Hunter at Lilly.Hunter@bgpres.org or call the church office at 270-843-4707.



We would like to thank church members and friends for your donations to the Preschool. We sincerely appreciate each of you and your giving heart. We know at PLC that it takes a village, and we are so thankful that you are a part of ours. We wish you and your families a blessed 2026! PLC Director-Kimberly Watkins and Staff.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is observed by many Presbyterians as a day of reflection and repentance, marking the start of the Lenten season. It serves as a reminder of human mortality and the need for God's grace. The ashes, typically made from the burnt palms of the previous year's Palm Sunday, symbolize both sorrow for sin and the hope of transformation. During the imposition of ashes, the phrase "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" is often recited, highlighting the theme of mortality.

Presbyterian Church USA

Ash Wednesday is February 18 which begins our Lenten season. A worship service led by *Rev. Kyle Otterbein* will take place in our Sanctuary at **6:00pm** that evening. Please plan to join us!

Lenten Dinners and Programs - The church will present an Lenten program for Wednesday evenings in Fellowship Hall. **Wednesday Dinners** will begin at **6:00pm** on February 25, followed by the program in Fellowship Hall. Lenten programs are designed to deepen spiritual growth, inspire encourage reflection, and aid in strengthening your relationship with God. Please RSVP to the church office if you will attend dinner, so we may plan for numbers.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES



This month, the students are beginning a three part series called "See and Be Seen", looking at Matthew 25:35-40 "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

We are seen as the people of God, and called to see the least of these all around us. The youth have been seeing and serving already this year through Gloves of Love with Laura Parkerson, making stuffed animals for Habitat for Humanity with Susan Thomison, and restocking the food pantry with Cathey Green. May we continue to serve and love our community as the body of Christ!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING—What do you know about the Souper Bowl of Caring? The Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 with a simple prayer said by Reverend Brad Smith at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina:

Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.

Twenty-two churches raised \$5,700 in the first year. The number of groups involved has steadily grown each year, and so has the amount raised and put back into the communities.



Here at The Presbyterian Church, The Souper Bowl of Caring is an annual event held by our very own Youth Group. It takes place on Super Bowl Sunday in Fellowship Hall immediately after worship service. This potluck event allows the church congregation to bring their favorite soup, sandwich, or dessert. Join the youth for their annual Souper Bowl of Caring. The event will be on Sunday, February 8. You can support this event by providing soup, sandwiches, or a dessert.

We are asking our members and friends to join our amazing Youth Group on this day and help us support them. The group will be taking donations to help people with food insecurities. This event will help empower our young people and help them develop an ethic of service. Whether you're going to attend for the touchdowns by your favorite team, the commercials, or the soup, it's going to be a winning day for all who attend. The only flag that will be thrown will be for you missing out on the fun.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 3

Sarah Grise

February 4

Janet Schwarzkopf

February 5

Lauren Miller

February 7

Todd Willian

February 8

Jayne Freeman

Terry Johnson

Beth Pope

February 10

Ken Meredith II

February 12

Georgeanna Capito

Jim Harris

February 14

Annette Parkerson

JoAnn Pearson

February 16

Ward Begley

February 19

Caroline Wedge

February 20

Mark Bigler

Jacob Ellington

Quinn Ellington

February 21

Dirichi Njoku

February 22

Randy Carter

Brianna Trickey

Stefan Trickey

February 26

Craig Heller

February 27

Ruth Brown

Kelly Goad

February 28

Merrilyn Calhoun

Sally Calkins




FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Please check our 60-Second email and bulletin announcements regularly.

Sometimes scheduled events may change. Take care and stay safe!

FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15am Sunday School Gathering 9:15am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday School Begins 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 11:45am WKU Topper Student Ministry Lunch and Discussion 12:00pm After Church Eating Out Group 5:00pm Youth Group	2 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 12:00pm Personnel Meeting 6:00pm Deacons Meeting	3 11:00am Special Care 12:00pm Inspirational Meditation	4 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group 9:30am Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir	5 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn 7:00pm Neighborhood Group	6 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	7
8 9:15am Sunday School Gathering 9:15am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday School Begins 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Lunch with Leaders 12:00pm Souper Bowl 5:00pm Youth Group	9 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 12:00pm Circle 9 5:30pm Finance Ministry Meeting	10 11:00am Special Care 12:00pm Inspirational Meditation 7:00pm Sunny 16 Camera Club 7:00pm Tuesday Evening Circle	11 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group 9:30am Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir	12 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	13 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	14 Valentines Day 
15 9:15am Sunday School Gathering 9:15am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday School Begins 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 12:00pm After Church Eating Out Group 5:00pm Youth Group	16 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 5:30pm Christian Ed. Ministry Meeting	17 11:00am Special Care 12:00pm Inspirational Meditation 6:00pm Session Meeting	18 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group 9:30am Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir 6:00 Ash Wednesday- Worship	19 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	20 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group 6:00pm Crafting Group	21
22 8:30am Fellowship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Children's Music 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 11:45am WKU Topper Student Ministry Lunch and Discussion 12:00pm After Church Eating Out Group 5:00pm Youth Group	23 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	24 11:00am Special Care 12:00pm Inspirational Meditation 1:00pm CUICHM	25 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group 9:30am Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Lenten Dinner and Program	26 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	27 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	28

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The Presbyterian Church
1003 State Street
Bowling Green, KY 42101
(270) 843-4707

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Hello
FEBRUARY



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

The full-color newsletter is online at 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

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Bowling Green, Kentucky
(270) 843-4707 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