



Jesus and Nicodemus'

Service for the Lord's Day

**March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent**

Gathering Around the Word of Worship

Gathering Music

Mike Kanan

Striking of the Hour

Prelude

Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir

Balduin Hoyoul
transcr. Nathaniel Brown

Welcome

We Rise in Spirit and in Body

Call to Worship (responsive)

In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.

Christ comes as the Living Word, dwelling among us as one with us. Highest of all creation, he lives among the least. He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

Come now, all who thirst, and drink the water of life. Come now, all who hunger, and be filled with good things. Come now, all who seek, and be warmed by the fire of love.

We come! We come to worship, pray, and serve.

Opening Hymn 645 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* MIT FREUDEN ZART

Call to Confession

Prayer of Adoration and Confession (unison)

God, you are full of grace and mercy; we praise you. As you bring endless renewal, call us to lives restored, and rescue the lost, there are times when our way grows confused. We struggle to know what to do. Or worse, we know what needs to be done and find it easier to stay on the wrong path. Forgive us for failing to follow a better way. Remind us that you stand more ready to forgive than we are to confess our need of grace. In your grace may we live as people called to bless the world. 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)

For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." We too believe and we receive God's righteousness. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

Thanks be to God.

Passing of the Peace of Christ (responsive)

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Young Christians are welcomed to the front to go to Children's Church

Hearing the Word

All Sit

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

O God, may we be born anew by your living word; and may the meditations of all of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our strength and redeemer. Amen.

Old Testament Reading (responsive)

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come?

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Anthem*God So Loved the World*

John Stainer

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth, believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; But that the world through Him might be saved.

*All Stand***Gospel Reading**

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

*All Sit***Sermon***Born Anew*

Rev. Kyle Otterbein

Responding to the Word*All Stand***Response Hymn 483***Dearest Jesus, We Are Here*

LIEBSTER JESU

Affirmation of Faith (unison)excerpt from *The Confession of 1967*

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

*All Sit***Offering***Call to Offering***Offertory***Canzon sopra Falt d'argens*

Girolamo Cavazzoni

All Stand
Doxology

DOXOLOGY

*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)

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all your good gifts, confident that all we receive and enjoy comes from your hand. Now, as we share our offerings, may they draw others to seek the love and wisdom of Jesus Christ, in whom the whole world may be born anew. Amen.

Sealing the Word in the Sacrament

All Sit
The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (responsive)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Life up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise...

...Therefore, we join our voices with the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name....

SANCTUS

SANCTUS

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.*

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 13

The Mighty God with Power Speaks

KINGSFOLD

Benediction

Postlude *Sonata VI - Fugue on "Vater unser im Himmelreich"* Felix Mendelssohn

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*Notes: Stained Glass

Announcements

USHERS: Polen and Thomison families

COMMUNION SERVERS: Clark Carthrae, Rachel Crocker, Kelly Goad, Jean Harris, Mike Kanan, Nathan Love, and Julia Roberts

COMMUNION PREPARERS/CLEANUP: Frederica Kernohan

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

LAY READER: Kelly Goad

MEDIA PERSONNEL: Laura Parkerson

NURSERY: Yamilet Bruno Sanchez & Maya Swartz

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY MARCH 8: Exodus 17:1–7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1–11; John 4:5–42

TODAY

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

BUCK IN A BASKET for today will go to support PLC Scholarship. Buck in a Basket Offering is an opportunity to consider contributing during the offering for a particular mission not included in our regular budget.

THE BIBLE STUDY CLASS is studying The Book of Psalms. Come join us in the Conference Room on Sunday mornings at 9:30. All are welcome.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION CLASS meet on Sunday mornings. The class is reading *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis (We read about 3 letters a week, so anyone can quickly catch up.) Join us in the 10th Street Parlor—there are several copies of the book available to use there.

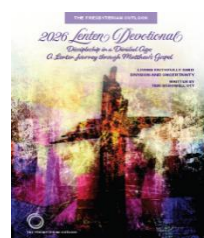
THE AFTER CHURCH EATING OUT GROUP will meet today at 12:00 p.m. at Danny's Italian Restaurant, located at 348 College St. This group is for people who like to go out to eat after church and enjoy visiting with others. We hope you can join us for delicious food and great conversation!

OTHER NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will occur immediately after our worship on March 8. At this meeting the PNC will present a full report on the candidate and nominate the candidate as our next pastor. The congregation will then vote on whether or not to call the candidate as our pastor along with approving the Terms of Call.

YOUTH MEALS Are you interested in providing a home-cooked meal or purchasing a meal for our youth? We are seeking volunteers for meals for our youth during our Sunday group meeting. If you are interested in volunteering, a sign-up sheet is available in the church landing.

