

The Moment

AT THE CORNER OF 10TH AND STATE



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Volume 30

January 2026

Issue 1



Turning My Eyes to the New Year

...we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. -Colossians 1:9-10

As I write this, today is December 31, the last day of the year. Tomorrow a new year begins. Perhaps your mind, like that of so many people at this time of the year turns to considering what New Year's resolutions you want to make. With a new year, we turn a new page on a new chapter of our lives, so it is natural to look ahead and wonder what the new year may bring and how we can perhaps better make use of the gift of time given to us.

But New Year's resolutions are difficult, aren't they? We write down our goals and perhaps create a plan to help us achieve the goal. We want to get healthier so we decide to begin a new diet or start a new exercise regimen. We want to achieve financial security, so we outline a new budget and resolve to restrain our impulse buying. We plan to read more, get outside more, to spend more quality time with family and friends, or we even set out to form a new spiritual discipline of bible study and prayer. And who can deny that such goals are good and worthy. But the common story is that we make a determined beginning only to give up by Groundhog's Day. We feel the pressure to achieve our goals; our worthy resolutions leave us feeling frustrated, defeated, and guilty. Resolutions get us focused on performance, and when we fall short we feel the hot flush of failure and embarrassment.

It struck me as I watched our Christmas nativity that there may be an another way: the way of the magi.

Instead of determining to challenge myself to an act of will whereby I wrestle myself into submitting to a resolution creating pressure, grinding effort, and unrealistic demands, I want to give myself an opportunity to give my attention to something I want to explore or discover. It is the path of wonder and learning. Just as the magi studied the stars, the heavens, for the signs of a new act of God in the world, I want to give my attention to something that makes me more alive to the world around me. I think that is why icons have played such an important part in Christian devotion. An icon acts as a portal to the imagination, directing our minds and hearts to a particular event, person, story, or reality where God is present, intimately acting to bring transformation. Such acts of contemplation transform us by ordering our loves, our affections, our desires. And because what we love powerfully moves and shapes us, we begin think and act in ways that draw us deeper in truly living responsively to the object of our attention. Simply put, acts of attention and wonder lead to life expressed in worship. So this year I want to begin by asking the question, "What do I want to give my attention to? What is God inviting me to discover and explore?" And "To what am I directing my love and life?"

Paul, in the letter to the Colossians, tells us that Jesus Christ is the image, the "icon" of the invisible God (cf. Colossians 1:15). It is an invitation to give our attention to the person of Jesus in whom "all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell" (Colossians 1:19). So, this year, I am not stoking the fires to forge a better me, to perfect a version of life to gain approval. Rather I want to lift up my eyes to the vista of a life with Jesus Christ where there is wonder, discovery, and God's power to work in me, in us, where we are "being renewed in knowledge according to the image of [the] creator" (Colossians 3.10). That is a new page to a new chapter of life that I can be excited about.

I pray that you too will be excited about trying the way of the Magi, letting your eyes, your minds, and your hearts open to new vistas of a life in company with Jesus Christ.

Pastor Kyle

Pictured on the Front Cover: Visitt of the Magi: Quinn Ellington, John Duncan Trickey, Layla Trickey, Willow Hunter, Jake Ellington, Donovan Maslowski, Kenny Crocker

A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE MINISTRY

The Presbyterian Church						
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary						
January to December 2025						
Accounts				YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)	Variance
Revenues						
RECEIPTS				\$615,793.00	\$548,808.00	\$66,985.00
Total Revenues				\$615,793.00	\$548,808.00	\$66,985.00
Expenses						
BUDGETARY EXPENSES						
PERSONNEL				\$287,354.00	\$285,413.00	(\$1,941.00)
UTILITIES				\$35,287.00	\$33,305.00	(\$1,982.00)
FELLOWSHIP & RECREATION				\$4,324.00	\$4,500.00	\$176.00
OFFICE EXPENSE				\$32,257.00	\$34,850.00	\$2,593.00
PROMOTION & CHURCH GROWTH				\$2,116.00	\$3,400.00	\$1,284.00
WORSHIP				\$21,375.00	\$19,630.00	(\$1,745.00)
HOUSEKEEPING				\$25,253.00	\$25,300.00	\$47.00
BENEVOLENCE				\$36,881.00	\$28,300.00	(\$8,581.00)
MAINTENANCE				\$32,791.00	\$56,262.00	\$23,471.00
INSURANCE				\$37,273.00	\$28,047.00	(\$9,226.00)
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION				\$2,502.00	\$3,950.00	\$1,448.00
YOUTH MINISTRY				\$4,687.00	\$9,000.00	\$4,313.00
Total BUDGETARY EXPENSES				\$507,536.06	\$531,957.00	\$24,420.94
Total Expenses				\$507,536.06	\$531,957.00	\$24,420.94

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.