2026 LENTEN DEVOTION—You are invited to join us in a congregation-wide practice of Lenten devotion. Together we will read and pray our way through *Discipleship in a Divided Age: A Lenten Journey through Matthew's Gospel*, by the Rev. Teri McDowell Ott. Through this journey we will be invited to discover how Jesus leads us toward humility, courage, compassion, and faithful discipleship. Each Sunday in Lent we will send out the readings and prayers for the week. There will also be a link on our website.



LENTEN DINNERS AND PROGRAM The church will present a Lenten program for Wednesday evenings in Fellowship Hall. On Wednesday, March 4, dinner will begin at 6:00pm followed by the program in Fellowship Hall. The menu for this Wednesday's Lenten Dinner is pulled pork, calico beans, ramen noodle salad, and pineapple dessert

Lenten programs are designed to deepen spiritual growth, inspire encourage reflection, and aid in strengthening your relationship with God. Please RSVP with Robin in the church office by phone (270-843-4707) or email (officeasst24@bgpres.org) if you will attend dinner, so we may plan for numbers.

THE PRESBYTERIAN COOKING CLUB will again be preparing Wednesday dinners for the Lenten season. Join us each Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. in the church kitchen as we chop, stir, and simmer our way toward a delicious meal—enjoying plenty of good conversation along the way. We'll gather on the following Wednesdays: March 4, March 11, March 18, and March 25. You're welcome to help for one, two, or join us for them all! If you're interested in joining the Cooking Club, please contact Mary Evans or Connie McGehan to express your interest. We look forward to cooking—and sharing fellowship—with you!

OUR NEW DIRECTORY—You can now access our church directory through an app on your cell phone or tablet. Just scan the QR code to go directly to the app to download it on your phone or tablet. Once you download the app, you will be directed to search for the directory of The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green. Just use your email address to gain entry to our directory (you must have your email address that is in the directory to gain access).



Android



Directory!

SAVE THE DATE!! THE SPIZZWINKS(?) Come out to see our very own, Yale Student-Musical Director, Nate Stein, performing with The Spizzwinks(?) on Monday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. at The Capitol Art Center. The Spizzwinks(?) are composed entirely of full-time undergraduate students, performing concerts all over the world. Since being founded in 1914, the Spizzwinks(?) have released several dozen albums and performed around the globe, bringing their diverse repertoire of over 600 arrangements everywhere from local New Haven elementary schools, to concert halls, special events, businesses, and universities on their international tours.

Ticket prices (plus fees) range from \$19-\$39 for adults and \$13 for children.

Tickets are available now for pre-purchase through the Capitol's website, <https://capitolbg.org/event/the-yale-spizzwinks/the-capitol/> or you can purchase at the door.

UNITED WAY FEED THE NEED FOOD DRIVE Volunteers are needed for *the United Way Feed the Need Food Drive!* For Friday March 27 and 28th. Our food pantry has been selected to receive collected food IF we can provide a few hours of volunteers during the two days listed below. If you spare 2-3 hours of time, during any of the two days below please contact Fred Kernohan or the Church office. Ask a spouse or friend to come with you. More location details to come.

Store hours: Friday, March 27th from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturday March 28 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Sorting site hours: Friday, March 27 from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturday March 28 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN Sunday Morning Circle meets the second Sunday in each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Ladies' Parlor; Circle 9 meets the second Monday in each month at 12:00 noon at a member's home; Tuesday Evening Circle meets the second Tuesday in each month at 7:00 p.m. at Diane Simmon's home; Wednesday Morning Circle meets the second Wednesday in each month at 9:30 a.m. in the 10th Street Parlor; An exact location for Circle 9 meetings will be provided on the church bulletin's calendar and in the 60-second email.

INSPIRATIONAL MEDITATION the Tuesday Inspirational Meditation class meets here at the church on Tuesday afternoon at 12:00 p.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 MARCH/APRIL 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!



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

The Presbyterian Church Staff

Transitional Pastor
Director of Student Ministries
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
Mrs. Lilly Hunter
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

Visit Our Church Website: <https://bgpres.org>



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, March 1

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
12:00 p.m. After Church Eating
 Out Group
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

Monday, March 2

9:00 a.m. GOD/DOG is Love
11:00 a.m. Personnel Meeting

Tuesday, March 3

11:00 a.m. Special Care
12:00 p.m. Inspirational Meditation

Wednesday, March 4

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group
9:30 a.m. Crisis and New
 Creation Class
5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
6:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner &
 Program

Thursday, March 5

6:00 p.m. David's Room in the
 Inn
7:00 p.m. Neighborhood Small
 Group Meeting

Friday, March 6

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

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

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