ANGEL TREE GIFT DELIVERY

ANGEL TREE All our angels were adopted and the gifts delivered on December 20, 2025. We send out a big thank you to all who adopted this year! We had 8 families we sponsored with 36 children who were gifted this year. Special thanks our Youth Group, Lilly Hunter, and Terry Johnson for their work on this project.

*Thank
you*



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Small Groups

Join a
Group Today!

 People

 Bible

 Mission

OUR SMALL GROUPS CONTINUE IN 2026

Stronger together, better together, and made to be together.

Small groups can play an important role in fostering community, spiritual growth, and accountability within the church, while enhancing the overall church experience for members and friends. These groups are established on biblical teachings and aspiring to help members grow in their faith. If you're seeking to grow in your faith, want to serve with a purpose, have fun, and want to encourage others while on this journey with Christ, come join a small group. We look forward to hearing your ideas and collaborating with you.

Neighborhood Small Group-First Thursday in each month, 7:00 pm

Host: Julia Roberts and Mary Evans

Inspirational Meditation Small Group-Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m. in the church Conference Room

Instructor: Trudy Burkeen

God/Dog Is Love -Dog Walking - Mondays at 9:00am at Covington Woods Park

Eating Out Small Group –Sunday After Church—The Restaurant will be announced in the Sunday bulletin

Women's Circles

Circle 9 - Moderator: Faye Patton-Second Monday at 12:00pm

Sunday Morning Circle-Moderator: Margaret Stein-Second Sunday at 9:30am

Wednesday Morning Circle –Moderator: Frederica Kernohan-Second Wednesdays at 9:30am-Ladies Parlor

Tuesday Evening Circle-Moderator: Susan Thomison-Second Tuesday at 7:00pm at Diane Simmons' home

Wednesday Breakfast Group-Wednesdays at 7:00am at Teresa's Restaurant

Men's Breakfast Group- Fridays at 7:30am at Lisa's 5th Street Diner

Joyful Noisemakers-Meets periodically at various local care centers

The Flock-Host: Margaret Stein-Prayer Shawl Ministry and Gloves of Love-meets quarterly

Presbyterian Cooking Club-Hosts: Mary Evans and Connie McGehan-During Advent and Lent in our Church Kitchen

Let's Play Bridge!—Hosts: Charlotte Prow and Mary Evans-Bridge games at members' homes

RE-FUEL POTLUCK-SALAD EXTRAVAGANZA



Join us on January 18 in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service for the Salad Extravaganza. Bring your favorite salad to share. Chicken Salad, egg salad, pasta salad, fruit salad, or even a salad salad....you get the idea.

Potlucks give members and friends the opportunity to share diverse culinary traditions and blessings. It can create a sense of belonging, lead to spiritual growth, and foster an environment of encouragement. Hope to see you there.

BUCK IN A BASKET

BUCK IN THE BASKET is a mission offering that helps support ministries to carry out God's purpose. This is an alternating week opportunity to consider contributing \$1 during the offering for a particular mission not included in our regular budget. Below you will find a list of our missions and the totals collected from our contributions.

January	Deacons Fund	\$99
February	Gloves for Love	\$152
March	PreSchool Learning Ctr	\$238.26
April	PreSchool Learning Ctr	\$393
May	Montreat Conference Ctr	\$509.50
June	Food Pantry	\$332
July	Habitat for Humanity	\$583
August	DRITI	\$331.25
September	Living Waters	\$323
October	Angel Tree Meals	\$380
November	Angel Tree Meals	\$673.13
December	Financial Help Ministry	\$526

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES



On New Years Eve, Colton and I make a habit of doing what we call a "State of the Union" meeting, reflecting on the year behind us and planning for the year ahead. As I have been reflecting this year, I see many challenges and changes that I do not know how to explain. It is human nature for us to look at our circumstances and ask God "Why?". In the book of Job, the character Job spends chapters getting increasingly frustrated demanding of God- why? Why is the world not run on a principle

of just recompense, why does the unexplainable happen? God's response to Job is one of my favorite passages in the bible- He responds not with His principle for running the world or with an explanation of suffering. God simply gives Job a tour of the cosmos, explaining that the universe is far more complex and intricate that Job could dare imagine. Job is humbled- and so am I every time that I read it. God is able and capable. He is far greater- more merciful and generous than we can comprehend. When I look back over the year I can trust that God is not puzzled at my challenges. He was not shocked by the changes in my life. His sovereign plan includes the minutiae of my life, and there is great freedom there. As we approach 2026, I am going to continue to delineate goals and plans. But I will approach each passing day with peace knowing that nothing is a mystery to the Almighty, and his loving plan for my life is worth trusting. Director of Student Ministries-Lilly Hunter

Do you remember the last time you were the new person? Do you remember your first day at a new school, a new job, or joining a new group? There can be feelings of uncertainty, nervousness, and confusion. You may have had questions about how things got done, how decisions were made, how you could participate in what was going on. These are just part of the experience of people getting to know a new church as well! In an effort to help new guests to The Presbyterian Church, Pastor Kyle is beginning a new monthly experience for people new to us called "Lunch with Leaders". Every month on the second Sunday, Pastor Kyle and a couple of our elders or staff will provide a light sandwich meal for guests and newcomers immediately following the worship service in the fellowship hall. Gathered around the table guests will be able to hear stories about our church, learn about us and our ministries, and ask any questions they may have about us. If you know a friend or a guest who may be interested, invite them to join us at our first "Lunch with Leaders" on January 11!



THE CHURCH OFFICE will close on January 19 in Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr's Day The staff will be celebrating with their families.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 4

Harvey Johnston

January 6

Matt Hunt

Brittney Maslowski

January 7

Eddie Solberg-Hale

Debbie Trickey

January 8

Alisa Anderson

Margaret Stein

January 11

Ann Humphrey

January 12

Jim Stites

January 13

Julia Roberts

January 15

Page Beard

Paul Clark

January 16

Duffy Hayes

January 17

Madalene Chandler

Chris Davenport

January 19

David Rabold

January 20

Rick Larson

William Moore

January 21

Muriel Kanan

Joyce Ann Spiceland

January 28

Benjamin Davenport

January 30

Evan Goad

Joe McFarland



JANUARY CALENDAR

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

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

JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	2 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	3
4 9:15am Sunday School Gathering 9:15am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday School Begins 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 5:00pm Youth Group	5 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 6:00pm Deacons Meeting	6 11:00am Special Care 12:00pm Inspirational Meditation 5:00pm Deacons	7 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group 9:30am Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir	8 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	9 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	10
11 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 12:00pm Lunch w/Leaders 5:00pm Youth Group	12 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 12:00pm Circle 9 12:00pm Personnel Meeting 5:30pm Finance Ministry Meeting	13 11:00am Special Care 12:00pm Inspirational Meditation 7:00pm Sunny 16 Camera Club 7:00pm Tuesday Evening Circle	14 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group 9:30am Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir	15 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	16 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group 6:30pm Crafting- Fellowship Hall	17 6:30am Saturday Meals 11:00am Nancy Keyser Funeral
18 9:15am Sunday School Gathering 9:15am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday School Begins 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 5:00pm Re-fuel Potluck- Salad Extravaganza 5:00pm Youth Group	19 MARTIN LUTHER , KING, JR. DAY OFFICE CLOSED 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 5:30pm Christian Ed. Ministry Meeting	20 11:00am Special Care 12:00pm Inspirational Meditation 6:00pm Session Meeting	21 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group 9:30am Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir	22 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	23 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	24
25 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	26 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 	27 11:00am Special Care 12:00pm Inspirational Meditation 1:00pm CUICHM	28 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group 9:30am Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir	29 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	30 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	31

The Presbyterian Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Hello
January



*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